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PRESS RELEASE

5 October 2018

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OSCyL to release first recording on own label

The **Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (OSCyL)** will release the first recording under its own label on 9 January 2019, soon after the culmination of its 25th anniversary celebrations. The project is the brainchild of **Music Director Andrew Gourlay**, and comes following the news that Gourlay will remain in his post with the OSCyL for another year.

“I’m incredibly proud of what the OSCyL has achieved in its first 25 years,” comments Gourlay. “The OSCyL is still relatively young, but I truly believe that it is becoming one of the great orchestras of the world. I hope that this recording will be the first of many on our new label, and will take the OSCyL further afield.”

Gourlay rose to prominence in Spain following his success at the Cadaqués International Conducting Competition in 2010, which led to a series of engagements with a number of Spanish orchestras, including the OSCyL. He became Principal Guest Conductor in 2014/15 and took up the post of Music Director in January 2016 in succession to Lionel Bringuier.

“For the first recording on our new label, we wanted to show what the orchestra can do, and what better way than with major symphonic repertoire?” says Gourlay. “Rachmaninov was one of the first composers I performed with the OSCyL, and I was so impressed with the way they captured his style of music. The music of Rachmaninov has also been a constant thread in my life, in no small part down to my Russian heritage, so it felt like the perfect fit.”

“*The Isle of the Dead* brings out so much of the darkness we hear in the composer’s pianistic writing, and I feel that the OSCyL’s detail and orchestral skill comes across very clearly. The *Second Symphony* is much-loved the world over, of course, so this recording is a great opportunity to allow our orchestra to shine, and show the level at which we play.”

The next disc on the OSCyL’s new label will be a recording of Shostakovich *Symphony No. 10*, which the orchestra will also perform in February 2019. Other highlights from the orchestra’s current season include a programme of Strauss and Mozart with soprano **Katherine Broderick**; the premiere of a new work by the winner of the OSCyL’s third Spanish Composers Competition; the European premiere of a new Cello Concerto by **Andrew Norman**; a performance of Bruch *Violin Concerto No. 1* with **Pinchas Zuckerman**; and a grand season finale which sees the OSCyL collaborate with the **Hallé Chorus** and the **massed choruses of Castilla y León**.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Album Trailer

VIDEO URL <https://youtu.be/oiXvzbeU6Y4>

Recording Information

Name: Rachmaninov

Release Date: 9 January 2019

Artists: Andrew Gourlay, Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León

Recorded at: Auditorio Miguel Delibes of Valladolid (Spain) on 9 May 2017 (The Isle of the Dead) and 29–30 January 2018 (Symphony No. 2)

Producer: Andrew Keener

Recording Engineer: Dave Rowell

Assistant Engineers: Robin Hawkins & Simon Eadon

Editor: Stephen Frost

Track list:

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

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|----|---|-------|
| 1. | The Isle of the Dead, Op. 29 (1908) | 21'03 |
| | Symphony No. 2 in E minor, Op. 27 (1906/07) | |
| 2. | I. Largo. Allegro moderato | 18'11 |
| 3. | II. Allegro molto | 09'56 |
| 4. | III. Adagio | 13'58 |
| 5. | IV. Allegro vivace | 12'04 |

Total time: 75'17

About Andrew Gourlay, conductor

Born in Jamaica, with Russian ancestry, Andrew Gourlay grew up in the Bahamas, Philippines, Japan and England. A trombonist and pianist by training, he studied conducting at the Royal College of Music, where he prepared Bruckner symphonies for Bernard Haitink and Mozart symphonies for Sir Roger Norrington. He was selected by Gramophone magazine as their 'One to Watch', and by BBC Music Magazine as their 'Rising Star: great artists of tomorrow'.

Andrew Gourlay took up the position of Music Director of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (OSCYL) in January 2016, having been Principal Guest Conductor since the 2014/15 season, and celebrated the orchestra's 25th anniversary in 2016/17. He won First Prize at the 2010 Cadaques International Conducting Competition, securing concerts with 29 orchestras around the world. For the next two years he was Assistant Conductor to Sir Mark Elder and the Hallé Orchestra.

Recent and future guest engagements include conducting the Philharmonia, the BBC orchestras, RLPO, Hallé, CBSO, Opera North, RTÉ Symphony, Ulster Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony, Auckland Philharmonia, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Antwerp Symphony, Bremen Philharmonic, Stavanger Symphony, Norrköpping Symphony, Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine, Orquesta Sinfonica de Chile, Australian Youth Orchestra, orchestras throughout Spain and the London Sinfonietta at the BBC Proms. He made his US debut in 2016/17 with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra and returned to the USA in 2018 to conduct the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. He will return to the Proms in 2018 to conduct a special concert in celebration of the 40th anniversary of BBC Young Musician.

Operatic engagements have included the UK premiere of Luca Francesconi's Quartett for the Royal Opera House. He has conducted Rusalka and La Tragédie de Carmen for English Touring Opera, and The Marriage of Figaro at the Benjamin Britten International Opera School. He has worked as Assistant Conductor for Glyndebourne Festival Opera. In 2015 he conducted Tippett's The Ice Break to great critical acclaim in a new production by Graham Vick for Birmingham Opera Company and the CBSO.

Andrew Gourlay has conducted recordings with the London Symphony Orchestra, Irish Chamber Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, and BBC National Orchestra of Wales. His debut disc of Rachmaninov with the OSCYL will be released in January 2019. A professional trombonist until his mid twenties, he played with the Philharmonia, Hallé, BBC Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, London Sinfonietta and Opera North, and toured South America and Europe as a member of the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester under Claudio Abbado.

<http://www.andrewgourlay.com>

Andrew Gourlay is represented worldwide by Jonathan Groves, Managing Director, Groves Artists

<http://www.grovesartists.com>

Photos (L-R) © Johan Persson; The Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León

About Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León

The Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (OSCyL) was set up in 1991 by the Regional Government of Castilla y León, and has had its permanent home-base in the Centro Cultural Miguel Delibes in Valladolid since 2007. Max Bragado-Darman, Alejandro Posada and Lionel Bringuier have been its previous resident conductors, but from 2016 the British conductor Andrew Gourlay is the principal conductor in residence in collaboration with the Israeli maestro Eliahu Inbal as its principal guest conductor. Roberto González-Monjas joins them as well in the 2018- 2019 season as the principal guest artist.

Over the last twenty years the OSCyL has offered hundreds of concerts with a long list of musicians, among whom stand out Jesús López Cobos (conductor emeritus), Semyon Bychkov, Gianandrea Noseda, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Yan Pascal Tortelier, Vasily Petrenko, Alexander Polyanichko, David Afkham or Leopold Hager; the singers Ian Bostridge, Leo Nucci, Renée Fleming or Angela Gheorghiu; and instrumentalists like Vilde Frang, Maria João Pires, Pablo Ferrández, Viktoria Mullova, Mischa Maisky, Evelyn Glennie, Fazil Say and Vadim Repin, among others.

The OSCyL has achieved important premieres and made various recordings for Deutsche Grammophon, Bis, Naxos, Tritó or Verso and now has taken up its recording work using its own label.

It is important to underline the outstanding way in which the orchestra participates in the numerous social and educational initiatives that the Centro Cultural Miguel Delibes carries out, such as the project In Crescendo. The activities of the OSCyL reach out to more than 70 schools and 70.000 children through workshops and concerts especially designed for secondary education students as well as other activities, for example in centres for children with special needs. We must also emphasize the versatility of the orchestra, shown by participating in ensembles and chamber groups in the programmed cycles it provides.

<https://www.oscyl.com>