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PRESS RELEASE

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Free grand-scale concert at Olympic Park to open the 6th edition of the **OSM CLASSICAL SPREE**

Montréal, August 1, 2017 • On August 10 at 8 p.m., the kickoff of the **6th OSM CLASSICAL SPREE** will take place with the free grand-scale concert *Porgy and Bess* conducted by **Kent Nagano** on the Olympic Park's Esplanade Financière Sun Life. The work by composer George Gershwin is one that Maestro Nagano has been eager to perform for a very long while. Thus, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal will be launching the four days of the **2017 OSM CLASSICAL SPREE** musical festivities – which run from August 10 to 13 – to the sound of the best known arias from this classic of the American vocal repertoire.



Who doesn't know the song "Summertime" from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*? A 90-minute adaptation of the renowned opera will be staged as the launch of the **OSM Classical Spree**, respecting the spirit of the American composer and offering the most beautiful excerpts. An invitation to relive the touching story of Porgy, a disabled street-beggar played here by baritone **Will Liverman**, and Bess, a young woman in the clutches of a thug, who will be portrayed by soprano **Marie-Josée Lord**. Set in the 1930s in a black South Carolina community, the work was innovative both in its subject matter and in its artful synthesis of classical music, pop music and jazz. *Porgy and Bess* will also bring together **Gardy Fury** (tenor), **Justin Welsh** (baritone) and **Janai Brugger** (soprano), as well as a chorus under the direction of **Andrew Megill**, in a staging by **Oriol Tomas**. Actor **André Robitaille**, also the Spree's 2017 spokesman, will provide the hosting.

A family event that has become a must, the opening outdoor concert of the **OSM CLASSICAL SPREE** every year draws tens of thousands of spectators – 30 000, last year – and serves as the kickoff for the

summertime get-together of music lovers and people with a passion for discovery of all ages. In addition to the big show at Olympic Park, a host of free activities for the whole family, both indoor and in the open air, are on the program for this 6th edition. Which is why, in a festive, convivial and laid-back atmosphere, Place des Arts and its Esplanade as well as Complexe Desjardins will be in **SPREE** mode on August 11 and 12, not to mention the 30 or so 45-minute concerts – starting at just \$10 – presented in the four halls of Place des Arts.

Beginning August 10, with the presentation of **Porgy and Bess** conducted by **Kent Nagano**, make way for the **6th OSM CLASSICAL SPREE** and its irresistible classical whirlwind – from one concert to the next, from one activity to the next, from one discovery to the next!

All there is to know: VIRECLASSIQUE.OSM.CA

The OSM thanks its partners:

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal wishes to thank the **Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine of the Québec Department of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy**, the **Québec Department of Tourism** and **Ville de Montréal**.

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