



J.S. Bach: Famous Works on Pedal Harpsichord

Luc Beauséjour

ANz 9970

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Montreal, March 1 2011 – Analekta presents **Luc Beauséjour**'s new recording, devoted to Bach. The harpsichordist's wish here is to feature the specificities of an instrument that has almost completely disappeared, the pedal harpsichord.

Few performers possessed such an instrument at the time, and composers didn't feel it necessary to indicate its use for specific works. However, **Bach**'s organ works lend themselves remarkably well to this instrument. Luc Beauséjour wanted to present a number of well-known works, including the **Tocatta in D minor** and the great **Passacaglia in C minor**. He also performs here excerpts from the *Orgelbüchlein* (Little Book for Organ) and the **Preludes and fugues BWV 535, 541 and 545**.

Although the pedal harpsichord never had its hour of glory, it was definitely used by a number of organists, particularly in the 18th century. Makers of the period favoured two approaches. The first was to simply outfit an ordinary harpsichord with a pedalboard, which was attached to the lowest notes of the instrument with cords or a mechanism. The second combined two independent harpsichords, the lower one played with a pedalboard and having its own strings and register, complementing the upper one in timbre. In designing the instrument played by Luc Beauséjour on this recording, maker Yves Beaupré was inspired by the latter configuration. "*The pedal harpsichord remains a formative instrument,*" explains Beauséjour. "*It allows one to hear everything; polyphony comes through with great clarity, and everything is recreated with remarkable precision.*"

Harpsichordist and organist **Luc Beauséjour** is renowned for the elegance, virtuosity, and expressiveness of his playing, which have won him an enthusiastic audience and the continuing praise of critics and music specialists. Mr. Beauséjour leads a very active performing schedule in Canada and abroad that has taken him to Europe and North America. In the last few years, he has won numerous awards, including "2003 Performer of the Year" by the Conseil québécois de la musique and two Félix at the Gala de L'ADISQ (2002 and 2006). Luc Beauséjour has recorded more than 25 albums, many of which have won awards and praise from music magazines.

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