OSM ANNOUNCES SIX COMMUNITIES FOR ITS TOUR OF NUNAVIK AND NORTHERN QUEBEC

Montreal, April 27, 2018 – From September 9 to 19, 2018, Maestro Kent Nagano and musicians of the OSM will trace a path from the arctic down through Quebec’s interior toward the Côte-Nord. Beginning with performances in the Inuit villages of Kuujjuaq, Salluit and Kuujjuarapik, they will then travel southward for concerts in the Cree community of Oujé-Bougoumou and the Innu communities of Mashteuiatsh and Uashat mak Mani-Utenam.

Yesterday’s announcement was made at the Maison symphonique de Montréal during a reception as part of the Nordic Festival where the Orchestra performed, amongst other works, Alexina Louie’s Take the Dog Sled for two throat singers and orchestra, which was commissioned in 2008 for the OSM’s first tour in Nunavik.

Commissioned especially for the upcoming tour, Chaakapesh: The Trickster’s Quest, a new chamber opera by author Tomson Highway and composer Matthew Ricketts, will be performed in five languages (Cree, Inuktitut, Innu, French and English) and will feature collaborations with local artists in each community the OSM visits. The work will feature Geoffrey Salvas (baritone) and Owen McCausland (tenor) in Cree language roles, as well as Florent Vollant and Akinisie Sivuarapik narrating in Innu and Inuktitut respectively. It will receive its world premiere in Montreal on the opening concerts of the OSM’s 85th season, September 6 and 8, 2018.

Kent Nagano stated, “This creation, touring and cultural exchange project constitutes a daring re-imagining of our practices as a modern orchestra. By reaching north, we are pushing the physical and artistic boundaries of our practice in order to share, exchange and create exceptional works reflecting the diversity of our country, as well as our current reality of living on shared and sometimes disputed territory. By engaging with diverse traditions, we are transforming the expectations that attend to symphony orchestras in the 21st century, while doing our best to address an urgent need for projects of mediation and reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous populations.”

ARTISTS PARTICIPATE IN CREATIVE RESIDENCIES

Tomson Highway, Matthew Ricketts and members of the OSM artistic team participated in two artistic residencies, in Montreal and the Northern village of Ivujivik, during the creation of the new work. Organised in collaboration with the Avataq Cultural Institute, the residencies were unique opportunities for indigenous and non-indigenous artists to come together and exchange.
OSM COLLABORATES WITH THE STUDENTS OF NUNAVIK SIVUNITSAVUT

As part of the OSM’s ongoing commitment to bridging cultural divides through music, members of the OSM and the students of Nunavik Sivunitatsavut have met over a series of exchanges to share knowledge, stories and music from their respective cultures. Nunavik Sivunitatsavut is a joint post-secondary program of John Abbott College, the Kativik School Board, and the Avataq Cultural Institute, designed to develop knowledge and leadership skills rooted in Inuit culture. This year’s cohort of students was present for last night’s concert at the Maison symphonique, as well as several rehearsals and workshops.

ROGER FRAPPIER AND MAX FILMS COME ON BOARD TO PRODUCE A DOCUMENTARY

Producer Roger Frappier and Justin Kingsley of MAX FILMS (Hochelaga Land of Souls) have joined the project to produce a feature documentary, inspired by the scope, ambition and audacity of the OSM’s creation and touring project. Frappier, Kingsley and their team will follow the OSM and its collaborators throughout the process leading up to the tour, including activities of cultural exchange and outreach.

THE OSM THANKS ITS PARTNERS

This project is one of the 200 exceptional projects funded through the Canada Council for the Arts’ New Chapter program. With this $35M investment, the Council supports the creation and sharing of the arts in communities across Canada. The OSM also wishes to acknowledge the invaluable support of its project partners for the Tour of Northern Quebec: ArcelorMittal Mining Canada G.P., BBA, Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau-Pivalianiq, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton.

Contributions from the Orchestre’s public partners are essential to its operations, and the OSM would like to thank its main partner, the Conseil des arts et lettres du Québec, the gouvernement du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, and the City of Montreal.

The OSM is proud to have the support of its loyal sponsors and would like to thank its title sponsor Hydro-Québec and BMO Financial Group, its season partner.

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