



ORCHESTRE  
SYMPHONIQUE  
DE MONTRÉAL

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PRESS RELEASE

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## **CREATION OF A FUND DEDICATED TO THE ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL BY THE GOVERNMENT OF QUÉBEC**

**Montreal, August 31, 2010** – At a press conference held today by the government of Québec, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) expressed its great satisfaction regarding the creation, by the government, of a dedicated fund for the Orchestra that will be lodged with Loto-Québec. As a result, that government corporation becomes the OSM’s most important public partner. The creation of this fund had been announced on March 30, 2010 by Finance Minister Raymond Bachand during the reading of the budget.

At that reading of the budget, Mr. Bachand characterized the OSM as a “jewel of Québec culture, an artistic organization of international status that each year welcomes the greatest names in orchestral music in Canada and from the entire world.”

Through this substantial contribution, the government of Québec is recognizing the OSM’s importance and its role as major cultural institution, and reaffirming its willingness to maintain an orchestra of international class in Montreal. “This fund,” stated OSM Chairman of the Board Lucien Bouchard, “allows the Orchestra to consolidate its financial situation in a longer-lasting way, to continue in its mission as a national leader and a world-calibre orchestra and to sustain its artistic vision by presenting top-level innovative programming, in addition to its educational mission with the rising generation and in the community.”

The Music Director of the OSM, Kent Nagano, added: “The OSM would like to express its most sincere gratitude to the government of Québec and acknowledge Québec’s courageous, visionary thinking in helping support both its identity and prosperity through the support of Québec culture. In creating the new fund it speaks eloquently of the importance of Arts and Culture to a society, and that it is something that can never be taken for granted. The Loto-Québec fund will first of all allow the OSM to stabilize its financial situation, and permit us to further pursue our Orchestra’s mission of excellence. Moreover, this initiative enables us to remain competitive internationally and to share the artistic vision of the OSM with our community in Montreal and Québec. Just as importantly, it allows us to fulfill our role as ambassadors, extending the renown of Québec’s special culture throughout the world.

“Together with the opening of the new concert hall you have made a bold statement in the context of today’s world. Thank you for your creative vision of what can be and for your

courage to follow and realize the dreams of Montreal and Québec. Thank you for all you have done to help Montreal and Québec become the brilliant and extraordinary community it is today.”

The OSM thanks Mr. Bachand for supporting the arts and culture in this way, and also wishes to thank Premier Jean Charest for his steadfast backing and the Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, Madam Christine St-Pierre, for all the work that went into bringing this matter to fruition.

Today’s press conference took place in the presence of Mr. Raymond Bachand, Minister of Finance; Madam Christine Saint-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women; Mr. Jacques Chagnon, Member of the National Assembly for Westmount–Saint-Louis; Mr. Alain Cousineau, President and Chief Executive Officer of Loto-Québec; Mr. Lucien Bouchard, Chairman of the Board of the OSM; Mr. Kent Nagano, Music Director of the OSM; and Madam Madeleine Careau, Chief Executive Officer of the OSM.

The OSM has a history of over 75 years, in the course of which it has been recognized as an international orchestra of the highest rank. It has undertaken numerous tours, and several of its 100 or so recordings have earned national and international awards. The OSM plays a role of great importance in its community, carrying out close to 100 musical activities a year and investing in its milieu and in the upcoming generations.

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

Loto-Québec proudly supports the OSM.

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