

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **PUBLIC AUDITIONS FOR THE POSITION OF ORGANIST IN RESIDENCE FOR THE GRAND ORGUE PIERRE BÉIQUE**

**Montreal, March 12, 2013** – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal **invites the public to attend free of charge the public auditions for the position of organist in residence**, which are taking place on **March 17** at **Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste** from 1:30 to 4:15 p.m. and at **Maison symphonique de Montréal** from 7:00 to 9:40 p.m. For the occasion, four finalists will be called on to perform various works, including *Alléluias sereins d'une âme qui désire le Ciel* (Serene alleluias of a soul that longs for heaven) from Messiaen's *Ascension*; Handel's Organ Concerto in B-flat major, Op. 4, No. 2; and *Iconostasis* by composer Serge Provest, commissioned by the OSM especially for these final auditions.

In addition to playing during the season, the organist in residence will see to the development and the showcasing of the Grand Orgue Pierre Béique, notably through the coordination of concerts and organ recitals along with outreach activities. His mandate will also be to make this magnificent instrument better known thanks to programs designed to heighten awareness among the general public, young listeners and the upcoming generation (graduate students). He will answer questions of a technical nature from guest organists and partners and will be responsible for maintenance of the instrument in collaboration with Casavant Frères.

**The identity of the organist in residence will be announced on March 18**, the day following the public auditions. That organist, a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident, is expected to take up his duties in November 2013.

#### **FINALISTS AND PROGRAMS**

Four finalists will take part in the final auditions aimed at filling the position of organist in residence for the Grand Orgue Pierre Béique. Those auditions comprise the third and last stage in the selection process for the position.

#### **Vincent Boucher**

Leading a true double career in music and finance, Vincent Boucher studied with harpsichordists Dom André Laberge and Luc Beauséjour as well as organist Bernard Lagacé, and was the recipient of two unanimous first prizes from the jury in organ and harpsichord at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal in the class of Mireille Lagacé. He also completed a doctorate in performance at McGill University under the direction of John Grew. He did advanced studies in Vienna with Michael Gailit, and then in Paris with Pierre Pincemaille.

Mr. Boucher has played widely in Canada and Europe, including at the cathedrals of Chartres, Bourges and Notre-Dame de Paris. He won the John Robb Organ Competition. in 2000, the Prix d'Europe in 2002 – which had not been awarded to an organist since 1966 – and the Opus Award in the Discovery of the Year category in 2003. He has been the recipient of some fifteen awards and distinctions, including grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. His discography already consists of nine recordings, which have received

numerous awards and much critical praise. In 2007, on the ATMA Classique label, he released the first complete reading of the works of Charles Tournemire. These were recorded on the organ at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste, where he has been substitute organist since 1993.

Vincent Boucher has worked for over 14 years in the financial industry and is currently Director of Product Development at Standard Life Investments. A graduate of Oxford University and HEC-Montréal, he also holds the title of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

**Program performed at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste:**

Nicolas De Grigny (1672-1703): *Ave Maris Stella – Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux*

Charles Tournemire (1870-1939): Choral-improvisation on “Victimae paschali laudes”

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992): *Alléluias sereins d'une âme qui désire le Ciel* (Serene alleluias of a soul that longs for heaven), from *L'Ascension*

Louis Vierne (1870-1937): Symphony No. 3 – *Final*

**Jean-Willy Kunz**

Jean-Willy Kunz discovered the piano and the organ with Joseph Coppey at the Conservatoire de Grenoble and later studied organ with Louis Robilliard at the Conservatoire de Lyon. At the conclusion of his classical studies he expanded his activities and studied jazz piano with Mario Stantchev at the Conservatoire de Lyon and founded a saxophone-organ duo with Frédéric Lagoutte. He returned to classical studies, in organ and harpsichord, with Mireille Lagacé at the Conservatoire de Montréal, and in 2011 completed his doctorate in organ performance with John Grew at McGill University.

Mr. Kunz earned second prize at the Concours international d'orgue in Chartres in 2008, as well as third prize and the Richard Bradshaw Audience Prize at the Canadian International Organ Competition in Montreal in 2011. He now divides his time between organ recitals, teaching a course in analysis and harmony at Université de Montréal, and concerts with the Société de Musique Contemporaine du Québec (where he is organist) and with the Caprice ensemble (where he is harpsichordist and organist).

**Program performed at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste:**

Valéry Aubertin (born 1970): *Second Sonata*, from the Second Book for Organ – *Labyrinthe*

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937): Symphony No. 5 – *Allegro cantabile*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992): *Alléluias sereins d'une âme qui désire le Ciel* (Serene alleluias of a soul that longs for heaven), from *L'Ascension*

Louis Vierne (1870-1937): Symphony No. 1 – *Finale*

**Jonathan Oldengarm**

The playing of organist Jonathan Oldengarm has been characterized as “majestic” and “splendidly vigorous.” The winner of a number of international awards, Mr. Oldengarm is Director of Music at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in Montreal. He appears regularly in recitals in North America, Asia and Europe. The holder of a doctorate in performance (organ) from McGill University, he also studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart, Germany, from 2003 to 2005. From 2005 to 2007 he taught organ, harpsichord and figured bass at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. He has given concerts in recent years at Basilique Notre-Dame du Cap in Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Saint Joseph's Oratory and the Festival des couleurs de l'orgue français in Montreal, with the Thunder Bay and Winnipeg symphony orchestras, at the national conventions of the Royal Canadian College of Organists in 2008 and 2009, at the Schlosskirche and Stadtkirche in Wittenberg, Germany,

the Houston Bach Society, and Les Amis de l'orgue du Québec. He has recorded two CDs, the first on the Stumm Weimbs organ in Zell, Germany, the second on the Wolff organ at Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, British Columbia.

