



ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL



Title sponsor

Press release
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FOLLOW THE OSM THIS SUMMER BEGINNING JULY 21

“THE OSM IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD”

Loto-Québec Concerts in the Parks hosted by André Robitaille

- **Granby, July 21: Parc Daniel-Johnson**
- **Montreal, July 23: Ahuntsic Park**
- **Repentigny, July 28: Parc de l'île Lebel**

Knowlton Festival from August 4 to 16

- **Kent Nagano conducts the four symphonies of Brahms**
- **Sumi Jo in Bellini's *La Sonnambula***
- **Concerts featuring Ben Heppner, Thomas Hampson and Marie-Nicole Lemieux**

Two OSM appearances at the Festival de Lanaudière

- **July 25: Julian Kuerti conducts works by Schubert and Strauss**
- **August 1: Kent Nagano conducts Brahms's *German Requiem***

Montreal, June 1, 2009 – The summer season of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal will open on July 21 with the popular free OSM / Loto-Québec Concerts in the Parks series, hosted by André Robitaille. The Orchestra, led by Stéphane Laforest, will be visiting Granby, Repentigny and Ahuntsic Park in Montreal to perform some of the works audiences love best. After each of the concerts, representatives of the Montreal Planetarium will be on hand for a stargazing session as part of the International Year of Astronomy,

From August 4 to 16, the Orchestra will take up its summer quarters at the Knowlton Festival under a brand new tent that can accommodate over 1,000 people. The event, under the artistic direction of Maestro Kent Nagano, will be a meeting ground for the symphonic and vocal worlds in an exceptional country setting. Among the works and performers audiences will get to hear are the complete symphonies of Brahms and great artists like Ben Heppner, Thomas Hampson and Marie-Nicole Lemieux, as well as Bellini's opera *La Sonnambula* in a concert version.

Finally, the OSM will be appearing on two occasions at the Festival de Lanaudière, one of those the closing concert on August 1 with Brahms's *German Requiem* conducted by Kent Nagano and featuring baritone Nathan Gunn and soprano Sophie Karthäuser.

OSM / Loto-Québec Concerts in the Parks – The OSM in your neighbourhood

Over the years, the OSM / Loto-Québec Concerts in the Parks have become unmissable summertime rendezvous. For the third summer in a row, host and actor André Robitaille will be the spokesman and host for these concerts.

A unique opportunity to take advantage of beautiful summer evenings while enjoying symphonic repertoire in a family setting, this year the series will showcase some of the best-loved pages in the repertoire, including the “Farandole” from Bizet's *L'Arlésienne*, the *Radetzky March* by Johann Strauss and the famous **overture to Rossini's *William Tell***. Lovers of **movie music** have not been forgotten, with a movement from the symphonic suite assembled by John Williams from his *Star Wars* soundtrack figuring in the programming, as well as the “Mambo” from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*. Stéphane Laforest, first assistant conductor with the OSM, will also conduct Louis Bernier's *Fantaisie sur des airs de Félix Leclerc*.

Three free concerts will be offered to the public. The first will take place on **July 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Parc Daniel-Johnson in Granby**. The concert will mark the OSM's first visit to this Eastern Townships municipality. The second will be held at **Ahuntsic Park in Montreal on July 23 at 7:30 p.m.**, while the last concert will take place at **Parc de l'Île Lebel in Repentigny on July 28 at 7:30 p.m.** In collaboration with the **Montreal Planetarium** and as part of the International Year of Astronomy, each of the concerts will be followed by a free stargazing session.

Begun at the Mount Royal chalet in 1938 by Wilfrid Pelletier, the free open-air concerts remain a wonderful tradition of the OSM's, faithfully supported by Loto-Québec for a good number of years now. These popular concerts enable our orchestra to forge links with its community.

Knowlton Festival – New summer home for the OSM

In the wake of the Festival Bel Canto's remarkable success last summer in Knowlton, the event – now known as the Knowlton Festival, a corporation in its own right under the artistic direction of Kent Nagano – will become an annual occurrence of international scope. This year's edition of the Knowlton Festival will take place from August 4 to 16.

The Orchestra, under Kent Nagano, will be presenting a **complete reading of Johannes Brahms's four symphonies**, which will be matched with vocal works performed by some of the most sought-after singers in the world. Contralto **Marie-Nicole Lemieux**, for example, will sing the *Zwei Gesänge für eine Altstimme mit Bratsche und Klavier* (Two Songs for Contralto with Viola and Keyboard) by Brahms. Tenor **Ben Heppner** and baritone **Thomas Hampson** will be heard in lieder by Richard Strauss, while sopranos **June Anderson, Sumi Jo and Susan Platts** will offer excerpts from Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*.

Maestro Nagano will also lead the Festival Orchestra in two performances of a **concert version of Vincenzo Bellini's opera *La Sonnambula*, with soprano Sumi Jo in the title role**. As a way of promoting the rising generation, the Festival will present some of the prize-winners from Plácido Domingo's most recent Operalia competition, as well as young singers from the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, whose participation is made possible by the collaboration of its president, Professor Bruno Cagli. A concert by **Les Violons du Roy will be led by their conductor, Bernard Labadie**, and will feature soprano Hélène Guilmette. Recitals by **pianist Stephen Kovacevich** and **mezzo-soprano Susan Platts** will also be presented. Other events on the program are a workshop for children and a family concert, along with discussions and master classes.

A tent with room for as many as 1,050 people will be erected on a large new lot offered by a benefactor and located on Centre Road (west of Tibbits Hill Road), and which will be the principal permanent venue of the Festival. Details and ticket purchases: www.festivaldeknowlton.ca or by calling 514-842-9951 or 888-842-9951.

Festival de Lanaudière

The OSM will also be playing twice at the Festival de Lanaudière. On **July 25**, under the direction of guest conductor **Julian Kuerti**, assistant conductor with the Boston Symphony and son of renowned Canadian pianist Anton Kuerti, the OSM will perform two of the most popular works of the nineteenth century: **Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony** and the captivating symphonic poem *Till Eulenspiegel* by **Richard Strauss**.

On **August 1**, under Kent Nagano, the OSM will perform one of the best-loved works in the choral repertoire, **Brahms's *German Requiem***. The piece transmits a message of reconciliation, of faith in the future and the serene attainment of a blissful life in the hereafter. Transcending particular religious rituals and faiths, the work remains one of the most inspiring in the entire literature. Soprano **Sophie Karthäuser** and baritone **Nathan Gunn**, stars of the greatest stages in American and Europe, will be the soloists in a concert not to be missed. For more details: www.lanaudiere.org.

Start of the 2009-2010 season

Maestro Kent Nagano and the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal will open the 2009-2010 season with a spectacular and profound work, the *Requiem "Grande messe des Morts"* by Hector Berlioz, which will be staged on September 8-9 and 13.

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec

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