



ORCHESTRE
SYMPHONIQUE
DE MONTRÉAL

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PRESS RELEASE
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2010 OSM / LOTO-QUÉBEC CONCERTS IN THE PARKS

FREE CONCERTS

on the theme *The Americas*

under the direction of STÉPHANE LAFOREST
and hosted by SÉBASTIEN BENOIT

- **Tuesday, July 27, at 7:30 p.m.: Maisonneuve Park, MONTREAL**
- **Wednesday, July 28, at 7:30 p.m.: Site historique de l'Île des Moulins, TERREBONNE**
- **Friday, July 30, at 7:30 p.m.: Regard-sur-le-fleuve Park, SOREL-TRACY**

Montreal, Tuesday, May 25, 2010 – Once again this summer, the OSM is happy to be renewing its **tradition of free concerts in the parks**, which make it possible for the general public to enjoy the beauty of orchestral music in the open air. These not-to-be-missed get-togethers of the summer season, established in 1938 by the OSM's first music director, Wilfrid-Pelletier, are a reflection of the warm and special connection between the Orchestra and the community, as well as providing the opportunity for unforgettable moments. This year the OSM will be exploring the classical repertoire of the larger American continents under the direction of assistant conductor **Stéphane Laforest**. Hosting duties for these evenings, which are ideal free excursions for families or groups of friends, will be entrusted for the first time this year to **Sébastien Benoit**.

Entitled "The Americas," the program for these concerts consists of works such as Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and excerpts from Bernstein's *West Side Story* and from Dvořák's "New World" Symphony, besides presenting a couple of the best-known tangos by Piazzolla and even some orchestral arrangements of songs by Gilles Vigneault.

The public is invited to turn out in large numbers for these three free concerts. The OSM will be performing on **Tuesday, July 27, at Maisonneuve Park in Montreal**, on **Wednesday, July 28, on the Site historique de l'Île des Moulins in Terrebonne** and on **Friday, July 30, at Regard-sur-le-fleuve Park in Sorel-Tracy**. All the concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

Stéphane Laforest, conductor

Stéphane Laforest possesses one of the most enviable reputations among conductors in Canada. He has occupied the position of principal assistant conductor with the OSM since June 2009, in addition to fulfilling the functions of artistic director and conductor at the Orchestre symphonique de Sherbrooke and the Sinfonia de Lanaudière. Apart from his conducting record, which includes appearances with a great number of Canadian orchestras, Stéphane Laforest is also renowned for his talents as an orchestrator.

Sébastien Benoit, spokesman and host

A familiar face on Québec's cultural landscape, Sébastien Benoit has made a name for himself over the years as host of television programs like *Flash* on TQS and *Des vertes et des pas mûres*, *La Fureur* and *Pyramide* on Radio-Canada. Since 2004 he's been bringing his vitality and humor to his responsibilities as host of the shows *Le bonheur est à quatre heures* and *Super Set* on 105.7 Rythme FM. These concerts will mark his first participation as spokesman and host of the OSM / Loto-Québec Concerts in the Parks.

A partnership that is ongoing and another that begins

Loto-Québec is partnering with the OSM for a 13th consecutive year in presenting these free events. A new partner of the OSM, SIRIUS Radio Satellite Canada is proudly collaborating to these concerts for a first year.

The OSM wishes to thank the cities of Montreal, Terrebonne and Sorel-Tracy for their participation in the staging of these concerts.

***The OSM / Loto-Québec Concerts in the Parks* are presented by Loto-Québec in collaboration with SIRIUS**

The OSM / Loto-Québec Concerts in the Parks

Stéphane Laforest, conductor
Sébastien Benoit, host and spokesman

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Leonard Bernstein: Overture to *Candide*

Antonín Dvořák: Symphony No. 9 in E minor, "From the New World," Op. 95, first movement
(*Adagio - Allegro molto*)

Godfrey Ridout: *Fall Fair Overture*

George Gershwin: *An American in Paris*

Alberto Ginastera: *Danza final (Malambo)* from *Estancia*, Op. 8a

Astor Piazzolla (arr. Stéphane Laforest): *Oblivion, Adiós Nonino*

Leonard Bernstein: *West Side Story* (excerpts)

Léon Bernier: orchestral arrangements of works by Gilles Vigneault

FREE CONCERTS

Information: 514-842-9951 or 1-888-842-9951 or www.osm.ca

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec

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