### **Program performed at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste:**

Richard Wagner (1813-1876) / arr. Edwin H. Lemare (1865-1934): *Prelude* (from *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*)

Louis Vierne (1870-1937): *Pièces de Fantaisie – Naiades*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992): *Alléluias sereins d'une âme qui désire le Ciel* (Serene alleluias of a soul that longs for heaven), from *L'Ascension*

Thierry Escaich (born 1965): *Évocation II* (1996)

### **François Zeitouni**

A native of Montreal, François Zeitouni has enjoyed a brilliant career as an organist and pianist for a number of years. On those two instruments, both as soloist and chamber musician, he has played for many concert societies, including Festival de Lanaudière, Fondation Arte Musica, Société du Palais Montcalm, Société de musique de chambre de Québec, Les Amis de l'orgue de Montréal and Les Amis de l'orgue de Québec, Opus 130 and Jeunesses Musicales of Canada, for whom he did a tour consisting of some thirty-five concerts during the 2002-2003 season.

On disc he has recorded, for Disques XXI, the *Noëls pour orgue* by Louis-Claude d'Aquin, and Gabriel Fauré's works for violin and piano with violinist Olivier Thouin. The latter recording drew critical praise both in America and Europe, including from the prestigious *Strad* magazine, which made it its disc of the month for July 2010.

Assistant organist at Saint Joseph's Oratory at the age of fourteen, since 2005 he has been titular organist at Église du Gesù. In addition, he joins the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal regularly, and was organist during the OSM's 2009 European tour under Kent Nagano. In May, at Maison Symphonique de Montréal, he will perform in the Fauré and Duruflé requiems with the OSM Chamber Choir.

François Zeitouni was schooled by masters Raymond Daveluy in organ, harmony and improvisation, and by Lise Boucher, Antoine Reboulot and Maria Curcio in piano.

### **Program performed at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste:**

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707): *Praeludium in C major, BuxWV 137*

Max Reger (1873-1916): *Romanze*, Op. 80, No. 8

Max Reger (1873-1916): *Perpetuum Mobile*, Op. 80, No. 9

John Bull (1562-1628): *Doctor Bull's Good Night*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992): *Alléluias sereins d'une âme qui désire le Ciel* (Serene alleluias of a soul that longs for heaven), from *L'Ascension*

Charles Tournemire (1870-1939): *Alleluia* No. 5 (from the 33rd office of *L'Orgue mystique*, Op. 57)

### **The Grand Orgue Pierre Béique**

The Maison symphonique de Montréal organ, which will be INAUGURATED ON MAY 28, 2014, was designed and built on behalf of the OSM by the house of Casavant with the collaboration of architects Diamond and Schmitt and Ædifica for its visual design, and will be 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 Mrs. 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.

The purchase of this organ was made possible courtesy of Mrs. Jacqueline Desmarais, who assumed the total cost and wished to perpetuate, through its name, the memory of Mr. Pierre Béique's irreplaceable contribution to the OSM's mission of excellence.

## **INTERNATIONAL SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Created specifically with the mandate of selecting the organist in residence of the OSM, the selection committee is made up of specialists in the organ field and of recognized musicians:

**Kent Nagano**, music director of the OSM

**Pierre Grandmaison**, tenured organist for the organs of Notre-Dame Basilica in Montreal

**John Grew**,\* organist at McGill University and artistic director of the Summer Organ Academy

**Olivier Latry**, tenured organist at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris and OSM organist emeritus

**Jaquelin Rochette**, artistic director of Casavant Frères

**Noël Spinelli**, cofounder of the Canadian International Organ Competition

**Patrick Wedd**,\* music director and organist at Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal

*\* absent on March 17*



The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal wishes to thank Loto-Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts de Montréal for their generous support.

Information: 514 842-9951 or [www.osm.ca](http://www.osm.ca)

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec.

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Source: **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal**  
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## SCHEDULE OF THE FINAL AUDITIONS – MARCH 17, 2013

### Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste (309 Rachel St. East, Montreal)

1:00 p.m.	Doors open
1:15 p.m.	François Zeitouni
1:45 p.m.	Pause
1:55 p.m.	Jonathan Oldengarm
2:25 p.m.	Pause
2:35 p.m.	Jean-Willy Zunk
3:05 p.m.	Pause
3:15 p.m.	Vincent Boucher

### Maison symphonique de Montréal (1600 Saint-Urbain St., Montreal)

6:40 p.m.	Doors open
	SIGHT-READING TEST (piece revealed to the finalists 10 minutes before their final audition)
7:00 p.m.	François Zeitouni
7:10 p.m.	Jonathan Oldengarm
7:20 p.m.	Jean-Willy Zunk
7:30 p.m.	Vincent Boucher
	PERFORMANCE TEST Handel, Organ Concerto in B-flat major, Op 4, No. 2 Serge Provost, <i>Iconostasis</i> (commission)
7:50 p.m.	François Zeitouni
8:10 p.m.	Pause
8:20 p.m.	Jonathan Oldengarm
8:40 p.m.	Pause
8:50 p.m.	Jean-Willy Kunz
9:10 p.m.	Pause
9:20 p.m.	Vincent Boucher