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**Tenor Nicholas Phan joins Mercury Chamber Orchestra  
in premiere of dramatic new staging of  
Schubert's "Winterreise"  
at the Wortham Center this February**



**Houston, TX – January 24, 2020** – Renowned tenor Nicholas Phan returns to sing alongside Mercury Chamber Orchestra for a February 15 performance at the Wortham Center of Schubert's renowned song cycle, "Winterreise", featuring a new orchestration and staging by Artistic Director **Antoine Plante** and Director **Denis Plante**.

**Nicholas Phan**, "one of the world's most remarkable singers" (*The Boston Globe*) brings his evocative and highly expressive voice to bear on this poignant tale of love and loss composed by Franz Schubert using the texts of 19<sup>th</sup> century poet Wilhelm Müller.

Staging the work with new orchestrations, Artistic Director Antoine Plante and Director Denis Plante want to bring a fresh approach to Schubert's most important contribution to the classical music canon, creating a work that will be a world premiere.

Of this staging and orchestra, Antoine Plante says "We wanted to tell this story, an incredible blend of beautiful, romantic poetry and deeply inspired music, in a relevant and powerful manner. So we have replaced the original single piano and have created an orchestration for strings and have also added contemporary theatrical elements to offer a fresh way to experience this important song cycle."

**MERCURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Schubert's *Winterreise*

Saturday, February 15 at 8:00 PM at the Wortham Center, Cullen Theater

FRANZ SCHUBERT *Winterreise*, D. 911, orchestrated by Antoine Plante and Denis Plante

Nicholas Phan, Tenor  
Kaitlin Kennedy, Actor  
Denis Plante, Director  
Antoine Plante, Conductor

*This concert is made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Houston Endowment and the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance.*

#### **NICHOLAS PHAN, TENOR**

Praised by Gramophone as singing "with a fine mixture of poetry and strength" American tenor Nicholas Phan continues to distinguish himself as one of the most compelling tenors performing today, appearing regularly in the world's premiere concert halls, music festivals and opera houses. Mr. Phan has appeared with many of the leading orchestras in the North America and Europe, including the Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Philharmonia Baroque, Boston Baroque, Les Violons du Roy, BBC Symphony, English Chamber Orchestra, Strasbourg Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra of London, and the Lucerne Symphony. He has also toured extensively throughout the major concert halls of Europe with Il Complesso Barocco, and appeared with the Oregon Bach, Ravinia, Marlboro, Edinburgh, Rheingau, Saint-Denis, and Tanglewood festivals, as well as the BBC Proms.

#### **DENIS PLANTE, DIRECTOR**

Director and creator of Schubert's "The Miller's Daughter" (2019), two Mercury all-time audience favorites, Bach and Piazzolla (2016) and The Crimson Prince (2015), Denis Plante has long been a partner in Mercury's creative endeavors. His unusual career as a performer and composer has made him the bandoneón artist in Canada, and an exceptional figure in contemporary tango on the world scene. Denis is frequently invited to perform as a soloist with symphony orchestras or chamber - music ensembles. A spiritual son of Astor Piazzolla, he has enriched the bandoneón repertoire with dozens of works capturing the essential pulse of the tango. He has recorded seven CDs of his work, composed two operas and a ballet, and has been awarded the title of Creator of the Year by Quebec's Art Council and an Opus prize for best Global album.

#### **MERCURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Innovation, accessibility and dynamism are just three of the distinguishing characteristics of Mercury Chamber Orchestra, the critically acclaimed Houston-based period instrument ensemble that continues to redefine the orchestra experience. Now in its 19th season, Mercury celebrates the power of music – from the Baroque period and more - serving the Houston community and beyond through teaching, sharing and performing with passion, intimacy and excellence.

In addition to performances in multiple venues throughout the Houston area, including its flagship series at Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, and Neighborhood Series at the Baroque gallery in the Museum of Fine Arts (MFAH) Beck Building, Midtown's MATCH, the chapel at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, and Dosey Doe in The Woodlands, Mercury continues to invest in the community. It offers free community performances annually, including the community concert at The Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park, and public concerts in the Crain Garden at Houston Methodist Hospital. Recognized for its award-winning team-teaching programs, Mercury also provides in-school performances for Houston area students and master classes for school orchestras. Active in the recording scene, to date, Mercury has released eight albums on its own label, featuring works by Corelli, Mozart, Schubert, Rameau, Vivaldi, Piazzolla, and Handel.

Mercury gratefully acknowledges the following organizations and corporations for their ongoing support: The City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance, Houston Endowment Inc., Texas Commission on the Arts, the Wyatt Foundation, The Brown Foundation, Inc., Houston First, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For additional information on Mercury, its events and concerts, tickets, directions to the venues, or to learn more about its recordings, please visit [www.mercuryhouston.org](http://www.mercuryhouston.org)