



## Louis Lortie returns to the UK

**Recitals of Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage*  
at Aldeburgh Music Snape Proms (18 August) and Wigmore Hall (4 December)**

**"If Louis Lortie were not still in his early fifties, and if we could not confidently hope to hear a great deal more of his artistry, his new *Années de Pèlerinage* could be described as the crowning achievement of an already remarkable career."  
*International Record Review, April 2011***

To honour Franz Liszt's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Louis Lortie has chosen to celebrate in suitably intrepid fashion with complete performances of the composer's *Années de Pèlerinage* ('Years of Pilgrimage'). Published in three volumes, each representing a year, the *Années* comprise 27 pieces composed over more than four decades, from *Vallée d'Obermann* and the three Petrarch sonnets to the 'Dante' sonata and *Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este*.

Lortie's 2-disc set of the *Années* was released on the Chandos label in March 2011 to great critical acclaim. He has already performed the complete cycle of works in Germany, Italy and the USA (including in recital at New York's Lincoln Center). The *New York Times* praised the 'tireless elegance, precision and flexibility' of his interpretation. The pianist is set to bring his Liszt programme to the UK later this year for performances at the Aldeburgh Music Snape Proms on 18 August and London's Wigmore Hall on 4 December.

"The three albums of the *Années de Pèlerinage* show Liszt going through a process of evolution," observes Lortie. "His preoccupations, and the way he thinks about music, change as he gets older. Some of the pieces are little tone poems for the keyboard, while others, such as the 'Dante' Sonata, are on a broader canvas. They explore many different aspects of the composer, but all in all, they show him at his most poetic."

Having concluded his project to record the complete Beethoven piano sonatas for Chandos (the complete CD box set was released at the beginning of the 2010/11 season), the music of Beethoven continues to feature regularly in Louis Lortie's concert schedule. On 23 and 24 November he joins the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Kees Bakels for two performances of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.5 'Emperor' in Poole and in Portsmouth.

### **LOUIS LORTIE UK concert dates, 2011**

**18 August 2011 - Aldeburgh Music Snape Proms**  
LISZT *Les Années de Pèlerinage* (complete)

**23 November 2011 – Poole**

**24 November 2011 – Portsmouth**  
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra / Kees Bakels  
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No.5 'Emperor'

**4 December 2011 – Wigmore Hall**

LISZT *Les Années de Pèlerinage*

**Selected reviews of Louis Lortie's recording of Liszt's *Les Années de Pèlerinage***

"These works represent Liszt's greatest sequence for piano, and in Lortie's hands emerge in brilliant plumage."

*The Independent, 14 May 2011*

"Throughout the cycle he conjures one beautiful range of soft colours after another"

*BBC Music Magazine, May 2011*

"A superlative achievement"

*Gramophone, June 2011*

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