



ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL



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Press release
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October at the OSM

Maxim Vengerov conducts the OSM for the first time!

Astronomy Year: Jean-François Rivest and Holst's *The Planets*

Piano virtuoso Marc-André Hamelin plays Liszt

Mari Kodama performs Mozart

Marika Bournaki debuts with the OSM

Montreal, September 24, 2009 – In October, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is offering a series of exceptional concerts featuring some of the greatest artists on the international scene. **Maxim Vengerov**, absent from Montreal stages for a number of years, is revisiting the OSM, this time as conductor. Audiences will enjoy among other things his vision of the spellbinding symphony “**Pathétique by Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**. To call attention to the International Year of Astronomy (2009), meanwhile, **Jean-François Rivest** will conduct the famous suite ***The Planets* by Gustav Holst**, one of the OSM's biggest hits both in concert and on disc.

A number of renowned artists will be joining the OSM, including pianists **Marc-André Hamelin**, **Mari Kodama** and the young **Marika Bournaki**, a well as violinist **Karen Gomyo**. The talent of **Andrew Wan**, the OSM concertmaster, and **Brian Manker**, the Orchestra's principal cello, will also be on display in Johannes Brahms's Double Concerto.

Maxim Vengerov conducts!

One of the finest musicians of our time, in demand around the world, **Maxim Vengerov** now devotes his genius to conducting. OSM audiences will have the privilege of hearing him deliver his vision of two monuments of the repertoire, the enthralling **Double Concerto for violin and cello** by Brahms and Tchaikovsky's captivating ***Pathétique Symphony***. A unique opportunity to discover this outstanding artist in a new light.

Holst's *The Planets*

The dynamic **Jean-François Rivest**, OSM conductor in residence until last April, returns to the Orchestra in a program designed around the theme of astronomy and including the impressive cycle ***The Planets*** by Gustav Holst. Virtuoso pianist **Marc-André Hamelin** will also be rejoining the Orchestra for this concert, in the spectacular Piano Concerto No. 2 by Franz Liszt. This concert will be **repeated to open the Festival Internacional Cervantino in Guanajuato, Mexico, on October 14.**

Harry Potter at the OSM for Halloween

To celebrate Halloween, a **brand new show** conjured up by **Mélanie Delorme, Éloi Cousineau** and first assistant conductor **Stéphane Laforest** will consist of among other works Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain* and **music from the *Harry Potter* films** by John Williams. Not to be missed!

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

THE OCTOBER CONCERTS:

October 6 at 8 p.m. (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) **Air Canada Classical Escapes: Dvořák and the New World.** Andrew Grams, conductor; Karen Gomyo, violin.

October 7 at 10:30 a.m. (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) **Symphonic Matinees: Dvořák and the New World.** Andrew Grams, conductor; Marika Bournaki, piano.

October 11 at 2:30 p.m. (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) **Musical Sundays: Rivest conducts The Planets.** Jean-François Rivest, conductor; Marc-André Hamelin, piano; OSM Women's Chorus.

October 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) **Grand Concerts: Vengerov conducts.** Maxim Vengerov, conductor; Andrew Wan, OSM concertmaster; Brian Manker, OSM principal cello.

October 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) **Grand Concerts: Pictures at an Exhibition.** Bernhard Klee, conductor; Mari Kodama, piano.

November 1 at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. (Théâtre Maisonneuve) **Children's Corner: Halloween at the OSM.** Stéphane Laforest, conductor; Mélanie Delorme and Éloi Cousineau, actors and scriptwriters.

Details on the concerts and events are appended.

**The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec
in association with National Bank Financial Group**

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APPENDIX

Further details on the concerts and events for October

Air Canada Classical Escapes: Dvořák and the New World

Canadian violinist **Karen Gomyo** studied at the Juilliard School and at the New England Conservatory. She won the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in 1997, just a week before her fifteenth birthday. The following year she became the youngest artist of all time to headline the Young Concert Artists series in New York. Here she will play the **Sibelius Violin Concerto**, one of the best known concertos for the instrument. In a very free, rhapsodic form, the work is especially demanding for the soloist.

