



ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE
DE MONTRÉAL

Presented by
 Hydro
Québec



THE OSM UNVEILS ITS SUMMER SEASON !

12TH EDITION OF THE VIRÉE CLASSIQUE AND LARGE-SCALE FREE
CONCERTS IN PARKS WITH RAFAEL PAYARE

Montreal, May 29, 2025 — The **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal** and its Music Director **Rafael Payare** are thrilled to unveil their summer programming for 2025, including their presentation of the **12th Virée classique** in a diversified edition that runs from August 13 to 17. Drawing on the theme of Nature, **the Virée classique will offer a variety of concerts and extensive free programming** to immerse you in wondrous musical universes. A long-held summer tradition continues this year, with the Orchestra giving **three large-scale, free concerts in parks, conducted for the first time by Rafael Payare and hosted by André Robitaille**, in addition to the Orchestra's appearances in Joliette at the **Festival de Lanaudière**, where it will perform four different outdoor musical events conducted by Rafael Payare and OSM Conductor Emeritus Kent Nagano.

« La Virée classique is an invitation to discover the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal in a different, intimate setting. Every summer, it's extraordinary to observe the impressive turnout of people who come to hear and appreciate the music. Montrealers' enthusiasm for the OSM is a source of immense joy. »

— **Rafael Payare**, Music Director of the l'OSM

12th EDITION OF THE VIRÉE CLASSIQUE – AUGUST 13 TO 17

Evoking or depicting Nature is an endless source of musical inspiration. With 9 indoor concerts and some sixty free activities and concerts on various perspectives, festivalgoers will get to know or revisit iconic works, such as Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony, Debussy's *La mer*, Piazzolla's *Four Seasons*, Holst's *The Planets* and Saint-Saëns' *The Carnival of the Animals*.

SPECTACULAIRE NATURE! THE GRAND KICK-OFF EVENT

Free grand concert, Olympic park Esplanade - WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13, 7:30 P.M.



It's the unmissable event of the summer! Rafael Payare will conduct the OSM for this memorable evening hosted by **André Robitaille**. From Rossini's famous suite celebrating the Swiss Alps to Debussy's depiction of turbulent waters, to Goulet's *Ice Storm*, each work on this program draws on natural phenomena to represent Nature in its various states. Two distinguished guests will join the OSM for this concert. Bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green will return to perform in Wagner's *Die Walküre*, bringing supercharged intensity with his rich and sumptuous vocal timbres. And to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mikis Theodorakis' birth, the Orchestra will perform the fourth movement of this Greek composer's Symphony no. 2, "The Song of the Earth."

"TD Bank Group, in connection with the TD Ready Commitment, takes pride in presenting the OSM's Virée classique. This flagship musical event enables Montrealer's to be transported by familiar works and to discover new ones. The OSM's offer of free concerts of an exceptional quality democratizes classical music and invites music lovers to experience unforgettable summer evenings, bathed in the magic of great symphonies." - **Laurence Levy**, Senior Vice-President, Branch Banking, Quebec Region TD Canada Trust

BOUNTIFUL INDOOR CONCERTS

For the Virée classique's 12th edition, the stage of the Maison symphonique and the Cinquième Salle will be set for a musical odyssey through nature ... and the cosmos! As a family or with friends, come aboard this musical journey—tickets start at 20\$ + taxes. Here is a glimpse of the programming...



Friday, August 15, 7:30 p.m.—Maison Symphonique—*Holst's Legendary Planets*

We start our journey with Holst's legendary *Planets*. This iconic work has inspired several film scores, including John Williams' *Star Wars*!

Saturday, **August 16**, six concerts are on the program:

11 a.m. – Cinquième Salle – *Piano and Cello: A Dialogue Through the Seasons*

Pianist Martin Helmchen and cellist Marie-Elisabeth Hecker will lead you on a musical excursion through the seasons, with, among other works, Fauré's *Papillon* and Schubert's *A Winter Journey*.

1:30 p.m. – Cinquième Salle – Spotlight on young artists! *Smetana's Quartet no. 1: A Life in 4 Movements*

Youth and talent are celebrated in this concert featuring the Orchestra's youngest musicians: violinist Sydney Adedamola, violist Emily Rekrut-Pressey and cellist Sophie van der Sloot. They will be joined by pianist Godwin Friesen and violinist Justin Saulnier, two OSM Competition winners. On the program: a composition by Godwin Friesen, an early work by Shostakovich, and an autobiographical string quartet by Smetana.

2:30 p.m. – Maison symphonique – For the whole family! *The Carnival of the Animals*

The Ensemble Obiora conducted by Rafael Payare offers you a surprise-filled musical experience featuring Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* and Quinn Mason's *Irish Dance Suite*. Enjoy this festive and richly coloured program, especially designed for all ages.

4 p.m. – Cinquième Salle – *A Musical Journey from Vienna to the Far North*

A sextet of OSM musicians, led by associate conductor Dina Gilbert, will take you on a musical expedition from Vienna to the Far North, joined by Innu throat singers Evie Mark and Akinisie Sivuarapik. Discover *Take the Dog Sled* by Alexina Louie, a work commissioned by the OSM for its tour in 2008 of the Nord-du-Québec Region. The program

also includes an original arrangement of Mozart's *A Little Night Music*. This concert packs an inspiring dialogue between classical music traditions and Indigenous cultures.

