

PRESS RELEASE

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KENT NAGANO CONDUCTS THE MOZART REQUIEM AT FOUR SOLD-OUT PERFORMANCES

ALAIN LEFÈVRE AND THE SCHUMANN CONCERTO

MARC HERVIEUX IN A PROGRAM OF ITALIAN ARIAS

MENACHEM PRESSLER BETWEEN RECITAL AND CHAMBER MUSIC

Montreal, Tuesday, January 24, 2012 – The month of February will be especially busy for the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, which will be taking part in nine concerts (four different programs). It will be heard under the direction of **Kent Nagano** in a Mozart and Boulez program (which includes the *Requiem*, Mozart's final work), as well as in Dvořák's *Seventh Symphony*, Prokofiev's *Third Symphony* and Respighi's *Pines and Fountains of Rome*.

The OSM will be sharing the stage again with pianist **Alain Lefèvre**, tenor **Marc Hervieux**, and **Jacques Lacombe**, principal guest conductor of the OSM from 2002 to 2006, along with James Conlon and Carlo Rizzari. It will be welcoming Ray Chen for the first time, winner of the Queen Elisabeth Competition in 2009 and a rising star of the violin.

As part of **MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE**, fans of chamber music will be delighted by the appearance of **Menahem Pressler**, founding member of the prestigious Beaux Arts Trio, as both recitalist and chamber musician, as well as by a program featuring OSM musicians that pays tribute to Italy with works for strings by Verdi and Tchaikovsky.

Angèle Dubeau & La Pietà will conclude the month with a program devoted to some of the most beautiful pages from movie music.

ALAIN LEFÈVRE AND THE SCHUMANN CONCERTO (SOLD OUT)

**Panasonic Wednesday Grand Concerts 2, Power Corporation of Canada Thursday Grand Concerts 2
February 1 and 2 at 8 p.m.
Maison symphonique de Montréal**

James Conlon, conductor
Alain Lefèvre, piano

WAGNER, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg (The Master Singers of Nuremberg)*, Prelude
SCHUMANN, Piano Concerto
DVOŘÁK, Symphony No. 7

Recipient of a JUNO Award (2010), a Prix Opus (2011) and seven Félix (ADISQ, 2001-2010), **Alain Lefèvre** here performs the Schumann Concerto, written for the composer's wife, Clara. Shimmering orchestral colors,

tangible but never overstated pianistic virtuosity, and pure poetry are woven together by Schumann in a multifaceted amorous dialogue between soloist and orchestra.

The Orchestra will be under the direction of Los Angeles Opera principal conductor **James Conlon**, who has led the OSM on several occasions, including at Carnegie Hall in New York. He will conduct the prelude from Wagner's *Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, which bubbles over with life, as well as Dvořák's Symphony No. 7, in four contrasting movements, technically masterly, melding concise writing with profundity of expression.

The Panasonic series is presented in association with Fillion Électronique.

JACQUES LACOMBE CONDUCTS SIBELIUS AND PROKOFIEV

Musical Sundays

February 5 at 2:30 p.m.

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Jacques Lacombe, conductor

Ray Chen, violin

GRIEG, *Peer Gynt*, Suite No. 1

SIBELIUS, Violin Concerto

PROKOFIEV, Symphony No. 3

Ray Chen was first-prize winner at the Queen Elisabeth International Violin Competition in 2009 and is one of the most brilliant violinists on the international scene. Maxim Vengerov was bowled over by his playing when he served on the jury at the Yehudi Menuhin Violin Competition in 2008: "Ray has proved himself to be a very pure musician with great qualities such as a beautiful youthful tone, vitality and lightness," Vengerov has since said. "He has all the skills of a truly musical interpreter." For his debut with the OSM he will perform the Sibelius Concerto, one of the most beautiful in the repertoire, very free in form, and especially demanding for the soloist.

Jacques Lacombe, now music director of the New Jersey Symphony and the Orchestre symphonique de Trois-Rivières, revisits the OSM (where he was principal guest conductor from 2002 to 2006) in Grieg's popular *Peer Gynt* Suite and in Prokofiev's Symphony No. 3, whose material is in large part taken from the opera *The Fiery Angel*, a tribute to expressionism.

ITALY: TRAVEL JOURNALS

Chamber music with OSM musicians

February 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Élise Guilbault, reader

Marianne Dugal, violin

Olivier Thouin, violin

Rémi Pelletier, viola

Lambert Chen, viola

Sylvain Murray, cello

Anna Burden, cello

VERDI, String Quartet in E minor

TCHAIKOVSKY, "Souvenir de Florence," Sextet for two violins, two violas and two cellos

The second concert in the new Music and Literature series proposes a journey to Italy, a country whose landscapes and rich history continue to inspire authors and composers. It consists of Verdi's String Quartet in E

minor, the sole piece of chamber music by the composer that has come down to us, and one of the nineteenth century's important works in the chamber-music repertoire. Between quartet and string symphony, *Souvenir de Florence* gives off an infectious joie de vivre. In a letter dating from 1892, Tchaikovsky evokes the work in these terms: "The first movement must be played with much passion and drive, the second singing and the third mischievous; the fourth, gay and resolute."

The series is presented by Gestion Scabrini Inc. in association with Fondation Sylvain Goulet.

**ITALIAN MATINÉE WITH MARC HERVIEUX
ITALIAN EVEING WITH MARC HERVIEUX (SOLD OUT)**

Fondation J.A. De Sève Symphonic Matinees and OSM Saturday Evenings

February 10 at 10:30 a.m. and February 11 at 8 p.m.