In 1893 **Dvořák** would write his first American work and one of his greatest successes, the famous **Symphony No. 9, "From the New World."** Partly inspired by local popular music, the Symphony uses rhythmic phrases and melodies that evoke that new world. It will be conducted by **Andrew Grams**, former assistant conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra and student of Otto-Werner Mueller. He has been heard at the head of several American orchestras and of the State Orchestra of Mexico, including during a tour of Germany with Howard Shore's *Lord of the Rings Symphony*.

The concert opens with *As Quiet As* by Michael Colgrass, whose teachers included Darius Milhaud and Lukas Foss, and who won the Jules Léger Prize for new chamber music in 1988. The work dates from 1966, was inspired by children's airs and takes up the theme of a sonatina by Beethoven, transformed in the styles of Haydn, Stravinsky, Webern and Count Basie.

Air Canada Classical Escapes

October 6 at 8 p.m.

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

Andrew Grams, conductor

Karen Gomyo, violin

Michael Colgrass

As Quiet As

Jean Sibelius

Violin Concerto

Antonín Dvořák

Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Tickets starting at \$25

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

Series presented by Air Canada, in association with Fondation J.A. DeSève

Symphonic Matinees: Dvořák and the New World

The Sibelius Violin Concerto played the night before by Ms. Gomyo is here replaced by the much-loved Grieg Piano Concerto. A work of the composer's youth, and which brought him almost immediate fame, the concerto is based on Norwegian popular music. It will be played by the young Montrealer **Marika Bournaki**, 18 years old and star of the documentary *L'enfant prodige*, which follows her studies at the prestigious Juilliard School in addition to her participation at a number of important festivals, including Verbiers.

Symphonic Matinees
October 7 at 10:30 a.m.
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

Andrew Grams, conductor
Marika Bournaki, piano

Michael Colgrass	<i>As Quiet As</i>
Edvard Grieg	Piano Concerto
Antonín Dvořák	Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Tickets starting at \$25

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

Musical Sundays: **Rivest conducts *The Planets***

Former OSM conductor in residence **Jean-François Rivest** revisits his orchestra in a program that features Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, the English composer's best-known work. The first movement, "Mars," was written just before the start of World War I in 1914 and is therefore more of a prophesy of, than a reaction to, the tragedy. Holst put away the scores after finishing them, believing that a work requiring such a large orchestra could never be staged in time of war. In September 1918, Balfour Gardiner rented Queen's Hall for a semi-private performance. Imogen, the composer's daughter, later said: "The end of Neptune was unforgettable, with its hidden chorus of women's voices growing fainter and fainter...until the imagination knew no difference between sound and silence." The first public performance took place a few weeks later and was very well received, a success that has not flagged since that time.

Regarded as one of the great pianists of the century, **Marc-André Hamelin** will perform Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2, an original work, closer to the symphonic poem than to the concerto, especially unified in design. Liszt creates inventive variations on the theme in it thanks to transformations of the material, in the process renewing the genre. "A new wine demands new bottles," as he himself put it.

The concert opens with *Orion* by Claude Vivier, an OSM commission in 1979 and one of the most representative pages of the Québec composer's.

Musical Sundays
October 11 at 2:30 p.m.
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

Jean-François Rivest, conductor
Marc-André Hamelin, piano
OSM Women's Chorus

Claude Vivier	<i>Orion</i>
Franz Liszt	Piano Concerto No. 2
Gustav Holst	<i>The Planets</i>

Tickets starting at \$25

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

Grand Concerts: Vengerov conducts

A frequent visitor to the charts and to specialty magazine covers since he was a teenager, **Maxim Vengerov** is much more than an exceptionally gifted violinist. Like his mentor, Mstislav Rostropovitch, he has chosen to devote himself to conducting as well. "The baton is a musical instrument, just like a violin or piano, but far more complicated," he explained in an interview last March. "Here, I need to know not only my part, but the entire score." He will be conducting the "**Pathétique**," one of the great masterworks by **Tchaikovsky**, a true struggle with fate. Stormy, heavily melancholic and Slavic through and through, the Symphony is very much the composer's "musical testament."

