



Laurent
PETITGIRARD

Si Yeou Ki
(The Journey to the West)

Hungarian Symphony Orchestra Budapest
Laurent Petitgirard



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(b. 1950)

Si Yeou Ki (La Pérégrination vers l'Ouest / The Journey to the West) (2019–20)

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Laurent Petitgirard (b. 1950)

Si Yeou Ki (The Journey to the West)

Laurent Petitgirard studied the piano with Serge Petitgirard and composition with Alain Kremski. His career as a composer of symphonic music, operas and film music is matched by his activities as a guest conductor all over the world.

Music director of the Orchestre symphonique français from 1989 to 1996, in December 2004 Petitgirard was elected music director of the Orchestre Colonne in Paris by its musicians. He left this position at the end of the 2017–18 season to concentrate on composition and guest conducting.

Petitgirard recorded his first opera, *Joseph Merrick, The Elephant Man*, with a libretto by Eric Nonn, with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, and Nathalie Stutzmann in the title role in 1999 (Naxos 8.557608-09). The opera received its debut performance (in French) in February 2002 at the Prague State Opera, conducted by Petitgirard with stage direction by Daniel Mesguich. It was restaged at Opéra de Nice from 29 November to 3 December 2002, and a DVD of a live performance from Nice was released on Marco Polo (2.220001), which was named 'DVD of the Month' by *Gramophone Magazine* and acclaimed by *Classica Magazine*, with this production also broadcast on French television networks TF1 and Mezzo in 2005. A new staging of *Joseph Merrick, The Elephant Man* was presented in May 2006 by Minnesota Opera, with stage direction by Doug Varone and Antony Walker as music director.

Laurent Petitgirard's second opera, *Guru*, with a libretto based around mental manipulation by Xavier Maurel, was recorded under the composer's baton in October 2010 in Budapest, with Hubert Claessens (bass-baritone) and Sonia Petrovna (actress) in the main roles. The opera was released on Naxos the following year (8.660300-01) and was awarded a Choc de Classica in *Classica Magazine*. *Guru* was premiered on 28 September 2018 at Opera at the Castle in Szczecin, Poland, with stage director Damian Cruden and Petitgirard conducting. The opera was again presented in April 2019. A lyric suite, *Guru and Marie*, was performed in Neubrandenburg in 2015, Paris in 2016 (Théâtre des Champs-Élysées) and Jerusalem in 2018. A new production of *Guru* will be presented in Nice in February 2024 with stage direction by Muriel Mayette-Holtz and Petitgirard conducting.

For Naxos, Petitgirard has recorded his three symphonic poems, *Les Douze Gardiens du Temple*, *Euphonia* and *Poème* for large string orchestra (8.570138); his three concertos, *Dialog for Viola and Orchestra*, featuring Gérard Caussé, *Cello Concerto*, featuring Gary Hoffmann and *Le Légendaire* for violin, chorus and orchestra featuring Augustin Dumay (8.557602); and the ballet suite for *The Little Prince* (8.573113), which was originally staged by Sonia Petrovna at the Avignon Opera House. In December 2019 he joined forces with the Hungarian Symphony Orchestra Budapest to record *États d'âme*, featuring alto saxophonist Michel Supéra, and three symphonic poems, *Solitaire*, *Le Marathon* and *Flaine* (8.574034).

Petitgirard went on to compose a concerto for flute, harp and string orchestra, *Dilemme*, which was premiered by flautist Emmanuel Pahud and harpist Marie-Pierre Langlamet with the Dresdner Philharmonie conducted by Cristian Măcelaru in Dresden on 1 and 2 June 2019, and the ballet featured on this recording, *Si Yeou Ki (La Pérégrination vers l'Ouest / The Journey to the West)* (2019–20) for the Chinese choreographer Yabin Wang. His most recent work, *Souen Wou K'ong* (2020–21), a concerto for oboe and orchestra, was premiered in March 2022 in Edinburgh by oboist François Leleux and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Laurent Petitgirard has also composed for film, for directors such as Otto Preminger, Laurent Heynemann, Francis Girod, Peter Kassovitz, Pierre Schœndœrffer, Jean-Claude Brialy, Bernard Queysanne and Denis Amar.

