



ORCHESTRE
SYMPHONIQUE
DE MONTRÉAL



ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE
DI SANTA CECILIA
Fondazione

present

FESTIVAL BEL CANTO

in association with BOMBARDIER

Press release
For immediate distribution

In partnership with the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome

Kent Nagano will give the downbeat to the Festival Bel Canto at the opening concert on August 15

Additional tickets available

Montreal, August 6, 2008 – The music director of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, Kent Nagano, will kick off the Festival Bel Canto in Knowlton on August 15. In the first part of the recital by soprano Jennifer Larmore he will be conducting a chamber orchestra made up of young musicians performing works by *bel canto* composers, including Donizetti.

Moreover, the OSM is happy to announce that, in response to a growing demand on the part of music lovers, 100 additional tickets will go on sale today.

It will be remembered that this festival, a presentation of the OSM and of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome in association with Bombardier and devoted to the art of *bel canto* (“beautiful singing”), will take place in the **historic village of Knowlton from August 15 to 24, 2008**. In a rustic and intimate setting, six concerts spread out over two weekends will be presented in a tent accommodating 600 spectators. In addition to **two performances in a concert version of the opera *Norma***, taking place on Sunday, August 17 and 24, at 3 p.m., festival-goers will hear mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Larmore** in recital with pianist Antoine Palloc, and - with the OSM under Kent Nagano - **soprano June Anderson** and **four young singers from the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia** as well as coloratura soprano **Sumi Jo**. On a more popular note, well-known singer **Gino Vannelli** will be doing a show of Italian songs inspired by his most recent album, entitled “Canto,” with the Orchestre symphonique de Sherbrooke under the direction of Stéphane Laforest.

Free events

To reach as wide an audience as possible, the Festival has integrated into its programming **concerts by the rising generation, master classes and *Operamania*, a series of lectures** by musicologist Michel Veilleux. Admission to all these events is free. At the concerts, on August 16 Pascale Beaudin (soprano), Pierre-Étienne Bergeron (baritone) and Marie-Ève Scarfone (piano) of the **Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal** will perform arias by Rossini, Donizetti, Verdi and Bellini. The **Chœur classique de l'Estrie**, on August 23, can be heard in choral excerpts from Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, Verdi's *I Lombardi alla prima crociata* and *Nabucco*, and Bellini's *Norma*. A concert featuring **Marianne Fiset**, Grand Prize winner at the Montreal International Music Competition in 2007, together with musicians from the OSM (flute, violin, viola and cello), will be offering quartets by Boccherini and Viotti as well as arias by Bellini and Franz Liszt's *Tre sonetti di Petrarca*, on August 23. Canadian soprano **Kimi McLaren**, meanwhile, will present a recital on August 24.

At the master classes, young performers will get to benefit from the enlightened advice of three of the most renowned singers on the international scene: **Jennifer Larmore, June Anderson and Massimiliano Murràli**.

This edition of the Festival is taking place under the **distinguished patronage** of Italian soprano **Renata Scotto**.

**Tickets on sale now at 514-842-9951 or (toll-free) at 1-888-842-9951
or
on www.festivalbelcanto.com
(or on www.osm.ca)**

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec

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