

GRÉGOIRE PONT

ANIMATOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

‘Grégoire Pont’s remarkable work avoids easy technical effects and always sticks to the truth of text and music. The result is a masterwork where the stage setting shows unexpected details, designed with a great sense of poetry’

Classique News, L’Enfant et les sortilèges, Opéra National de Lyon

An exceptional artistic talent already as a young child, Grégoire Pont attended the Animation Workshop in Paris, studying Norman McLaren’s techniques of animation dynamics. He graduated from Penninghen School of Graphic Arts (ESAG) in 1992 and shortly after directed his first animated film, *Le concerto du chat*, with abstract shapes dancing to the sounds of Orchestre de Paris.

Pont is passionate about using animation to make classical music accessible to both children and adults. He developed a new performance concept called ‘Cinesthetics’ where he draws and animates live to a musical performance. He has appeared at Royal Festival Hall, Paris Philharmonie, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Suntory Hall and Gothenburg Concert Hall, collaborating with conductors such as Kent Nagano, Kazushi Ono, Stéphane Denève, François-Xavier Roth and Dalia Stasevska.

Projects currently touring include *Moonlight on the Eiffel Tower* (commissioned by Tongyeong International Music Festival), *Our Precious Planet*, exploring the effects of human activity on the environment (commissioned by the Barbican Centre), and an original interpretation of Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons*, with Les Talens Lyriques and Christophe Rousset.

Pont has also received acclaim for bringing his innovative animation techniques to the staging of operatic and dance repertoire. With director James Bonas, he conceived productions at Opéra de Lyon of Ravel’s *L’Enfant et les sortilèges* and *L’heure espagnole*, which have been presented around the world, including at Dresden Opera, Opéra de Lille, Muscat’s Royal Opera House, and San Francisco and Cincinnati symphony halls. Most recently they have achieved success with titles including Hans Abrahamsen’s *Snow Queen* for Opéra National du Rhin, *Die Zauberflöte* at Göteborg Opera and *Candide* for Welsh National Opera.

Pont has also illustrated books for children, most notably *Les Excalibrius*, and made numerous animations for television. For three seasons, he worked with the conductor François-Xavier Roth and his groundbreaking orchestra Les Siècles on *Presto!* (France Television). This animated series of musical works was seen by over three million viewers on weekly primetime television.