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HOLST  
THE PLANETS

BUZZ BRASS

MELANIE BARNEY, ORGAN  
ARRANGED FOR BRASS & ORGAN

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# HOLST THE PLANETS

ARRANGED FOR BRASS & ORGAN



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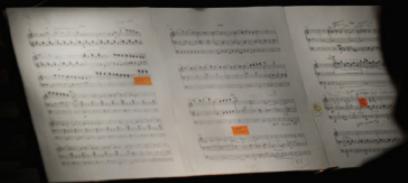


Mélanie Barney , ORGAN

BUZZ BRASS







## THE PROJECT

**M**odifying a work's instrumentation is a bit like translating a text into another language: one must first understand the composer's intention, then find the appropriate vocabulary. So, to create a version for brass quintet and organ of Gustav Holst's suite for large orchestra *The Planets*, Enrico O. Dastous needed to engage in an exercise of analysis and reflection.

At the heart of Mr. Dastous' approach is his respect for the content of the original score, for its mechanics and for its architectural outline. Generally speaking, the musical material of the orchestra's brass section has been redistributed within the quintet while that of the string quartet and of the woodwinds has been attributed to the organ. By doing so, the arranger has restored the orchestral dialogue among the performers and has thus avoided creating a concerto for brass. Despite the reduction of the timbral palette, Mr. Dastous has reproduced the original contrast effects by resorting to all kinds of instrumental combinations, of which those offered by the organ stops. Among the brass, the use of mutes has partly allowed them to substitute for the woodwinds, notably in *Mercury*. In regard to the particularity of the orchestral writing and to the use of two women's choirs in the suite's last movement, *Neptune*, the arranger had to take more melodic liberties to recreate the original mood.

Central to Buzz musicians' and organist Mélanie Barney's interpretation of *The Planets* is their own respect for Mr. Dastous' vision of the work. Buzz, mainly known for the quality of its multidisciplinary performances and pedagogical productions, confirms the seriousness and the rigour of its approach as well as its intrinsic musical qualities and its artistic sensitivity.

## BUZZ BRASS QUINTET

**F**ounded in the Fall of 2002 under the initiative of Mr. Sylvain Lapointe, Buzz has given itself the mission of promoting chamber music for brass ensemble. In addition to various musical programs, Buzz proposes multidisciplinary concerts, educational shows, and sound recordings, allowing it to reach a diverse audience. Since its beginnings, Buzz has presented over 500 concerts and musitheatrical shows in Eastern Canada, thus reaching over 100,000 spectators. It has also released two critically acclaimed recordings and it has had several of its musical performances broadcast on radio and television. For its first international outing, the ensemble gave a performance at Paris's Louvre Museum in the context of Musicora 2008. In 2007, Buzz was awarded the OPUS Prize—Production of the Year / Young Audiences for its show UnBUZZievable! The History of Music. Other finalists had included, among others, both the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and the chamber group I Musici de Montréal



**René Laflamme**

## **ABOUT THE RECORDING**

This album was recorded March 22-26, 2009, at the Saint-Viateur d'Outremont Church in Montreal, Canada, using a 1/4" AMPEX 354 vacuum tube tape recorder in NAB eq curve. Two Neumann Tube Microphones (U-67) were utilized in ORTF microphone technique and two omnidirectional B&K 4003-130V microphones in A-B microphone technique. To obtain the maximum power of the organ from a natural, proper distance two microphone stands were placed on Gimini lifts at a height of 75 ft. to properly capture the energy and the depth of field that you're hearing, a custom tube microphone preamplifier was used.

## **ABOUT THE ORGAN**

The organ in Montreal's Saint-Viateur d'Outremont church was made and installed by Canadian builder Casavant in 1913. It comprises thirty-seven stops, three keyboards and a pedal-board. It was reconditioned a first time in 1976 and was then fundamentally restored in 1991 as it was fitted with four new stops while some ten original stops underwent modifications.





## THE 2xHD MASTERING PROCESS



The 2xHD Fusion Mastering System: In the constant evolution of its proprietary mastering process, 2xHD has progressed to a new phase called 2xHD FUSION, integrating the finest analog, with state-of-the-art digital technology.

The mastering chain consists of a selection of high-end vacuum tube equipment. For the recordings on this album, the original ¼" 15 ips NagraMaster curve, NAB or CCIR master tapes were played on a Nagra-T tape recorder, modified with high-end tube playback electronics, wired with OCC silver cable from the playback head direct to a Nick Doshi tube head preamplifier. The Nagra T, with its four direct drive motors, two pinch rollers and a tape tension head, has one of the best transports ever made. A custom-built carbon fiber head block and a head damping electronic system permit 2xHD FUSION to obtain a better resolution and 3D imaging.

The resulting signal is then transferred into high resolution formats by recording it in DXD using a custom 2xHD Technologies A to D converter. All analog and digital cables that are used are state-of-the-art Siltech. The 2xHD FUSION mastering system is powered by a super capacitor power supply, using a new technology that lowers the digital noise found in the lowest level of the spectrum. A vacuum tube NAGRA HD DAC X is used as a reference digital playback converter to A and B with the original analog master tape, permitting the fusion of the warmth of analog with the refinement of digital.

**2xHD.com**  
**Pure Emotion**

# HOLST THE PLANETS

ARRANGED FOR BRASS & ORGAN BY ENRICO O. DASTOUS

- |          |                                 |      |
|----------|---------------------------------|------|
| <b>1</b> | MARS, THE BRINGER OF WAR        | 7:33 |
| <b>2</b> | VENUS, THE BRINGER OF PEACE     | 9:08 |
| <b>3</b> | MERCURY, THE WINGED MESSENGER   | 4:51 |
| <b>4</b> | JUPITER, THE BRINGER OF JOLLITY | 9:01 |
| <b>5</b> | SATURN, THE BRINGER OF OLD AGE  | 8:51 |
| <b>6</b> | URANUS, THE MAGICIAN            | 6:20 |
| <b>7</b> | NEPTUNE, THE MYSTIC             | 9:34 |

Organ – **Mélanie Barney**

Trumpet (principal) & piccolo trumpet – **Frédéric Gagnon**

Trumpet & flugelhorn – **Sylvain Lapointe**

Horn – **Marc-Antoine Corbeil**

Trombone & euphonium – **Jason De Carufel**

Bass trombone – **Sylvain Arseneau**

Producer: **Anne-Marie Sylvestre**

Recorded by: **René Laflamme**

Photos: **Michel Berard**

Liner notes: **Samuel Markon & Sylvain Lapointe**, translated by **Gaëtan Chénier**

2xHD Mastering: **René Laflamme**

Art Direction: **André Perry**

2xHD Executive Producer: **André Perry**