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Upcoming February concerts at the OSM

Nagano and Repin: summit meeting

The concert-event “Mysteries of Japan”

Till Fellner plays Beethoven

Release of the Fellner/Nagano/OSM disc and autograph session

Montreal, February 9, 2010 – **Kent Nagano** will be conducting all the concerts in the month of February at the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. He will accompany among others “the most perfect violinist” Yehudi Menuhin ever heard, the great Russian virtuoso **Vadim Repin**, in a program bringing together the **Beethoven Violin Concerto** and the intense **Symphony No. 1 by Brahms**. He will also be conducting a number of artists, including a taiko performer, in an unusual program consisting of works from different eras and lands on the theme of Japan. Finally, he will conduct the magnificent **Symphony No. 2 by Brahms** and accompany pianist **Till Fellner** in the **Beethoven Concerto No. 1** as well as mezzo-soprano **Michèle Losier** in the world premiere of a work by **Gilles Tremblay**.

Nagano and Repin: summit meeting

The recipient of the highest accolades around the world, violinist **Vadim Repin** reappears before OSM audiences in a rare visit to Montreal to perform, alongside **Kent Nagano**, the sublime **Beethoven Violin Concerto**. **Brahms’s Symphony No. 1** is also part of a romantic program bound to delight its audiences.

Mysteries of Japan

The mysterious and irresistible beauty of Asia is explored in four different ways in this unusual program devoted to some of the facets of the art and history of Japan and Canada. The public will hear *Onna-no-ko no uta* by Jean-Pascal Beintus, an adaptation of traditional Japanese girls’ songs imbued with poetry and dramatic depth, showcasing soprano **Suzie Leblanc** and the **Chœur des enfants de Montréal**. **Kent Nagano** will also conduct a work by Japan’s Isao Matsushita for taiko drums and orchestra, the soloist for which will be taiko player **Eitetsu Hayashi**. Excerpts from the opera **Madama Butterfly by Puccini** (“Un bel di vedremo,” “Che tua madre dovrà prenderti in braccio” and “Con onor muore”), a summit of the Italian vocal repertoire set in Japan, will be sung by **Ermonela Jaho**, an Albania soprano living in Italy since the age of nineteen. The world premiere of a work by Chris Paul Harman based on the story of Japanese-Canadians during the Second World War will also be on the program.

This concert-event will be preceded by a discussion: **Françoise Davoine**, host and content editor on Espace musique, will be welcoming **Kent Nagano**, music director of the OSM.

Till Fellner plays Beethoven on disc and in concert

The Fellner/Nagano/OSM recording of Beethoven's Piano Concertos Nos. 4 and 5, which was done in concert in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, will be available in stores on February 15 on the ECM label. **Till Fellner** and **Kent Nagano** will take part in an autograph session that same evening after the concert, at which the pianist is joining the Orchestra and Kent Nagano in **Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1**, a classical masterwork shot through with youthful humor. The spirited **Second Symphony by Brahms**, meanwhile, offers a distilled vision of nature, recalling the joyous humor of Beethoven's *Pastoral* Symphony. And the world premiere of *L'Origine*, commissioned from Québec composer **Gilles Tremblay** by Radio France, will feature Québec mezzo-soprano **Michèle Losier**.

The concert will also be preceded by a discussion: **Mario Paquet**, host on Espace musique, will sit down with **Kent Nagano** and **Gilles Tremblay**.

Information and reservations: 514 842-9951 or www.osm.ca

THE FEBRUARY CONCERTS:

February 15 and 16 at 8 p.m. (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) **Till Fellner plays Beethoven. Kent Nagano, conductor; Till Fellner, pianist; Michèle Losier, mezzo-soprano. Pre-concert discussion at 7 p.m.: Mario Paquet hosts Kent Nagano and Gilles Tremblay.**

February 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) **Nagano and Repin: summit meeting. Kent Nagano, conductor; Vadim Repin, violinist.**

February 28 at 2:30 p.m. (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) **Mysteries of Japan. Kent Nagano, conductor; Suzie Leblanc and Ermonela Jaho, sopranos; Eitetsu Hayashi, taiko performer; Chœur des enfants de Montréal. Pre-concert discussion at 1:30 p.m.: Françoise Davoine welcomes Kent Nagano.**

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