As a conductor, Petitgirard has made over 30 albums, notably of Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher*, and also several world premiere recordings such as Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit* as orchestrated by Marius Constant, and the complete ballet *Daphnis et Chloé* with the Bordeaux Aquitaine National Orchestra.

Petitgirard was awarded the Young Composer's Prize of the SACD (Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques) in 1987, the SACEM Prize (Société des Auteurs, Compositeurs et Editeurs de musique) in 1990, the Grand Prix Lycéen for composers in 2000 for his *Cello Concerto*, and the SACD Prix Musique 2001 for his opera *Joseph Merrick, The Elephant Man*. In February 2017 he was elected Secrétaire perpétuel of the Académie des Beaux-Arts of the Institut de France, having been a member since 2000. Petitgirard also holds the titles of Officier de la Légion d'honneur, Officier dans l'Ordre national du Mérite and Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres. He is married to the actress Sonia Petrovna.

The Journey to the West (2019–20)

For my sixteenth birthday, in 1966, my elder brother gave me a copy of *Si Yeou Ki*, and I was fascinated. I read the book, and reread it with the idea of putting it to music. But it took me 53 years to embark on the voyage, no doubt because I had to complete my journey as a composer before venturing into the music to accompany the journey of initiation of the Monk San Ts'ang (Xuanzang).

A disciple of Buddha has arrived late for a celestial meditation and is duly punished. He has now been reincarnated as a simple monk named San Ts'ang. The goddess Guanyin urges him to cross China to reach India and seek out the scriptures of Truth in the Land of Buddha. This will be a journey of redemption, both for the monk and for the three disciples travelling with him. The first of his three companions on the perilous journey of initiation is the Monkey King, Sun Wukong (the monkey 'awakened to emptiness'), the most unruly disciple of the three. While he has the power to cover the distance of 108,000 li in one bound, going directly to the Land of the Celestial Bamboo, he must learn the value of patience. He is also able to recognise monsters. In the first part of the book (not included in the ballet), Sun Wukong rebelled against the gods. A ring of gold, controlled by Xuanzang, symbolises and endows intelligence on the wearer. Two other disciples are with the Monkey King: Zhu Bajie (Pa Kiai), a lustful glutton, and Sha Wujing (Cha Seng), a docile, introverted character who carries the loads for the others. By the end of the journey, which involves many trials and tribulations and monsters to be vanquished, they manage, with the help of the goddess Guanyin, to obtain the Scriptures, but they are blank, for the Truth has been acquired in the course of their journey. They return with scriptures of lesser import, so that those expecting sacred writings to be brought back are not disappointed.

The ballet was devised as three consecutive sections featuring sixteen of the over one hundred stages of the journey – with each stage offering different levels of interpretation. My goal was to write music for dance expressing the poetry of the original text and conveying spiritual elevation by facing the ordeals. This French composer begs indulgence for being so bold as to take on such a monument of Chinese literature.

Synopsis

Part I

1 Xuanzang's Dream and Departure

The goddess Guanyin tells Xuanzang that he must save Sun Wukong, the Monkey King, who will be his travelling companion on his quest to find the Scriptures of Truth. He must place a ring of gold on Sun Wukong's brow to control him.

2 The Deliverance of Sun Wukong

Xuanzang has reached Five Elements Mountain, much to the joy of Sun Wukong, who is captive in the mountain. Xuanzang agrees to set him free, then gives him the precious tunic to wear and the headgear where he has concealed the golden ring.

3 The Six Bandits

The travellers encounter six bandits, who are promptly killed by Sun Wukong, incurring the wrath of Xuanzang. In fury, Xuanzang recites the formula of the ring now on the head of Sun Wukong who cries out in pain. Xuanzang releases the hold of the ring, demanding that Sun Wukong pledge obedience to him. They continue on their path.

4 Zhu Bajie's Conversion

They reach the home of Squire Gao who is terrified of his son-in-law Zhu Bajie. Sun Wukong fights Zhu Bajie who finally surrenders. Xuanzang and his two disciples, Sun Wukong and Zhu Bajie, set off.

