

PRESS RELEASE

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THE ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL AND ARSENAL: PARTNERS IN AN INNOVATIVE BENEFIT EVENT, A UNIQUE INITIATIVE OF THE OSM'S YOUNG AMBASSADORS CLUB

CONTEMPORARY ART AND 20TH-CENTURY MUSIC BROUGHT TOGETHER IN INGENUOUS FASHION, IN EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS SURROUNDINGS

CONDUCTOR PETER EÖTVÖS LEADS A PROGRAM OF BOULEZ AND STRAVINSKY

Montreal, January 23, 2012 – The next benefit evening of the **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal** will be taking place on **March 15 at the art center Arsenal**. An undertaking of **the OSM's Young Ambassadors Club**, this one-of-a-kind evening is intended to demonstrate both young professionals' support of their community and the Orchestra's of its educational mission. In facilitating the union between two forms of complementary expression, visual art and music, the event aims to offer an **extraordinary artistic experience**.

The benefit evening, presented by Hydro-Québec, will unfold in four stages. Participants will first have the opportunity of discovering in an exclusive premiere the **very first exhibit at Arsenal**, an art center laid out over more than 20,000 square feet in a completely renovated former shipyard.

"TRAVERS – The Art of Collecting" will bring together important works from a dozen or so of the foremost Montreal collections, including those of François Odermatt, Alain Tremblay and Paryse Taillefer. A few of the artists on display will be Anselm Kiefer, Irene F. Whittome, Marc Séguin and Carl Bouchard.

The evening also aims at building a bridge linking generations of leaders in the cultural milieu, and will include a **discussion** between Mr. **L. Jacques Ménard**, President of BMO Financial Group, Québec, and member of the OSM board of directors, and Mr. **Jean-François Bélisle**, Director of Arsenal. Among the subjects dealt with in their talk will be the importance and the social repercussions of the business world's involvement in the arts, as well as leadership in the professional milieu and in society.

The evening next proposes an innovative concert, **presented in the exhibit space itself**. **Peter Eötvös**, former music director of Ensemble intercontemporain, will conduct **Répons by Pierre Boulez** (the founder of Ensemble intercontemporain and mentor of Eötvös) and **Stravinsky's The Firebird**. The exceptional architecture of Arsenal will allow for the audience to be positioned all around the Orchestra.

A networking cocktail gathering will wind up the evening, in the presence of **Thomas H**, who officiates at Moomba Supper Club, among other spots – a DJ renowned for his skill at reading a crowd and adapting to every ambiance.

Over 350 young professionals have been invited by the organizing committee under the **co-presidency** of two young professionals who are especially involved in their environment: **Maya Azzi and Winston Chan**. Madame Azzi was the recipient of a 2011 Young Woman of the Year award from *Châtelaine* magazine and of a 2011 Young Montreal Volunteering award. Mr. Chan is chairman of the board of the Regroupement des jeunes chambres de commerce du Québec, member of the board of the Conseil supérieur de la langue française and member of the board of the Fondation de recherche chiropratique du Québec, as well as the recipient of a 2011 Claude Masson Hommage bénévolat-Québec award.

Created at the start of the 2009-2010 season, the **OSM's Young Ambassadors Club** was established in order to offer networking activities (by way of OSM concerts) as well as targeted "offers" (concert and event), but also to develop an audience of young professionals and to expand the growth of the community that sustains the OSM.

Tickets, on sale at a cost of \$100, are available now on the OSM Internet site at www.osm.ca. A receipt for tax purposes will be issued at a later date. Funds collected through this event will go towards the OSM's educational activities.

Arsenal is located at 2020 William St. in Montreal (parking available on site).
<http://arsenalmontreal.com/>

Information: 514:842:9951 or www.osm.ca

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

The 2011-2012 season is presented in association with National Bank.

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