

Press release
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TIME AND SPACE: THE GRAND ORGUE PIERRE-BÉIQUE FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO TODAY

Montreal, Wednesday, April 22, 2015 – The concert series featuring the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique will conclude at Maison symphonique de Montréal on **Saturday, May 16 at 8 p.m.** with an organ recital inspired by the Renaissance, a period in which the repertoire for the instrument expanded considerably. **Jean-Willy Kunz**, organist in residence of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, and musicians from the OSM will perform works that showcase the outstanding acoustics of Maison symphonique and the sound spatialization, a concept that incidentally developed during the Renaissance with among others the composer Giovanni Gabrieli, who figures on this program. Also on the bill, a premiere by American composer **Tod Machover** and works by **Gustav Holst**, **Jehan Alain**, **Charles-Marie Widor** and **William Byrd**.

An instrument larger than life, the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique will resound in all its splendor for this concert, which promises to be the most captivating sort of immersive experience in sound.

Musical program:

Jean-Willy Kunz, organ
Gilles Renaud, narrative
Paul Merkelo, trumpet
Christopher Smith, trumpet
Denys Derome, horn
Vivian Lee, trombone
Pierre Beaudry, bass trombone

Gabrieli (1554/57-1612): *Sacrae symphoniae* for brass quintet
Holst (1874-1934): *Mars* (from *The Planets*, Op. 32; arr. for organ by Peter Sykes)
Alain (1911-1940): *Variations sur un thème de Clément Jannequin* JA118
Holst: *Saturn* (from *The Planets*, Op. 32; arr. for organ by Peter Sykes)
Widor (1844-1937): *Andante sostenuto* (from the *Symphonie gothique*, Op. 70)
Gabrieli (1554/57-1612): *Sacrae symphoniae* for brass quintet
Holst: *Uranus* (from *The Planets*, Op. 32; arr. for organ by Peter Sykes)
Byrd (1539/40-1623): *A Voluntarie: for my Ladye Nevell*
Machover (born 1953): *De l'expérience* for narrator, organ and electroacoustics, world premiere, OSM commission

A premiere of Tod Machover

The audience will get to hear the world premiere of the work *De l'expérience* for narrator, organ and electroacoustic by **Tod Machover**, an American composer renowned for his innovations in integrating technology into musical creation. *De l'expérience* will moreover involve the participation of two great institutions: **CIRMMT** (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology) and **MIT** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

Commissioned by the OSM, the work, which will feature Jean-Willy Kunz, is inspired by the final essay of Montaigne's. The composer analyzed several versions of the text in order to unite in a single work various musical and literary characteristics of the Renaissance. The narration has been entrusted to well-known actor **Gilles Renaud**.

The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique

The organ at Maison symphonique de Montréal, inaugurated on May 28, 2014, was manufactured by the house of Casavant on behalf of the OSM (and is the Orchestra's property), with the collaboration of architects Diamond Schmitt + Ædifica for its visual design, and is the Orchestra's property. This is a large organ intended for orchestral use, and is recorded in the books of the Saint-Hyacinthe builder as Opus 3,900. It consists of 109 registers, 83 stops, 116 ranks and 6,489 pipes.

It bears the name Grand Orgue Pierre Béique, in tribute to the OSM founder and first general manager (from 1939 to 1970). An astute administrator and a committed music lover, Pierre Béique took over from Antonia Nantel, wife of Athanase David, who had acted, since 1934, as secretary of the Board of Directors of the Société des concerts symphoniques de Montréal, the forerunner of the OSM.

Purchase of this organ was made possible courtesy of Mrs. Jacqueline Desmarais, who assumed the total cost and who in so doing, and with this designation, wished to keep alive the memory of the inimitable contribution made by Mr. Pierre Béique to the OSM's mission of excellence.

To reserve your tickets or to find out more about
the complete programming for the OSM's 81st season: 514 842-9951 or osm.ca

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Air Canada has been official carrier of the OSM for over 30 years.

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