5 Sha Wujing's Conversion

The three travellers reach the banks of the Flowing Sands River. A man-eating monster – Sha Wujing – emerges from the river and attempts to carry off Xuanzang. Zhu Bajie saves him, then turns on the monster who, after a brief struggle, plunges back into the River. Sun Wukong reprimands Zhu Bajie for using the wrong tactics. The monster resurfaces, intent on fighting Zhu Bajie, but flees at the sight of Sun Wukong. The goddess Guanyin is called on to save them. She commands the monster to surrender and to accompany Xuanzang on his journey. The four travellers continue on their path.

6 The Temptation of Zhu Bajie

On reaching houses in the shade of a bamboo grove, the travellers are taken in by the Widow Mo and her three daughters. Xuanzang remains steadfast, resisting temptation, but Zhu Bajie succumbs and is caught in the trap of seduction. He is eventually released by his companions. They realise that this was a trial ordained by Guanyin. They resume their journey.

7 Destruction, Resurrection of the Ginseng Tree and Fights

On the Mountain of Infinite Longevity the travellers reach Wuzhuang Temple. After the ritual on arrival at the temple of the Immortal Zhen Yuan, Xuanzang refuses to eat the previous fruit of the ginseng tree. Zhu Bajie and Sun Wukong steal the fruit and eat it. Sun Wukong is furious when accused of stealing the fruit, and fells the ginseng tree. Much fighting ensues and divine intervention is needed from Guanyin to revive the tree.

Part II

8 The Triple Murder and Punishment of Sun Wukong

While Sun Wukong has set off in search of food, an evil spirit in the body of a frail, young maiden appears, intent on capturing and devouring Xuanzang. Sun Wukong returns, recognises the evil spirit and slays it, but the spirit has just enough time to escape from the body of the young girl. Xuanzang, quite oblivious to the danger, punishes but forgives the spirit. The evil spirit returns, this time in the form of an old woman, and again Sun Wukong slays it. The same attack happens again, this time with an old man, but the spirit cannot escape. Zhu Bajie argues with Xuanzang, who dismisses Sun Wukong. Sun Wukong goes back to the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit.

9 The Yellow-Robed Monster and the Jealous Princess of a Hundred Flowers

After crossing White Tiger Ridge, the three travellers find themselves in a dense forest. Zhu Bajie sets off in search of rice, but ends up falling asleep in the shade of a tree. Xuanzang sends Sha Wujing to find him. He is left alone, and before long is captured by the Yellow-Robed Monster. Sha Wujing finds Zhu Bajie, and on their way back to their Master, they go past the Moon Waters Cave. They fight the Yellow-Robed Monster, but neither side emerges victorious. Zhu Bajie goes back to Sun Wukong and implores him to help them. Yet even he cannot defeat the Yellow-Robed Monster. He begs assistance from the goddess Guanyin who then overpowers and punishes the monster. The travellers continue on their path.

10 The Magic Tournament

Xuanzang and his disciples have come across a group of enslaved monks labouring for Taoist priests. They discover that the King venerates Three Immortals, three Taoist masters who saved them from drought when the Monks had not been able to do so. Since then the Monks have been oppressed and the Taoist priests have enjoyed every privilege. Another drought is threatening, and the King has approved a ritual challenge between the Three Immortals and Xuanzang. Sun Wukong makes a double of himself to stay in place and goes off to call on Mistspreader and Cloudpusher who control the wind and the clouds, Grandfather Thunder and Mother Lightning who command thunder and lightning, and the Dragon Kings who bring rain. He calls on them to block the prayers of Tiger Power, the first Great Immortal. Rain shall only be granted at the express request of Xuanzang. The monks have their rank and reputation restored, and the travellers continue on their path.

11 The Golden Fish

The Master and his disciples come to the River of Heaven at night, which seems impossible to cross. In a village of the Kingdom of Tarrycart the people are terrified at the prospect of the annual sacrifice to the Great King for it includes children. Sun Wukong and Zhu Bajie take the place of the children, then fight the monster covered in fish scales, but it manages to get away. The goddess Guanyin intervenes, the Golden Fish is captured, and the journey resumes.

