



ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL



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Press release
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For the new season

The OSM in concert, on disc, on TV and on the big screen!

Kent Nagano opens the season with the spectacular Berlioz *Requiem*

Premiere of the film *Tusarnituuq! Nagano in the Land of the Inuit* at the WFF

The OSM and Kent Nagano at Radio-Canada for a tribute to Studio 42

The CD *Das Lied von der Erde* now available in Canada

Montreal, August 28, 2009 – The opening of the 2009-1010 season of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is highlighted in four different settings: the performance of the Berlioz *Requiem* for the opening concert, the world premiere of a documentary presented as part of the World Film Festival (WFF), the launch in Canada of the disc of Gustav Mahler's *Song of the Earth*, and participation in a TV special on Radio-Canada. Over scarcely more than a few days the musicians of the Orchestra and Maestro Kent Nagano will be present on stage, at the movies, on television and on disc.

An opening concert on a grand scale

Kent Nagano conducts the **OSM, its Chorus, four brass ensembles** and Canadian tenor **Michael Schade**, star of the Salzburg Festival and the Vienna State Opera, in the colossal ***Requiem* by Hector Berlioz** on **September 8, 9 and 13**. A flagship work of the great French composer's, the *Requiem* is one of the most imposing and original choral pageants there is, bringing together over 200 performers on stage. According to Maestro Nagano, "the *Requiem* alternates between moments of sublimated grace and outbursts of profundity that are almost frightening. And in its evocation of war, destruction and death – it was written to honor the memory of soldiers who fell in combat – it remains strikingly relevant."

The recording of Mahler's *Song of the Earth* released in Canada

Released on the Sony label during the Orchestra's European tour last spring, Gustav Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* (*The Song of the Earth*) will finally be available on the Canadian market beginning September 8 on the OSM label. The recording, made in concert on January 13 and 14, 2009, under the direction of Kent Nagano, features tenor **Klaus Florian Vogt** and baritone **Christian Gerhaher**.

Nunavik tour: a world premiere at the movies!

On **September 5**, in the presence of Kent Nagano, the documentary ***Tusarnituuq! Nagano in the Land of the Inuit*** will have its world premiere as part of the World Film Festival (WFF). The film recounts the fascinating journey of Kent Nagano and seven of the OSM musicians (Marianne Dugal, violin; Alain Desgagné, clarinet; Mathieu Harel, bassoon; Paul Merkelo, trumpet; James Box, trombone; Jacques Lavallée, percussion; and Brian Robinson, double bass) on a tour of Nunavik in September 2008. Two highlights of the tour were the first performance of a work by Canadian composer Alexina Louie inspired by Inuit throat singing, and a version in Inuktitut of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*. General release of the film is scheduled for September 11.

Nostalgic tribute to Radio-Canada

On **September 10** the OSM, conducted by Maestro Kent Nagano, will take part in a television special that pays tribute to Radio-Canada's mythical Studio 42. Ginette Reno will join the OSM for an eclectic program consisting partly of works by Beethoven, Shostakovich and a new piece by Simon Leclerc.

Rush Hour Concerts at the OSM: the art of winding up the day with a flourish!

The OSM is offering a new series of concert/get-togethers in the warm and intimate setting of Théâtre Maisonneuve. Hosted by André Robitaille, **Rush Hour Concerts at the OSM** will share the musical discoveries of a special guest, interviewed on stage. On September 29 it will be actor and host **Marc Labrèche** revealing himself in music, much to the delight of the audience. To whatever extent we may know the television and movie actor (*La Coeur a ses raisons, L'Âge des ténèbres*) and the unbridled host of the Radio-Canada TV program *3600 secondes d'extase*, we are less familiar with the music lover of wide-ranging tastes. The evening will be conducted by Stéphane Laforest, first assistant conductor of the OSM. All ticket holders will be served a glass of wine.

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

THE SEPTEMBER CONCERTS:

September 8, 9 at 8 p.m., September 13 at 2:30 p.m. (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) **Grand Concerts / Musical Sundays:** Nagano and Berlioz open the season. Kent Nagano, conductor; Michael Schade, tenor; OSM Chorus

September 15 at 8 p.m. (Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier) **Air Canada Classical Escapes: Eternal Vienna.** Jean-Marie Zeitouni, conductor; Karina Gauvin, soprano

September 29 at 6:30 p.m. (Théâtre Maisonneuve) **Rush Hour Concerts at the OSM: Rush Hour with Marc Labrèche.** Stéphane Laforest, conductor; André Robitaille, host ; Marc Labrèche, special guest

Details on the concerts and events are appended.

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

Further details on the concerts and events for September

Premiere of the documentary *Tusarnituuq! Nagano in the Land of the Inuit*

The premiere of the documentary *Tusarnituuq! Nagano in the Land of the Inuit* will take place on **September 5 at 5 p.m.** at the Cinéma du Quartier latin as part of the Montreal World Film Festival in the company of **director Félix Lajeunesse**, producer Katarina Soukop and Kent Nagano. The documentary **recounts the journey in September 2008 of some of the Orchestra's musicians** (Marianne Dugal, violin; Alain Desgagné, clarinet; Mathieu Harel, bassoon; Paul Merkelo, trumpet; James Box, trombone; Jacques Lavallée, percussion; and Brian Robinson, double bass) and their music director as they offered a program anchored at one and the same time in classicism, with Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*, and modernity, with the first performance of a work by Alexina Louie and a version in Inuktitut of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*.

Tusarnituuq! (which means "a beautiful sound" in Inuktitut) relates the story of a journey like no other, in which OSM musicians traveled 2,700 kilometers in barely more than four days and interacted with the residents of three villages. Director Félix Lajeunesse follows closely behind the musicians but also presents Inuit who are experiencing classical music for the first time.

