



PRESS RELEASE
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Kent Nagano and the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

The documentary *Montréal Symphonie* wins the Award for Best Canadian Film at FIFA

Montreal, Wednesday, March 31, 2010. The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal would like to congratulate German director and screenwriter Bettina Ehrhardt, on whom the Festival International of Films on Art (FIFA) has bestowed the Award for Best Canadian Film for *Montréal Symphonie*. At its 28th edition, which wound up on March 28 after 11 days of festivities, FIFA had 43 films entered in competition (10 of them Canadian) from a total of 14 different countries.

The 97-minute movie depicts highlights of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal's 75th season, led by conductor Kent Nagano. From a concert for throat singers and small orchestra in Nunavik, in Québec's Arctic region, to Gustav Mahler's *Song of the Earth* in Paris, from great symphonies by Bruckner and Beethoven to one of the masterpieces of the twentieth century, Olivier Messiaen's opera *Saint-François d'Assise*, the camera captures the focal points of that anniversary season.

The documentary also touches on the artistic vision of the OSM, one that is inspired by the diversity of Montreal, a mosaic of cultures, languages and traditions. Music and poetry spring up from daily urban life here, as in Simon Leclerc's Concerto for radio host and orchestra, a remarkable work featuring radio host René Homier-Roy and his reporter colleagues as guest "soloists." The camera also takes us to Montreal's Bell Centre, where on April 2, 2009, 15,000 people attended the large-scale concert "The Meeting of the Century," given by the OSM to mark its 75th season and the 100th anniversary of the Montreal Canadiens.

Starting in mid-April, *Montréal Symphonie* along with all the FIFA prize-winners will go on international tour. That tour, an annual event, will begin in Quebec City on April 14 at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec and then make its way to Boston, New York, Washington, Tourcoing, Paris and London in settings as prestigious as the Louvre and the Tate Modern. And then, in the fall of 2010, as part of FIFA's Matinées du Film sur l'Art at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, local moviegoers will have the opportunity to discover or see a for second time the films that won prizes at this 28th edition of FIFA.

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Source: Orchestre symphonique de Montréal
Information: Lucie Paquin
Head of Media Relations
514 840-7414 lpquin@osm.ca