12 The Kingdom of Women

Arriving in the Kingdom of Women, Xuanzang and his disciples find an outpost. The mistress of ceremonies of the Kingdom of Women announces to Xuanzang that he is to be the Queen's husband. Sun Wukong says he should pretend to accept the proposal. They proceed to the Tower of the Five Phoenixes to see the Queen. Before the ceremony, a female monster carries off Xuanzang. His disciples follow in hot pursuit, going all the way to Deadly Foe Mountain. In the first battle, the female monster wounds them with the barb of her tail and retreats to her cave. Sun Wukong and Zhu Bajie are in agony. The second encounter also ends in failure. They come across an old woman who is none other than the goddess Guanyin. She reveals that only the giant rooster can relieve their suffering and vanquish the monster who is a scorpion transformed. The disciples entice the female monster to leave her cave; the giant rooster crows, thus causing her death. The travellers resume their journey.

Part III

13 Lesser Thunder Monastery

Xuanzang is outside a temple, believing he has reached Thunder Monastery, and pays no heed to the warnings of Sun Wukong, who sees plumes of evil vapour rising above the roof. The Master and his disciples enter the temple, prostrate themselves and kowtow to the Tathagata, but it is an impostor; Sun Wukong is the only one to see through them. He rushes at him in order to kill the monster in disguise, but a pair of golden cymbals fall down from above, pinning him to the ground. Zhu Bajie, Sha Wujing and Xuanzang are taken prisoner. Sun Wukong calls on the Spirits and receives assistance from the Twenty-Eight Constellations who help rescue him from the grip of the cymbals. Once he is free, he kills the monster and shatters the cymbals. Xuanzang, Zhu Bajie and Sha Wujing express their gratitude and set off again in quest of the Scriptures.

14 The Robbery of the Precious Weapons

The travellers reach the Prince of Yuhua's palace. When the three young princes see the disciples, they believe they are monsters, and challenge them. But they are then so impressed by the power of their weapons that they ask to be their students. Once they have learned the skills, lighter versions of the three weapons are made and left with them. In the middle of the night the Tawny Lion steals the weapons. The three disciples go to Tigermouth Cave where Sun Wukong, in disguise, retrieves the weapons. They then fight Tawny Lion who flees. The Great Sage helps the disciples capture the Nine-Headed Lion who had rallied to help the Tawny Lion. The King and the three princes thank the Master and his disciples who then resume their journey.

15 Arrival at the Temple of the Thunder Smash and Obtaining the Books

At the river, which is the last obstacle to overcome before reaching the Great Thunder Monastery, Xuanzang notices that the boat the ferryman has brought is bottomless. Sun Wukong pushes his Master on board, and the three disciples hang on to the vessel. As the boat moves away from the bank, a corpse drifts past. Sun Wukong exclaims that it is the Master freed from his mortal trappings, and they all applaud. The travellers finally reach the Mahavira Hall of the Monastery. They prostrate themselves and kowtow to the Tathagata. Xuanzang hands over his passports. Two arhats present them with the Scriptures. The Master and his disciples thank them and leave the Monastery. Guanyin realises that the travellers must accomplish one final ordeal, so sends the vajrapanis to stop them, causing the Scriptures to fall to the ground. The disciples discover that they are blank, with no script, for the Truth resides in their journey. The travellers hastily return to the Monastery and request other Scriptures, albeit less pure, for they are needed to show to the people waiting for them to return with written Scriptures. They express their thanks and take their leave, flying off on the wind. The wind that swept them away has dropped and they fall to the ground on the banks of a river. They are attacked by evil demons trying to steal the Scriptures. While the demons are defeated, the final roll of Scripture has stuck to a rock, but cannot be deciphered.

16 The Return of Travellers to Chang'an and Their Admission to the Western Paradise

The travellers arrive in Chang'an and present the Scriptures to the Emperor. They call on the Tathagata. Xuanzang and Sun Wukong, who has been released from the golden ring, are promoted to high office as Buddhas.

Laurent Petitgirard

English translation: Shan Benson

Laurent Petitgirard (né 1950)

Si Yeou Ki (La Pérégrination vers l'Ouest)

En 1966, pour mes seize ans, mon frère aîné m'a offert le Si Yeou Ki. Ce livre m'a fasciné, je l'ai lu et relu dans l'idée de le mettre en musique. Ce n'est pourtant que cinquante-trois années plus tard que j'ai entamé ce périple, je devais probablement avoir accompli mon chemin de compositeur avant d'accompagner en musique le voyage initiatique du moine San Ts'ang.

