

**ATMA Classique**

**15**  
YEARS

**New release ~ October 2009**

**Le premier Noël**

**MARC HERVIEUX, tenor**

**Les Disciples de Massenet, choir**

**Régis Rousseau, organ; Jennifer Swartz, harp**



**Artists:** Hervieux, Marc;  
Les Disciples de  
Massenet; Rousseau,  
Régis;  
Swartz, Jennifer  
**Title:** Le premier Noël  
**Label:** ATMA Classique  
**Catalogue No:** ACD2 2619

**Track list:**

1. Venez divin Messie
2. Le premier Noël
3. Sainte nuit
4. Minuit, chrétiens!
5. Adeste fideles
6. Panis angelicus
7. Il est né le divin enfant
8. Ça! Bergers, assemblons-nous
9. Dans cette étable
10. Les anges dans nos campagnes
11. Bel astre que j'adore
12. Ave Maria
13. Trois anges sont venus ce soir!
14. Agnus dei
15. Gesu bambino

One of Québec's best known tenors, **Marc Hervieux**, makes his classical recording debut with *Le premier Noël*, a collection of beloved Christmas songs with the **Les Disciples de Massenet** choir directed by **Lucie Roy**, and accompanied on the organ by **Régis Rousseau**. They are joined by harpist **Jennifer Swartz**, principal harp of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal.

In this recording, conceived as an homage to Richard Verreau, the renowned tenor, Marc Hervieux revives Christmas music from Québec's beautiful choral singing tradition. The arrangements by Ernest Gagnon are well-known to generations of Québeckers, and are an essential element of a traditional Christmas celebration. Also included are Schubert's *Ave Maria*, César Franck's *Panis angelicus*, George Bizet's *Agnus dei*, and Théodore Dubois' arrangement of *Adeste fideles*.

*Le premier Noël* was recorded at the Église du Très-Saint Nom de Jésus and represents a homecoming of sorts for Mr. Hervieux, who was a member of the parish while growing up in the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve neighborhood of Montréal. Notwithstanding his success on concert stages around the world, he remains very attached to the area.

The church of Très-Saint Nom de Jésus is known for its pipe organ — one of the most powerful in North America — which was purchased in 1914 from the celebrated house of Casavant Frères of Saint-Hyacinthe. Régis Rousseau, who has been organist at this church for 15 years, accompanies Mr. Hervieux and the choir.

Marc Hervieux has enjoyed great success on opera stages in Québec, across Canada, and around the world. His recent performance at the Opéra de Montréal in *Starmania*, the rock-opera by Michel Berger and Luc Plamondon, won praise from critics and admiration from audiences. His duo with the popular singer Ginette Reno on her latest CD has made him Canada's best known Québécois tenor.

Mr. Hervieux has appeared at noted opera houses around the world, including the Théâtre Mariinski (Kirov Opera), where he sang Alfredo in Verdi's *La Traviata*, conducted by Valery Gergiev, and the Metropolitan Opera in New York, where he played the Chevalier des Grieux in *Manon*.

*Le premier Noël* will be available as of October 27, 2009

For more information: [www.atmaclassique.com](http://www.atmaclassique.com)

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