



Inspired by the story

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

with actress **Alice Morel-Michaud** (Alice), actor **Patrick Drolet** (White Rabbit, Caterpillar and Cheshire Cat), coloratura soprano **Aline Kutan** (Queen of Hearts)
and dancers from the **École supérieure de ballet du Québec**

Under the direction of **Kent Nagano**

and under the honorary presidency of **Isabelle Hudon** of Sun Life Financial

Montreal, Tuesday, November 25, 2014 – After a first edition crowned with success, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is pleased to announce the return of the **Bal des enfants** to Maison symphonique de Montréal. On **Saturday, February 14, starting at 4:00 p.m.**, children (five and over) and their families are invited to enjoy a not-your-ordinary Valentine's Day in a magical setting inspired by the tale **Alice in Wonderland** and in the company of OSM musicians and performers from several artistic disciplines. This benefit evening, one more way for the OSM to support its education and accessibility mission, enabling as it does a greater number of children to benefit from access to music, will be presided over by **Isabelle Hudon**, Executive Chair, Québec, and Senior Vice-President, Client Solutions of Sun Life Financial Canada.

“When we entered the hall at Maison symphonique, Friday evening, for the OSM Bal des enfants, his eyes lit up and his tongue loosened as if by magic.” Marc Cassivi, *La Presse*

Alice in symphony-land

Children and their families will begin the evening in grand fashion, parading over the OSM's purple carpet before a snack in the lobbies of Maison symphonique. The concert-spectacle draws its inspiration from the tale **Alice in Wonderland** and will be conducted by Maestro **Kent Nagano**. Unfolding in a series of tableaux, the story as staged by **Michel G. Barette** will bring together the main characters of Lewis Carroll's famous narrative and various performing arts: circus, singing, theater, marionettes, and dance with the participation of dancers from the **École supérieure de ballet du Québec** under the direction of Anik Bissonnette in a choreography by Sophie-Estel Fernandez.

Larger-than-life characters

The concert-spectacle will feature **Alice Morel-Michaud** in the role of **Alice**; coloratura soprano **Aline Kutan** as the wicked **Queen of Hearts**; actor **Patrick Drolet** depicting three prominent characters from the legendary tale: **the White Rabbit**, **the Caterpillar** and **the Cheshire Cat**. An illusionist, **Gabriel Gagnon**, in the role of the **March Hare**, and a tightrope walker, **Andy Giroux**, in that of the **Mad Hatter**, as well as puppeteers **Stéphane Heine**, **Estelle Richard** and **Nicolas Germain-Marchand** of Échantillon 23 round out this most magical of casts. At the conclusion of the concert, children will be invited for dessert, where they will have the chance to meet the artists for an autograph session.

Alice at the Ritz-Carlton and at Ogilvy-Holt Renfrew

To celebrate their partnership with the OSM Bal des enfants, the **Ritz-Carlton Montréal** and **Ogilvy-Holt Renfrew** will be dressing up in the colors of *Alice in Wonderland*. On **Saturday, December 13**, the Ritz-Carlton Montréal is inviting journalists and their families to mark the arrival of the holiday season and inaugurating their Christmas decor on the Bal des enfants theme. **Beginning January 9**, the windows of the Ogilvy and Holt Renfrew stores will be decked out in the Alice in Wonderland theme.

Alice 2.0

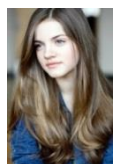
It's possible to find tons of information on the second edition of this event on the [Bal des enfants](#) website, including the partners involved in the realization of this benefit-concert anchored in the heart of the OSM educational mission. The [Facebook](#) page of the Bal des enfants is full of videos and photos, including some of the first edition of the Bal des enfants. Furthermore, it is also possible to read letters published by Alice, in which she presents the colorful characters of the fantastic world of *Alice in Wonderland*.

The purpose of your donations

Funds raised during this campaign will allow thousands of youngsters from all backgrounds and of all conditions to attend OSM young-audience programs. In addition to the 22,000 young spectators expected at our young-audience concerts this season, we will be welcoming at no charge over 1,000 youngsters from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in 2015. Moreover, your donation will help make music ever more accessible thanks to our free outdoor concerts and the Classical Spree, which are enjoyed by more than 100,000 people each summer. This year again, the challenges needing to be met remain considerable, and the success of this fundraising campaign is vital if the OSM is to carry on with its mission of education and accessibility.

