



ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL

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## **Beethoven Festival at the OSM**

**Premiere of a unique work to an original text by Yann Martel read by actor Michel Dumont to music from the ballet *The Creatures of Prometheus***

**The 9 symphonies in one week**

**The rarely performed Triple Concerto**

**Montreal, April 8, 2010** – As spring gets into full swing, Kent Nagano and the OSM plunge into the work of Ludwig van Beethoven to reproduce, for the space of a week, all of its universal profundity and greatness. The Beethoven Festival will be the opportunity to hear, in addition to the nine symphonies, the rarely played Triple Concerto, as well as music from the ballet *The Creatures of Prometheus*, accompanied by an original text written by Yann Martel and narrated by actor Michel Dumont.

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Tuesday, May 4, at 8 p.m.  
*Grand Concerts* series

### ***Beethoven cubed***

**Kent Nagano**, conductor

**Ludwig van Beethoven**, Symphony No. 2  
Symphony No. 5  
Symphony No. 8

To begin the reading of the complete Beethoven symphonies conducted by **Kent Nagano** in a single week, the OSM performs the Second, Fifth and Eighth Symphonies. The Fifth Symphony, with its universally recognized opening motif, is one of the best known and loved works in the entire music repertoire. The Second Symphony, dedicated to Beethoven's patron, Prince Carl von Lichnowsky, was composed as the composer's deafness was becoming more apparent, sparking a profound questioning of his art. The Eighth Symphony can be described as a "tribute to classicism," and constitutes a model of spicy and joyous subtlety.

Wednesday, May 5, at 8 p.m.  
*Grand Concert series*

***Beethoven times three!***

**Kent Nagano**, conductor  
**James Ehnes**, violin  
**Antonio Meneses**, cello  
**Menahem Pressler**, piano

**Ludwig van Beethoven**, Concerto for violin, cello and piano  
**Ludwig van Beethoven**, Symphony No. 4

**Kent Nagano** leads two members of the world-renowned **Beaux Arts Trio**, officially retired since 2008, who will be joined by Canadian virtuoso James Ehnes for Beethoven's Triple Concerto. The Fourth Symphony is also on the program. When Beethoven wrote this work, he was enjoying the most peaceful time of his life: Count Franz von Oppersdorff was staying at the summer home of his relative Lichnowsky and met the composer, who was vacationing at the same spot. Von Oppersdorff heard the Second Symphony and was so taken with it that he offered the composer a substantial sum of money to compose a new one for him. Beethoven sat down to the task, using the same joyous tone as for the Second.

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Sunday, May 9, at 2:30 p.m.  
*Musical Sundays series*

***Beethoven and nature***

**Kent Nagano**, conductor

**Ludwig van Beethoven**, Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral"  
**Ludwig van Beethoven**, Symphony No. 7

Fascinated by the power and immensity of earthly elements, Beethoven endeavored, in his splendid "Pastoral" Symphony, the Sixth, to depict in music a nature at one and the same time bucolic, threatening and enchanting. **Kent Nagano** also conducts the Seventh Symphony, which is distinguished by its unbridled energy and vividness.

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Tuesday, May 11, at 8 p.m.  
*Panasonic Signature Performances series*

***Kent Nagano, Yann Martel... Beethoven!***

**Kent Nagano**, conductor  
**Michel Dumont**, narrator

**Ludwig van Beethoven**, *The Creatures of Prometheus* (original text by Yann Martel, OSM commission)

**Ludwig van Beethoven**, Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"

A large-scale event: the OSM and **Kent Nagano** premiere a unique work to a text by Canadian writer **Yann Martel** (author of *Life of Pi*, which won the Booker Prize in 2002), narrated by Québec actor **Michel Dumont** and accompanied by music Beethoven wrote for the ballet *The Creatures of Prometheus*. The plot is inspired by the myth of Prometheus, who used the fire he stole from the gods to bring to life two clay statues he had shaped.

The Symphony No. 3, "Eroica," one of Beethoven's most popular works, is also part of the program. Many consider it the dawn of musical romanticism.

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Wednesday, May 12, at 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 13, at 8 p.m. (additional performance)

*Panasonic Signature Performances* series

### ***The Ninth closes the Beethoven Festival***

**Kent Nagano**, conductor

**Jennifer Wilson**, soprano

**Susan Platts**, mezzo-soprano

**Michael König**, tenor

**Michael Volle**, baritone

**OSM Chorus**

**Michael Zaugg**, guest chorus master

**Ludwig van Beethoven**, Symphony No. 1

**Ludwig van Beethoven**, Symphony No. 9

The complete Beethoven symphonies culminate with the presentation by the **OSM** and **Kent Nagano** of the Ninth Symphony with its immortal "Ode to Joy." This monumental work, in which Wagner saw "the last of symphonies," marked a decisive turning point in this musical style and is considered one of the great masterpieces of Western repertoire. The grand-scale concert will bring together **Kent Nagano**, the **OSM**, the **OSM Chorus**, guest chorus master **Michael Zaugg**, American soprano **Jennifer Wilson**, Canadian mezzo-soprano **Susan Platts**, German tenor **Michael König** and German baritone **Michael Volle**.

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All concerts will be preceded by a discussion hosted by CBC Radio producer and reporter Kelly Rice, who welcomes musicologist Guy Marchand.

The Beethoven Festival is presented by Power Corporation.

**Information and reservations:** 514 842-9951 or [www.osm.ca](http://www.osm.ca)

**THE CONCERTS:**

**May 4 at 8 p.m.** (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) *Beethoven cubed*. Kent Nagano, conductor. Discussion at 7 p.m.

**May 5 at 8 p.m.** (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) *Beethoven times three!* Kent Nagano, conductor; James Ehnes, violinist; Antonio Meneses, cellist; Menahem Pressler, pianist. Discussion at 7 p.m.

**May 9 at 2:30 p.m.** (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) *Beethoven and nature*. Kent Nagano, conductor. Discussion at 1:30 p.m.

**May 11 at 8 p.m.** (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) *Kent Nagano, Yann Martel... Beethoven!* Kent Nagano, conductor; Michel Dumont, narrator. Discussion at 7 p.m.  
Series presented by Fillion / Panasonic

**May 12 and 13 at 8 p.m.** (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) *The Ninth closes the Beethoven Festival*. Kent Nagano, conductor; Jennifer Wilson, soprano; Susan Platts, mezzo-soprano; Michael König, tenor; Michael Volle, baritone; OSM Chorus; Michael Zaugg, guest chorus master. Discussion at 7 p.m.  
Series presented by Fillion / Panasonic  
Evening of May 12 presented by Spinelli

**The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec  
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