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XAVIER PUJOL 06/02/2009

REVIEW: CLASSICAL

An Energetic Schubert

The Philadelphia Orchestra, one of the most prestigious orchestras in the United States, visited the Palace of Catalan Music to participate in the Palau 100 Concert Series.

Directed by Christoph Eschenbach, who knows the orchestra well since he was its conductor from 2003 through 2008, the Philadelphia Orchestra offered a program in Barcelona that started with the Symphony No. 9 in C major, D944 "The Great" by Schubert, and ending the first part with Beethoven's *Egmont* Overture Op.84 and *Osiris* by the German composer, Matthias Pintscher, born in 1971.

With Beethoven's Overture, the American Orchestra produced great sound "the American way," brilliant, extroverted, and with a slightly positive tension, followed by a more aggressive and edgy *Egmont* Overture, with a vitality that matches that of the courageous hero presented in Goethe's drama and in Beethoven's music.

This was followed by Pintscher's piece, a work of confused discourse that ends with a virtuoso display by the percussion in a clinking, colorful tone. The material is fragmented and later reassembled, evoking in music the efforts of Isis to return and resurrect the body of Osiris.

With 'The Great' by Schubert, the orchestra, guided by a director who zeroes in on the essence while keeping the major structure of the piece without wallowing in expressive nuances, returns to exhibit the quality of the sound; agitated, nervous, never passive, with an inquisitive touch and a somewhat excessively rough attack. The result was a fundamentally energetic Schubert, a questionable choice compared to other works by the author, but possible and even believable when playing a work such as 'The Great'.