Fou Kin Chen, disciple de Bouddha, a été puni pour être arrivé en retard à une méditation céleste. Réincarné il sera San Tsang, un simple bonze. Inspiré par la déesse Kouan Yin, il va partir de la Chine vers l'Inde pour chercher les Livres de la Vérité dans le pays de Bouddha. Ce voyage sera sa rédemption, comme celle des trois disciples qui vont l'accompagner.

Son premier compagnon pour effectuer ce voyage initiatique périlleux sera Hing Tchö, le Roi des singes qui deviendra le plus doué mais également le plus indiscipliné de ses disciples. Il est également appelé Souen Wou K'ong « Celui qui a pénétré le Vide ». Il pourrait parcourir d'un bond la distance de cent huit mille Li pour parvenir au Pays des Célestes Bambous mais il devra apprendre la patience. Il sait reconnaître les monstres. Dans la première partie du livre, non traitée dans ce ballet, il s'est rebellé contre les Dieux. Un cercle d'or, contrôlé par San Tsang, contraint à la soumission l'intelligence dont il est le symbole.

Il sera épaulé par deux autres disciples, Pa Kiai, le gourmand, le lubrique et Cha Seng, plus intraverti qui portera docilement les paquets.

Au terme d'un périple parsemé d'épreuves à surmonter et de monstres à combattre avec le soutien de la déesse Kouan Yin, ils recevront d'abord des Livres Blancs, car la Vérité réside dans leur voyage. Ils rapporteront ces Livres pour en recevoir d'autres, de rang moins élevé, afin de ne pas décevoir ceux qui attendent une écriture.

Le ballet, d'une durée de quatre-vingt-cinq minutes, est structuré en trois parties enchaînées, comprenant seize étapes d'un parcours qui en contient plus d'une centaine, chacune avec plusieurs niveaux de compréhension.

C'est avant tout la poésie de ce livre et l'élévation spirituelle au travers des épreuves que j'ai voulu exprimer par une musique destinée à la danse, en espérant que l'on pardonnera l'audace d'un compositeur français d'aborder un tel monument de la littérature chinoise.

Argument

1^{ère} Partie

① Rêve et départ de San Ts'ang

La Déesse Kouan Yin indique à San Ts'ang qu'il devra délivrer le Roi des Singes Souen Wou K'ong, qui va l'accompagner dans son voyage à la recherche des Livres de la Vérité. Il devra lui passer un anneau d'or sur le front pour le contrôler.

② La délivrance de Souen Wou K'ong

San Ts'ang arrive au Mont des Cinq Eléments ce qui déclenche la joie de Souen Wou K'ong, emprisonné dans la montagne. San Ts'ang accepte de le libérer, puis lui donne la précieuse tunique et le bonnet qui contient l'anneau d'or caché.

③ Les Six Brigands

Ils croisent la route de six brigands que Souen Wou K'ong va tuer, ce qui déclenche la colère de San Ts'ang. Furieux, San Ts'ang récite la formule de l'anneau enserrant la tête de Souen Wou Kong qui hurle de douleur. San Ts'ang relâche l'anneau contre la promesse d'obéissance de Souen Wou K'ong. Ils reprennent la route.

④ La conversion de Tchou Wou Neng (Pa Kiai)

Ils arrivent à la maison de Kaolo, qui est terrifié par son gendre Pa Kiai. Souen Wou K'ong combat Pa Kiai qui finira par se soumettre. San Ts'ang et ses deux disciples repartent.

⑤ La conversion de Cha Wou Tsing's (Cha Seng)

Les trois voyageurs arrivent au bord du Fleuve des Sables Mouvants. Un monstre jaillit du fleuve et essaye d'emporter San Ts'ang. Pa Kiai le sauve et attaque le monstre qui, après un bref combat, replonge dans le Fleuve. Souen Wou K'ong reproche à Pa Kiai sa mauvaise tactique. Le monstre revient pour se battre avec Pa Kiai mais s'enfuit à la vue de Souen Wou K'ong. La Déesse Kouan Yin, appelée à la rescousse, ordonne au monstre de se soumettre et d'accompagner San Ts'ang dans son voyage. Les quatre voyageurs repartent.