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Carlo Rizzari, conductor

Marc Hervieux, tenor

Program for the concert of February 10:

Respighi, *Fontane de Roma*

Cilea, *L'Arlesiana*, "E la solita storia del pastore"

Leoncavallo, *I Pagliacci*, "Vesti la giubba"

Puccini, *Manon Lescaut*, Intermezzo

Puccini, *Tosca*, "Recondita armonia" and "E lucevan le stelle"

Verdi, *La Traviata*, Prelude from Act I

Puccini, *Madama Butterfly*, "Addio fiorito asil"

Puccini, *Turandot*, "Non piangere, Liu"

Respighi, *Pini di Roma*

Program for the concert of February 11:

Respighi, *Fontane de Roma*

Cilea, *L'Arlesiana*, "E la solita storia del pastore"

Leoncavallo, *I Pagliacci*, "Vesti la giubba"

Verdi, *La traviata*, Prelude from Act I

Verdi, *La traviata*, "Dei miei bollenti spiriti" and Cabaletta

Ponchielli, *La Gioconda*, "Danza delle ore"

Puccini, *Tosca*, "Recondita armonia" and "E lucevan le stelle"

Puccini, *Manon Lescaut*, Intermezzo

Puccini, *Madama Butterfly*, "Addio fiorito asil"

Puccini, *Turandot*, "Non piangere, Liu"

Respighi, *Pini di Roma*

As much at home in the classical repertoire as in musical comedy and pop music, winner of a Félix in 2010 in the "Classical Vocal" category, **Marc Hervieux** here performs an anthology of Italian arias.

Complementing the program, conductor **Carlo Rizzari**, who works closely with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, conducts two symphonic poems by Respighi that are part of the Roman trilogy, almost impressionistic at times, as well as the Act I prelude from Verdi's renowned *Traviata*.

The evening of February 11 is presented by Homeocan.

The Fondation J.A. De Sève Symphonic Matinees series is presented with the collaboration of Nespresso and Hyatt Regency Montreal.

MENAHEM PRESSLER AND FRIENDS

The Recitals

February 16 at 8 p.m.

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Menahem Pressler, piano

Alexander Kerr, violin

Nobuko Imai, viola

Eric Kim, cello

MOZART, Piano Quartet No. 1, K. 478

DEBUSSY, *Estampes*, for solo piano

DVORÁK, Piano Quartet No. 2

This concert is also being presented as part of MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE.

Pianist **Menahem Pressler** has accumulated successes with audiences and critics alike on the international scene for better than 50 years, notably as a founding member of the remarkable Beaux Arts Trio. He is performing at the OSM in a formula that combines recital and chamber-music concert, accompanied by Alexander Kerr, former concertmaster with Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra; violist Nobuko Imai, former member of the Vermeer Quartet; and cellist Eric Kim, winner of the very first William Schuman Prize.

Mr. Pressler will perform Debussy's *Estampes*, in three evocative movements ("Pagodas," "Evening in Granada" and "Gardens in the Rain"), the first major piano work by the French composer, the 150th anniversary of whose birth is being celebrated in 2012. The work is book-ended by two piano quartets. The *First Quartet* by Mozart would provide the genre with a definitive impetus, while Dvořák's *Second Quartet*, shot through with Czech inflections, is a dense and expressive work.

KENT NAGANO AND THE MOZART REQUIEM (SOLD OUT)

Wednesday Grand Concerts 1, Air Canada Thursday Grand Concerts 1 and OSM Saturday Evenings

February 22, 23 and 25 at 8 p.m., additional concert on February 25 at 2 p.m.

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Kent Nagano, conductor

Kimy McLaren, soprano (Mozart)

Rayanne Dupuis, soprano (Boulez)

Anita Krause, mezzo-soprano

Colin Ainsworth, tenor

Tyler Duncan, baritone

Chorus director, Andrew Megill

OSM Chorus

BOULEZ, *Le Soleil des eaux*, for soprano, mixed chorus and orchestra

MOZART, Symphony No. 25, K. 183

MOZART, *Requiem*

The composer's musical testament, Mozart's *Requiem* remains one of the cornerstones of the repertoire. A work of multiple faces, it takes the listener through a broad palette of emotions. Kimy McLaren, Anita Krause, Colin Ainsworth, Tyler Duncan and the OSM Chorus join forces with the Orchestra under the direction of **Kent Nagano** to perform a work that has lost nothing of its relevance.

The program is rounded off by Mozart's Symphony No. 25, influenced by Haydn and by *Sturm und Drang*,

with a tragic air that is surprising for a musician not yet 18 years old, and by *Le Soleil des eaux* by Pierre Boulez for soprano, chorus and orchestra, one of the French composer's masterworks. If the words today may seem to have ecological overtones, their original sense was more of a symbolic parable of the Resistance in the face of the invader.

The evening of February 22 is presented by Giorgio Armani.
The evening of February 25 is presented by Eska.

ANGÈLE DUBEAU & LA PIETÀ: A TIME FOR US

Special Concerts

February 28 at 8 p.m.

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Angèle Dubeau & La Pietà

Angèle Dubeau & La Pietà offer *A Time for Us*, a program of **movie music** consisting of a selection of the violinist's special favorites, an extension of the most recent Analekta recording by her and the female ensemble she founded, scheduled for release at the end of January. It includes works by **Ennio Morricone**, (*Cinema Paradiso*), **John Williams** (*Memoirs of a Geisha*), **John Barry** (*Dances with Wolves*), **Howard Shore** (*Lord of the Rings*) and **Joe Hisaishi** (*Hana-bi*). Also on the program, *My Heart Will Go On* in an arrangement by Claude "Mégo" Lemay, Céline Dion's music director.

Angèle Dubeau has enjoyed an outstanding career for 35 years, one that has taken her to the great stages of the world in over 30 countries. In 1997 she founded **La Pietà**, a string ensemble with piano, with which she performs as soloist and which she serves as artistic director.

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

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

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