To make a donation, please contact us at 514-840-7425

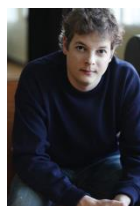
To purchase your tickets and reserve your seat, please contact the OSM customer service at 514-842-9951 or toll-free at 1-888-842-9951



Alice Morel-Michaud

Photo: Julie Perreault

Alice Morel-Michaud took her first steps as an actor at the age of five on the set of the short film *Les adieux*. Her performance as Aurore in the Luc Dionne movie confirmed her natural gift for acting. At seven she was nominated at the Gémeaux Awards gala in the Best Supporting Actress category for her portrayal of Estelle in the saga *Nos étés*. She has appeared in the television series *Les sœurs Elliot*, *Trauma*, *La galère* and *Kaboum*. Currently, young viewers can follow her as Maude, one of the principal characters in *Subito texto* on Télé-Québec. At the movies she has been seen in *Je me souviens* by director André Forcier, in Richard Roy's *Frisson des collines* and in Éric Tessier's *Pee-wee 3D*. Thanks to her portrayal of Julie, the win-at-all costs hockey goalie in this last film, she is a finalist for Best Supporting Actress at the Canadian Screens Awards. Alice Morel-Michaud can also be rediscovered in *Love Project*, the latest effort from filmmaker Carole Laure. Complementing her life on film sets, the young actor is involved in a number of organizations catering to the young. She is spokeswoman for the Lire Ensemble event, and since January 2014 has been the face of Aro International, an organization dedicated to education and to cooperation among peoples.



Patrick Drolet

Photo: Agence Maxime Vanasse

Actor Patrick Drolet has made a name for himself on the Québec artistic scene through the powerful roles that have been entrusted to him since the start of his career. In the movies he has appeared in Bernard Émond's *La neuvaine* and *Tout ce que tu possèdes*, Luc Dionne's *André Mathieu*, Claude Meunier's *Le grand départ*, Louis Bélanger's *Le génie du crime* and Émile Gaudreault's *De père en flic*. He can be seen shortly in *Katia*, the next feature film by Bernard Émond. On the little screen, he has had roles in the series *Les invincibles* directed by Jean-François Rivard, *Mémoires vives* and *30 vies* after roles in *Caméra café*, *Trauma II & III*, *Kif kif*, *Fortier* and *Rumeurs*. In the theater he has performed in *La fin de la sexualité* under the direction of Frédéric Blanchette, in *Oreille, Tigre et Bruit* (staging by Daniel Brière) and in Alexis Martin's stage version of Homer's *Iliad*. As an author, in 2009 he published his first novel, *J'ai eu peur d'un quartier autrefois*, with Éditions Hurtubise, and a "Novella in the form of a poetic essay" entitled *Un souvenir ainsi qu'un corps solide ont plusieurs tons de noirceur* with Éditions Les 400 coups. His second novel, *Pour une dernière fois, je m'abaisserai dans tes recoins*, was published in November 2013 by Éditions Duide.



Aline Kutan

Photo: Twin Photographie (Bordeaux)

Canadian soprano Aline Kutan has enjoyed a brilliant career for 20 years on the great stages of the world, both in opera and in recital. Of Armenian origin, she was raised first in Turkey and then in British Columbia, where she was introduced to singing by David Meek. She continued her training at Université Laval with Louise André before settling in Montreal. Winner of the prestigious Metropolitan Opera Competition in 1995, Aline Kutan made her professional debut for Arizona Opera one year later in the title role of *Lakmé*, where she was a hit with audiences and critics alike. Next came the role of the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, which she has since performed around the world. She premiered the role of Pasiphaé in *Les Rois* by contemporary French composer Philippe Fénelon at Opéra de Bordeaux, and sang in Salieri's *Europa Riconosciuta* under the direction of Riccardo Muti at La Scala in Milan. She has appeared in over 25 roles on international stages and performs often at Opéra de Montréal, where last season she sang Nanetta in *Falstaff*. The winner of the OSM Standard Life Competition in 1993, she appears regularly with the Orchestra. The public was also fortunate to hear her recently in *Carmina Burana* at the Olympic Stadium. Aline Kutan has recorded numerous albums for ATMA, Analekta and Sony BMG. She also teaches at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal and at McGill University's Schulich School of Music.

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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.

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

The OSM Bal des enfants is presented by Sun Life Financial.

The Ritz-Carlton Montréal and Ogilvy-Holt Renfrew are proud partners of the OSM Bal des enfants.

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