⑥ La tentation de Tchou Pa Kiai

Les voyageurs arrivent au Pays de Tong Yin Tou et sont accueillis dans la maison de la Veuve Kia et de ses trois filles. Alors que San Ts'ang résiste à la tentation, Pa Kiai succombe à la séduction, se retrouve piégé et sera libéré plus tard par ses compagnons. Ils comprennent que c'était une épreuve imposée par Kouan Yin et reprennent leur voyage.

⑦ Destruction, résurrection de l'arbre Ginseng et combats

Sur le Mont de la Longévité les voyageurs atteignent l'Ermitage des Cinq Domaines. Après un échange de rites avec l'Immortel Tchen Yuan, San Ts'ang refuse les précieux fruits de l'arbre Ginseng. Pa Kiai et Souen Wou K'ong volent et mangent les fruits. Furieux d'être accusé Souen Wou K'ong abat l'Arbre Ginseng. Un grand combat s'ensuit et il faudra l'intervention de Kouan Yin pour assister à la résurrection de l'Arbre.

2^{ème} Partie

⑧ Le triple meurtre et le châtement de Souen Wou K'ong

Alors que Souen Wou K'ong est parti chercher de la nourriture, un monstre fantôme, dissimulé sous l'apparence d'une frêle jeune fille, vient pour capturer et dévorer San Ts'ang. Dès qu'il revient, Souen Wou K'ong reconnaît le monstre et le tue, mais le fantôme a le temps de s'échapper de l'enveloppe corporelle de la jeune fille. San Ts'ang qui n'a pas compris le danger, le punit puis lui pardonne. Le monstre revient sous la forme d'une vieille femme que Souen Wou K'ong abat également. La même situation recommence avec un vieillard mais cette fois le fantôme ne peut s'échapper. Abusé par Pa Kiai, San Ts'ang renvoie Souen Wou Kong qui retourne sur le Mont des Fleurs et des Fruits.

⑨ Tunique Jaune et la Princesse Jalousée des cents fleurs

À la sortie de la Montagne du Tigre Blanc, les trois voyageurs se retrouvent devant une forêt touffue. Pa Kiai part chercher du riz et finit par s'endormir à l'ombre d'un arbre. San Ts'ang envoie Cha Seng à sa recherche et reste seul, il est bientôt capturé par Tunique Jaune. Cha Seng retrouve Pa Kiai, ils partent chercher leur Maître et se retrouvent devant la Caverne du Clair de Lune. Ils combattent Tunique Jaune mais le combat finit sans vainqueur. Pa Kiai retourne chercher Souen Wou K'ong et le supplie de les aider. Même lui n'arrive pas à vaincre Tunique Jaune. Il demande l'aide de la Déesse Kouan Yin qui va soumettre et punir Tunique Jaune. Les quatre voyageurs repartent.

⑩ Le Tournoi Magique

San Ts'ang et ses disciples croisent un convoi de bonzes enchaînés, asservis par des Docteurs du Tao. Ils découvrent que le Roi honore Trois Immortels, Docteurs du Tao, qui ont su vaincre la sécheresse alors que les Bonzes n'y arrivaient pas. Depuis les bonzes sont maltraités et les Docteurs du Tao jouissent de tous les privilèges. Une nouvelle sécheresse arrivant, le Roi autorise un Tournoi entre les Trois Immortels et San Ts'ang. Souen Wou K'ong laisse son double sur place et va solliciter Fong Lei et Eul Lang qui maîtrisent le vent et les nuages, Lei Kong et Tien Mou qui apportent la foudre ainsi que les Roi-Dragons qui apportent la pluie. Il leur demande de bloquer les prières de Force de Tigre, le premier Immortel. La pluie ne sera accordée que sur la demande de San Ts'ang. Les bonzes sont réhabilités et les voyageurs repartent.

⑪ Le Poisson d'Or

Le Maître et ses disciples arrivent devant le Fleuve de la Jonction du Ciel qui semble infranchissable. Les habitants du village voisin sont terrorisés par l'Esprit Li Kang qui exige chaque année le sacrifice d'enfants. Souen Wou K'ong et Pa Kiai vont se substituer aux enfants et combattre le monstre couvert d'écailles de poisson qui s'échappe. Grâce à la Déesse Kouan Yin le Poisson d'Or est capturé et le voyage reprend.