Launch of the new OSM recording

The OSM is proud to be releasing, on its own label, a new disc, recorded in concert on January 13 and 14, 2009. The second-to-last work completed by Mahler, *The Song of the Earth* sets out to be a true "symphony with voices." For its composer, it marked a return to life after a series of severely testing experiences. The fragility of the human condition, desolation, consolation: the themes touched on embody a poignant humanity. Made up of six lieder with orchestra, some for tenor voice (**Klaus Florian Vogt**), some for baritone (**Christian Gerhaher**), *Das Lied von der Erde* was in a sense Mahler's Ninth Symphony. The recording, released in Europe during the OSM's April tour there, will be **in record stores in Canada on September 8.**

Radio-Canada television special

On **September 10** the OSM will be taking part in a tribute to **Radio-Canada's mythical Studio 42**, witness to many key moments in local television history. Season launches, galas, sports events, millennium celebrations,

election nights, referendums – a long list of important pages in Québec history have been broadcast live through Studio 42.

For this outstanding special, the Orchestra, under the direction of Kent Nagano, will perform **excerpts from symphonies by Beethoven, Shostakovich and Mahler and premiere a brand new work by Simon Leclerc**, the composer whose Concerto for radio host and orchestra OSM audiences enjoyed last March. In addition, **Ginette Reno**, one of Québec's greatest voices, will join the Orchestra to perform some of her biggest hits.

Nagano and Berlioz open the season!

For the season opener, Kent Nagano will conduct the **OSM, its chorus, four additional brass ensembles** and Canadian tenor **Michael Schade**, whose “superb and powerful voice allied to a consummate art conveys the entire dramatic reach of the texts he sings” (*Toronto Star*) in the **Requiem by Hector Berlioz**. Composed in 1837, the *Requiem* (Grande Messe des morts) remains one of the composer's most important and imposing works for its enormous orchestration of woodwinds and brass.

Seeking to restore a place of honor to religious music, France's Minister of the Interior, Adrien de Gasparin, decided to support the writing of a mass or a large-scale oratorio that would remember soldiers who fell on the battlefield during the Revolution of July 1830. Berlioz did not hesitate for an instant in accepting the commission. “The text of the *Requiem* was a prey I had long coveted,” he noted in his *Memoirs*; “at last it was mine, and I fell on it with a sort of fury. My brain seemed ready to burst under the pressure of creative ferment. Hardly had the plan of one piece been sketched than another one would suggest itself.”

The performance originally scheduled for the commemoration of the Revolution of 1830 was cancelled, with the premiere finally taking place at a memorial ceremony for a French general who had died capturing the Algerian city of Constantine. Wrote Berlioz, “If I were threatened with the destruction of the whole of my works save one, I should crave mercy for the Messe des morts.”

Grand Concerts

Musical Sundays

September 8 and 9 at 8 p.m., September 13, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

Kent Nagano, conductor

Michael Schade, tenor

OSM Chorus

Hector Berlioz

Requiem (Grande messe des morts)

Tickets starting at \$25

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

Air Canada Classical Escapes: Eternal Vienna

For centuries, Vienna has enchanted artists and art lovers with its architecture but above all with the riches of its musical past. Mozart, Beethoven, Mahler, Strauss – all of them conducted the premiere of one or another of their works there or integrated the city into an opera.

Soprano **Karina Gauvin**, winner of the Lieder Prize as well as the Public's Prize at the 1994 's-Hertogenbosch International Vocal Competition in Holland, and who has led a widely hailed career ever since, joins the OSM to re-create, at least for an evening, the incomparable ambiance of a unique city. The Orchestra will be under the

direction of **Jean-Marie Zeitouni**, highly active as an opera conductor as well as being first guest conductor of the Violons du Roy, with whom in 2006 he recorded a disc that earned a Juno award for best Classical Album of the Year in the solo or chamber ensemble category.

Air Canada Classical Escapes
September 15, 2009, at 8 p.m.
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

Jean-Marie Zeitouni, conductor
Karina Gauvin, soprano

Works by Mozart (excerpts from *The Magic Flute* and *The Marriage of Figaro*), Beethoven (Romance No. 2 for violin and orchestra), Mahler (excerpts from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*) and Richard Strauss (waltzes from *Der Rosenkavalier*), waltzes and overtures by Strauss, as well as arias and excerpts from Viennese operettas.

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

Rush Hour Concerts at the OSM: Rush Hour with Marc Labrèche

In the welcoming setting of Théâtre Maisonneuve the OSM is beginning a brand new series, Rush Hour Concerts at the OSM, hosted by André Robitaille. As pleasant a way to end a working day as can be imagined, these concerts allow spectators a look at the special musical favorites of Québec personalities.

The first get-together will be with Marc Labrèche, who has moved us on film and delighted us on the small screen, whether in *Le Cœur a ses raisons* or with his *3600 secondes d'extase*. His choices include the infectious score of George Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, Erik Satie's gliding *Gymnopédie No. 1* and the overture-fantasy *Romeo and Juliet* by Tchaikovsky, inspired by the famous story of the Veronese sweethearts. A glass of wine will be offered to all ticket holders.

Rush Hour Concerts at the OSM
September 29, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts

Stéphane Laforest, conductor
André Robitaille, host
Marc Labrèche, special guest

Johannes Brahms	Hungarian Dance No. 5
Piotr Ilyitch Tchaikovsky	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
Erik Satie	<i>Gymnopédie No. 1</i>
George Gershwin	<i>An American in Paris</i>

Tickets starting at \$40
Information and reservations: 514 842-9951 or www.osm.ca
