



Season presenting partner



THE OSM UNVEILS ITS SUMMER SEASON!

SEVERAL MAJOR FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS IN PARKS, THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLYMPIC PARK AND THE ORCHESTRA'S 60TH TOUR

Montréal, June 3, 2026 — The **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal** and its Music and Artistic Director, **Rafael Payare**, are delighted to unveil their 2026 summer program. The OSM will present five free outdoor concerts, four of them conducted by Rafael Payare. A cherished friend of the Orchestra, **André Robitaille** will host three of these evenings and the OSM's associate conductor, **Dina Gilbert**, will take to the podium for concert in Brossard. The Orchestra will also make a stop in Joliette, as part of the **Festival de Lanaudière**, for four open-air performances conducted by **Rafael Payare** and the French conductor **Stéphane Denève**. Before setting off on a tour of European festivals, the Orchestra will also present its unmissable concert at the **Esplanade of the Olympic Park**, marking their **50th anniversary** this year. Finally, owing to its European tour, which takes place from August 15 to 29, the OSM will unfortunately not be able to hold the *Virée classique* this summer.

“Summer at the OSM is the perfect opportunity to hear your Orchestra in all its splendour and energy, in a relaxed atmosphere. It is truly wonderful to see thousands of people joining us at the Esplanade of the Olympic Park and in the parks of Montreal and the surrounding area for memorable concerts. It is essential for me to offer these free concerts to as many people as possible, and the wonderful welcome the public gives us every year fills me with joy.”

— **Rafael Payare**, Music and Artistic Director of the OSM

OSM IN THE PARKS

THREE LARGE-SCALE FREE CONCERTS – JULY 22, AUGUST 6 AND 7, 7:30 pm



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On **July 22**, at Parc Poly-Aréna in **Brossard**, **Dina Gilbert** and saxophonist **Jason Xu**, winner of the 2024 OSM Competition, will present a Latin-inspired program featuring excerpts from Bizet's famous opera *Carmen*, the symphonic dances from *West Side Story*, and a fiery excerpt from Dvořák's *Slavonic Dances*. On **August 6 and 7**, Rafael Payare will take to the podium at Parc Marcel-Laurin in **Saint-Laurent**, then at the Externat Sacré-Cœur in **Rosemère** for a program in which the second associate concertmaster, **Marianne Dugal**, and principal bassoonist **Stéphane Lévesque**, both musicians with the OSM for over twenty years, will take centre stage. These three evenings, hosted by **André Robitaille**, promise wonderful surprises and deeply moving moments.

"BMO is once again proud to support the OSM in the Parks initiative, which makes music accessible to all and brings communities together. These outdoor concerts, offered in a warm and festive summer setting, reflect our commitment to culture. We are proud to help create moments of sharing and emotion that bring people together around music".

- **Grégoire Baillargeon**, President, BMO Financial Group, Québec

THE OSM CARNIVAL AT THE THÉÂTRE DE VERDURE OF PARC LA FONTAINE

AN AWARD-WINNING CONCERT, FREE OF CHARGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



On **August 8 at 7 pm**, come and meet some very amusing insects at the **Théâtre de Verdure** in **Parc La Fontaine**. Ants, beetles, bees and many other critters will be joining the orchestra, conducted by Rafael Payare. In their own very special way, these insects invite you to discover a work by Quebec composer Maxime Goulet: *Le carnaval des insectes*. A fun and unique opportunity to discover the different families of instruments and explore the fascinating world of the symphony orchestra. You don't want to miss this concert, winner of the *Production of the Year – Young Audiences* award at the 29th Opus Awards Gala.

FREE GRAND CONCERT AT THE ESPLANADE OF THE OLYMPIC PARK!

AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENT CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLYMPIC PARK - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 7:30 pm



©Antoine Saito

An unmissable summer highlight since 2012, once again this year the OSM will transform the Esplanade of the Olympic Park into a huge open-air stage, literally bringing

the whole city together. Under the baton of Rafael Payare, the OSM and its choir invite you to celebrate the Olympic Park's 50th anniversary in grand style with an **unforgettable concert** that brings its most memorable moments to life: from iconic sporting triumphs to the legendary shows that once rocked the Stadium, alongside beloved works from the classical repertoire. You won't want to miss this incredible concert, filled with nods to the past, projections, narration by Sophie Cadieux, and a special appearance by the incomparable Diane Dufresne, all brought together under the direction of Michel-Maxime Legault.

"Music has the exceptional power to bring people together and create memorable moments. For this much-anticipated annual concert at the Esplanade of the Olympic Park, TD Bank Group is proud to share the gift of music with Montrealers in an enchanting setting at the heart of the city. At this signature event, music lovers can enjoy both familiar favourites and new discoveries."

– **David Pinsonneault**, Senior Vice-President, Mid-Market and National Commercial Accounts, Quebec, TD Bank Group

A 60TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR FOR THE OSM EUROPEAN FESTIVAL TOUR —AUGUST 15 TO 29

On April 22, 1962, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal gave its first concert abroad, conducted by Zubin Mehta. Almost 64 years later, the OSM is more than ever establishing itself as one of the most prominent cultural ambassadors for the city on the world's most prestigious stages. On August 15, the Orchestra will set off on a tour of European festivals, where our musicians will shine on the stages of **Edinburgh** (*Edinburgh International Festival*), **Warsaw, Aarhus and Hamburg**, under the inspired baton of Rafael Payare. For this tour, featuring a varied program, the OSM will be joined by Indigenous sopranos Elisabeth St-Gelais and Emma Pennell, cellist Alisa Weilerstein, and pianists Eric Lu and Kevin Chen, among others.

FESTIVAL DE LANAUDIÈRE

Honouring a hallowed tradition, the OSM will be stopping off in Joliette, a truly iconic destination for many years now. Four concerts will be held at the Amphithéâtre Fernand-Lindsay on **July 18** and **31** and on **August 1** conducted by **Rafael Payare**, and on **July 25**, conducted by **Stéphane Denève**.

July 18 - 7 pm / CONCERT AT *THE FESTIVAL DE LANAUDIÈRE*
July 22 - 7:30 pm / OSM IN THE PARKS — PARC POLY-ARÉNA, BROSSARD
July 25 - 7 pm / CONCERT AT *THE FESTIVAL DE LANAUDIÈRE*
July 31 - 8 pm / CONCERT AT *THE FESTIVAL DE LANAUDIÈRE*
August 1 - 7 pm / CONCERT AT *THE FESTIVAL DE LANAUDIÈRE*
August 6 - 7:30 pm / OSM IN THE PARKS — PARC MARCEL-LAURIN, SAINT-LAURENT
August 7 - 7:30 pm / OSM IN THE PARKS — EXTERNAT SACRÉ-CŒUR, ROSEMÈRE
August 8 - 7 pm / *THE OSM CARNIVAL* — THÉÂTRE DE VERDURE, PARC LA FONTAINE
August 12 - 7:30 pm / CONCERT AT THE ESPLANADE OF THE OLYMPIC PARK
August 15 to 29 / 60TH OSM TOUR — EUROPEAN FESTIVALS

[Click here](#) to download the photos in this press release

THE OSM WOULD LIKE TO THANK ITS PARTNERS

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal would like to thank its public partners the Government of Québec, the Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM) and the City of Montreal, whose support makes its summer activities possible.

The concert at the Esplanade of the Olympic Park and the Concerts in the Parks are presented as part of the *CAM en tournée* program.

OSM Presenter: Hydro-Québec

OSM Partner for the Concerts in the Parks: BMO

Presenter of the Concert at the Esplanade of the Olympic Park: TD Bank Group

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The OSM also wishes to acknowledge the vital support to its operations provided by the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Government of Québec.

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