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York Symphony Music Director Gregory Burton is excited about the orchestra's next pair of concerts, entitled *The Grand Tour*. "For many years," Burton says, "*The Grand Tour* was a rite of passage for young Europeans. It was considered an important part of a person's educational programme, to visit the great cities of Europe and experience the culture, music and art. It is with that spirit in mind that we will present *The Grand Tour* on February 11-12."

The musical styles contained in this programme are varied and exciting. After opening with two overtures, by the Austrian Mozart, and German Wagner, the orchestra will travel to locations such as Budapest, Helsinki, Paris, and Madrid.

Delicious rhythms of Spain will challenge the YSO as they perform music of Manuel de Falla from his ballets, *The Three Cornered Hat* and *El amor brujo*, including the famous *Ritual Fire Dance*. This music is extremely colourful, and challenging for the orchestra.

The strings will be featured in Sibelius' *Andante Festivo*, a Finnish nationalistic anthem, while several soloists from the orchestra will be celebrated in Bartok's *Romanian Folk Dances*.



The guest soloist for the evening is Mate Szigeti, an outstanding flute player from Budapest. Mr. Szigeti has appeared as soloist and orchestra member in North America, Austria, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland. He will perform Carl Reinecke's *Flute Concerto*.

As Maestro Burton says, "In *The Grand Tour*, there is something for everyone. A great deal of challenging and supremely enjoyable music that will feature the YSO at its best."

The concerts are Saturday, February 11th at 8 pm at the Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora, and Sunday February 12th at 7:30 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Tickets for February 11th may be purchased by calling 416 410-0860; for February 12th, call 905 787-8811 or go online at www.rhcentre.ca. Tickets will also be available at the door of both venues.