⑫ Le Royaume des Femmes

San Ts'ang et ses disciples arrivent au Royaume des Femmes. La Grande Maîtresse du Royaume informe San Ts'ang que la Reine souhaite le prendre pour époux. Souen Wou K'ong lui conseille de faire semblant d'accepter. Ils vont au Palais des Cinq Phénix retrouver la Reine. Avant la cérémonie, un Monstre Femelle enlève San Ts'ang, il est poursuivi par les disciples jusqu'au Mont des Ennemis Pervers. Lors d'un premier combat le Monstre Femelle les pique et rentre dans sa caverne. Souen Wou K'ong et Pa Kiai souffrent violemment. Le deuxième combat est également un échec. Ils croisent une vieille dame qui est en fait la Déesse Kouan Yin. Elle leur indique que seul le Coq du Soleil pourra apaiser leurs douleurs et vaincre ce monstre qui est un scorpion transcendant. Les disciples attirent le Monstre Femelle hors de sa caverne et le Coq du Soleil le tue. Les voyageurs reprennent leur voyage.

3ème Partie

13 Le petit Temple du Fracas du Tonnerre

Devant un Temple, San Ts'ang pense être arrivé au Temple du Fracas du Tonnerre et n'écoute pas les avertissements de Souen Wou K'ong qui aperçoit des vapeurs maléfiques au-dessus du toit. Le Maître et ses disciples rentrent dans le Temple et se prosternent tous devant le faux Fou Tsou à l'exception de Souen Wou K'ong qui se précipite pour tuer le monstre déguisé, mais une cloche d'or tombe de l'espace et l'emprisonne. Pa Kiai, Cha Seng et San Ts'ang sont fait prisonniers. Souen Wou Kon'g convoque les Esprits et reçoit l'aide des Vingt-huit Constellations qui soulèvent la cloche. Il se libère, brise la cloche et va tuer le monstre. San Ts'ang Pa Kiai et Cha Seng le remercient puis ils repartent chercher les Livres.

14 Le vol des armes précieuses

Les voyageurs arrivent dans l'État de La Fleur de Jade. Pensant que ce sont des monstres, les trois jeunes princes défient les disciples et devant la puissance de leurs armes demandent à devenir leurs élèves. Après l'apprentissage il est décidé de faire forger des copies plus légères de ces trois armes pour les leur laisser. Les armes sont volées par le monstre Lion Jaune pendant la nuit. Les trois disciples vont à la Caverne Gueule de Tigre, Souen Wou K'ong, déguisé, récupère les armes puis ils combattent Lion Jaune qui s'enfuit. Le Vénérable T'ai Yi aide les disciples à capturer le Lion à Neuf Têtes qui était venu épauler Lion Jaune. Le Roi et les Trois Princes remercient le Maître et ses disciples qui reprennent leur voyage.

15 L'Arrivée au Temple du Fracas du Tonnerre et l'Obtention des Livres

Arrivés devant le fleuve, dernier obstacle avant le Temple du Fracas du Tonnerre, San Ts'ang s'aperçoit que la barque que lui propose le Passeur est sans fond. Souen Wou K'ong pousse son Maître dans la barque, les trois disciples se cramponnent. Alors que le Passeur enfonce ses rames dans l'eau, un cadavre glisse le long de la barque. Souen Wou K'ong explique que c'est le cadavre du Maître qui s'est libéré de son enveloppe charnelle, tous applaudissent. Les voyageurs arrivent enfin au Palais de la Grande Bravoure et se prosternent devant Fou Tsou, San Ts'ang lui remet les passeports. Ngo Nan et Kia Ye leurs donnent les Livres. Le Maître et ses disciples remercient et quittent le Temple. Kouan Yin constate que les voyageurs doivent encore subir une dernière épreuve, elle envoie le Vénérable Pai Yong pour récupérer les Livres qui tombent sur le sol lors de sa tentative. Les disciples découvrent que ce sont des Livres blancs, sans aucune écriture, car la Vérité est dans leur voyage. Les voyageurs retournent précipitamment au Temple de la Bravoure et demandent d'autres Livres, certes moins purs que les Livres Blancs, mais attendus. Ils remercient et repartent en volant. Le vent qui les soulevait est stoppé et ils tombent au bord d'une rivière. Ils sont attaqués par les Fantômes de l'Esprit Femelle qui essayent de voler les Livres. Les monstres sont vaincus mais la dernière page du dernier livre reste collée illisible sur un rocher.