6:30 p.m. – Maison symphonique – *Mozart and Elgar: Love Metaphors*

Rafael Payare and the Orchestra welcome mezzo-soprano Beth Taylor and pianist Martin Helmchen in a program that is as thrilling as it is elegant: Mozart's 24th Piano Concerto and Elgar's *Sea Pictures*.

8:30 p.m. – Maison symphonique – *Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony*

End your evening on a high note with Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony and Theodorakis' *Sinfonietta*, performed by pianist Godwin Friesen and Timothy Hutchins, OSM's Principal Flute for nearly fifty years. A meaningful encounter between a young, emerging artist and a seasoned pillar of the Orchestra.

To complete this journey, two concerts will be presented on Sunday, **August 17**:

1:30 p.m. – Cinquième Salle – *The Voice of Nature with Beth Taylor*

Mezzo-soprano Beth Taylor and pianist Esther Gonthier will give a recital celebrating nature and love. Enjoy this enchanting program of songs from France, the United Kingdom, Scotland, Ireland ... with a refined stopover in Germany.

3 p.m. – Maison symphonique – *Holst's Legendary Planets, an encore performance*

A reprise of Holst's *The Planets* conducted by Rafael Payare.

Summer programming details and tickets: osm.ca | 514-842-9951 | 1-888-842-9951

Ticket sales begin on May 29 at noon

FREE ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



True to its mission, the OSM emphasizes accessibility to music through diversified free programming. With a captivating offer of **some sixty activities** and concerts, all publics will be brought together by a shared love of music, at the **Quartier des Spectacles and Place des Arts**. In a convivial setting, discover a host of activities and concerts the whole family can enjoy, including spaces for relaxation, a self-guided tour of the Maison symphonique, musical games, workshops, chances to meet the artists, and concerts by amateur ensembles and promising young artists. **The Esplanade Tranquille, Ste-Catherine Street, the Espace OSM, Complexe Desjardins and the Espace culturel George-Émile-Lapalme** are the venues and spaces to enjoy this musical effervescence and explore nature in all its forms!



THE OSM IN THE PARKS

Three free concerts conducted by Rafael Payare

Let yourselves be swept away by the magic of music and dance! The OSM will give three free outdoor concerts, conducted for the first time by OSM Music Director Rafael Payare—a magnificent way to cap off the summer with a flourish. Come discover the symphonic repertoire as a family or with friends in August, on **Tuesday the 19th**, **Wednesday the 20th**, and **Thursday the 21st**, and enjoy magical moments under starry skies. This year again, **André Robitaille** will be the host for these evenings held in **Brossard**, **Blainville** and **Saint-Léonard** that celebrate summer, joined by Ukrainian violinist **Dmytro Udovychenko**, First Prize winner of the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Belgium in June 2024 and of the Concours musical international de Montréal in May 2023.



“The OSM in the Parks, which enhances August sunsets in harmony with such talented musicians under the direction of Rafael Payare, is a perfect fit with BMO's raison d'être: to Boldly Grow the Good, in business and life. The Bank of Montreal is proud to promote access to the works of the OSM, enabling everyone to enjoy a renowned Montréal cultural institution right in their own neighbourhood and

community. OSM in the Parks will certainly introduce the orchestra to new audiences, whether they are future music lovers or occasional enthusiasts, all while enjoying a festive summer setting.” - **Grégoire Baillargeon**, President, BMO Financial Group, Québec

FESTIVAL DE LANAUDIÈRE

The OSM will visit Joliette, a key summer destination for many years. Four concerts will be presented at the Amphithéâtre Fernand-Lindsay, on **July 4 and 5** conducted by Rafael Payare and on **August 1 and 2** conducted by Kent Nagano.

July 4 and 5 / CONCERT AT THE *FESTIVAL DE LANAUDIÈRE* CONDUCTED BY RAFAEL PAYARE

August 1 and 2 / CONCERT AT THE *FESTIVAL DE LANAUDIÈRE* CONDUCTED BY KENT NAGANO

August 13 / VIRÉE CLASSIQUE KICK-OFF – OLYMPIC PARK ESPLANADE

August 15–17 / 12th EDITION OF THE VIRÉE CLASSIQUE

August 19 / OSM DANS LES PARCS – POLY-ARÉNA PARK, BROSSARD

August 20 / OSM DANS LES PARCS – EQUESTRIAN PARK, BLAINVILLE

August 21 / OSM DANS LES PARCS – WILFRID BASTIEN PARK, SAINT-LÉONARD

THE OSM THANKS ITS PARTNERS, ITS DONORS, ITS SUBSCRIBERS, AND ITS PUBLIC

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal wishes to thank its public-sector partners: the Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine, the Ministère du Tourisme du Québec, Canadian Heritage, the Conseil des arts de Montréal and the City of Montréal, who all contribute to realizing the Orchestra's summer activities. The concert at the Olympic Park Esplanade and concerts in parks are presented in connection with the program CAM en tournée.

OSM presenter: Hydro-Québec

Virée classique presenter: TD Bank Group

OSM in the Parks presenter: BMO

Official car: Volvo

Host of the Virée classique: Place des Arts, Partenariat du Quartier des spectacles, Parc olympique

Associate partners: Tourisme Montréal

Privileged partners: Sirius XM, Complexe Desjardins, Clarins, Solotech, Boréale Beer, Archambault

Concert presenter : Instruments de musique Long & McQuade

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Media partners : La Presse, Pan M 360.

The OSM also thanks the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Government of Québec

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