The second work on the program will be the Double Concerto for violin and cello by Brahms, a counterpart to the famous Triple Concerto by Beethoven and the composer's last symphonic work, a true ode to friendship. Indeed, Brahms was to write a cello concerto for his friend Robert Hausmann, but as he had quarreled with another friend, the violinist Joseph Joachim, on the occasion of the latter's divorce (taking the side of the ex-wife), the composer decided to write this double concerto as a gesture of reconciliation. It will be performed here by two outstanding OSM musicians, **Andrew Wan**, a revelation at the 2007 OSM Standard Life Competition and now the Orchestra's concertmaster, and **Brian Manker**, principal cello at the OSM since 1999 and who has also given a number of concerts here and there in North America as a chamber musician alongside renowned artists like Walter Trampler, Gary Graffman, André Laplante and Jean-Philippe Collard.

Grand Concerts

October 20 and 21 at 8 p.m.

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

Maxim Vengerov, conductor

Andrew Wan, OSM concertmaster

Brian Manker, OSM principal cello

Johannes Brahms

Double Concerto for violin and cello

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique"

Tickets starting at \$25

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

Grand Concerts: Pictures at an Exhibition

Pianist **Mari Kodama** has earned an international reputation for her musical sensitivity and remarkable virtuosity and has played with orchestras like the Berlin Philharmonic, the London Philharmonic, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Hallé Orchestra, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the American Symphony and the NHK Orchestra of Japan. Here she performs Mozart's final piano concerto, written after Haydn's departure for London, when Mozart hoped to join him there for a series of concerts.

At first a summit of the piano repertoire, **Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition** was inspired by ten paintings by Victor Hartmann, a friend of the composer's, evocations of the canvases being interwoven with promenades that represent the wanderings of the museum visitor. The work then proved irresistible to a number of musicians with a bent for orchestration, but the treatment by Ravel remains the most captivating. It will be conducted here by **Bernhard Klee**, a specialist in Germanic repertoire and also in that of the early twentieth century. Principal guest conductor of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra in Manchester from 1985 to 1989, he has led many great orchestras, including those of London, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic and Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw.

The program also includes the orchestration of Ravel's *Valses nobles et sentimentales*.

Grand Concerts
October 27 and 28 at 8 p.m.
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

Bernhard Klee, conductor
Mari Kodama, piano

Maurice Ravel	<i>Valses nobles et sentimentales</i>
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Piano Concerto No. 27
Modest Mussorgsky	<i>Pictures at an Exhibition</i> (orchestrated by Ravel)

Tickets starting at \$25
Information and reservations: 514 842-9951 or www.osm.ca

Children's Corner: Halloween at the OSM

Music possesses the most evocative sort of power: it can charm, take listeners on a voyage, make them laugh, induce fear, or it can surprise! To celebrate Halloween, the OSM is offering an original program, which will be evocative of the magic of this holiday of disguises while at the same time making the orchestra's different families of instruments better known. The program includes excerpts from Modest Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain* as well as Camille Saint-Saëns' *Danse macabre*, but also excerpts from Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, "Pastorale," and Stravinsky's *Firebird*.

Creation of this OSM production was entrusted to a dynamic duo, **Mélanie Delorme and Éloi Cousineau**. Mélanie Delorme is a well-known face to young Quebecers, having hosted the popular *Banzaï* from 2002 to 2006, a show that won three Géméaux awards for best hosting of a young-audience program. Éloi Cousineau is also on familiar terms with the world of young-audience programming: he plays the role of Riù in *Kaboum*, and is also part of Théâtre des Ventrebleus, which specializes in fanciful theatre productions.

Conducting duties will be handled by **Stéphane Laforest**, the OSM first assistant conductor

Series presented by Fondation Esso

Children's Corner
November 1 at 1:30 p.m. (French) and 3:30 p.m. (bilingual)
Théâtre Maisonneuve de la Place des Arts

Stéphane Laforest, conductor
Mélanie Delorme and Éloi Cousineau, actors and scriptwriters

Tickets at \$12 (children) and \$30 (adults)
Information and reservations: 514 842-9951 or www.osm.ca