16 Le retour des Voyageurs à Tch'ang Ngan et leur admission au Paradis d'Occident

Les voyageurs arrivent Tch'ang Ngan et remettent les Livres à l'Empereur. Ils retournent auprès de Fou Tsou, San Ts'ang et Souen Wou K'ong, libéré de son cercle d'or, sont élevés au plus haut degré de la Sainteté.

Laurent Petitgirard

Hungarian Symphony Orchestra Budapest



The Hungarian Symphony Orchestra Budapest is one of the finest orchestras in Hungary, well known for its excellent recordings, concerts and tours. As well as concerts in Hungary and abroad, such as in Vienna and Hong Kong, the orchestra is regularly invited to undertake international tours. Studio recordings are also an important part of its work. The orchestra has worked with Laurent Petitgirard on numerous occasions, with recordings on Naxos including his opera *Guru* (8.660300-01), *The Little Prince* ballet suite (8.573113) and *States of Mind* (8.574034).

www.hsobudapest.com

Laurent Petitgirard

Photo: JFR Leclercq



Laurent Petitgirard's career as a composer of symphonic music, operas and film music is matched by his activities as a guest conductor all over the world. His concertos have been performed and recorded by eminent soloists including Augustin Dumay, Gary Hoffmann, Gérard Caussé, Emmanuel Pahud, Marie-Pierre Langlamet and Michel Supéra. Music director of the Orchestre Colonne in Paris from 2005 to 2018, and the Orchestre symphonique français from 1988 to 1997, Petitgirard has recorded over 40 albums. As a guest conductor he has appeared with the Paris Opéra Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Orchestre National de France, Bamberger Philharmoniker, Berliner Symphoniker, Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, Utah Symphony, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Korean Symphony Orchestra, KBS Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Spanish National Orchestra, Moscow State Symphony Orchestra and the China National Symphonic Orchestra. His first opera, *Joseph Merrick, The Elephant Man*, was first performed in 2002 at the Prague and Nice Operas, and in 2006 at the Minnesota Opera. His second opera *Guru* was nominated as CD of the Month by *Classica* magazine, and was premiered at Opera at the Castle in Szczecin. Laurent Petitgirard's concertos for violin, viola, cello and saxophone, symphonic poems, operas and the ballet suite *The Little Prince* have been released on Naxos. In February 2017 he was elected Perpetual Secretary of the Beaux-Arts Academy.

www.petitgirard.com

The eclectic career of multi award-winning composer Laurent Petitgirard has seen him become one of France's leading musicians and conductors, as well as taking him into the worlds of opera and ballet. *The Journey to the West* is a ballet that tells the story of a monk named Xuanzang who is sent on a perilous journey of redemption from China to India in order to seek out the scriptures of Truth in the Land of Buddha. The ordeals of Xuanzang and his companions are expressed in music that reflects the poetry and spiritual elevation found in this great monument of Chinese literature.



Laurent
PETITGIRARD
(b. 1950)

Si Yeou Ki (2019–20)

(La Pérégrination vers l'Ouest / The Journey to the West)

A ballet for large orchestra after the book by Wu Cheng'en

1–7	Part I	24:43
8–12	Part II	21:42
13–16	Part III	27:11

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Hungarian Symphony Orchestra Budapest

Laurent Petitgirard

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet.

Recorded: 21–24 October 2021 at Studio 22, Budapest, Hungary

Music director: Laurent Petitgirard • Artistic director: Paul Rouger • Producer: OSF Productions
Executive producer: Christian May • Engineers: István Matók, Gábor Buczkó • Editor: István Matók
Booklet notes: Laurent Petitgirard • Publisher: OSF Productions

Sponsor: CNM (National Music Centre)

Cover: *The big fight against the yellow-robed monster* by Monk Dahan (used with kind permission)

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