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COMMUNIQUÉ

Wrap-up of the OSM Couche-Tard Classical Spree Festival:

THE THIRD EDITION ATTRACTS EVEN MORE MUSIC LOVERS WITH 25,000 PEOPLE AT PLACE DES ARTS, AND MORE THEN 40,000 PEOPLE AT OLYMPIC PARK'S ESPLANADE FINANCIÈRE SUN LIFE

Montreal, August 16, 2014 – With the OSM Couche-Tard Classical Spree Festival broadening its scope and stretching over a three-day period, music lovers with or without experience responded in great numbers to Orchestre symphonique de Montréal Music Director Kent Nagano's musical offering. Over 40,000 people gathered on the Esplanade Financière Sun Life at Olympic Park to hear Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and its chorus of 1,500 voices, followed by 25,000 people taking part in the marathon of 30 low-priced concerts in four halls at Place des Arts, including Maison symphonique de Montréal. This year the festival offered a major free entertainment program for families: young visitors and older ones had a chance to meet the OSM musicians, the guest artists and Kent Nagano, learn how to conduct an orchestra, participate in a musical quiz, build instruments, get their hands on pianos and trumpets featuring the latest technological improvements – and all this in a festive atmosphere!

“To be able to offer musical experiences to a broad and continually more diversified audience is something that matters to us a great deal,” said Kent Nagano. “When we see the community turn out to join us in such large numbers for the OSM Couche-Tard Classical Spree, this great summertime celebration of classical music, our conviction is that we've reached our goal at least to a degree – and that makes my colleagues at the OSM and I very happy. As ambassadors for all Montrealers, it delights us to reach more music lovers than ever, both confirmed and potential. Our festival has grown along with our audience. Till next year, and still more musical discoveries!” On his own, Kent Nagano conducted six OSM concerts at Maison symphonique.

“It's a very positive outcome for the third edition of the OSM Couche-Tard Classical Spree,” stated Madeleine Careau, chief executive officer of the OSM. “Our classical music festival has become part of Montreal's summer landscape, and continues to grow. With more than 40,000 people on the Esplanade Financière Sun Life at Olympic Park, and with 25,000 people and a majority of concerts playing to full houses, we couldn't ask for more. It's an honor for us to be hosting tens of thousands of people seeking to discover the beauty of classical music with us.”

Already feeling Festival nostalgia?

To prolong the Couche-Tard Classical Spree experience, the public is invited to visit the large-format-picture and music exhibit still going on at the Promenade du Quartier des spectacles. The exhibition, ending at the end of the month, features some memorable moments from the history of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal since its founding. The music heard in streaming comes from OSM recordings, and alternately can be found on the OSM website by clicking on “OSM ambiance”!

The Couche-Tard Classical Spree

In addition to the free outdoor concert on the Esplanade Financière Sun Life at Parc olympique, the Couche-Tard Classical Spree consisted of some 30 concerts lasting 45 minutes presented in a flurry in four halls at Place des Arts, including Maison symphonique, with ticket prices ranging from \$10 to \$40. The third edition of the event once again showcased great masters from one generation to the next. This year a major free entertainment program for the entire family was offered throughout the festival. Activities, interviews, exhibits and get-togethers with the artists rounded out the programming. In addition, at a concert-event, musicians from the Orchestra, the OSM vocal ensemble and 10 soloists, all under the direction of Maestro Nagano, presented a concert version of the Leonard Bernstein opera *A Quiet Place*.



The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal wishes to thank
the Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine and the Ville de Montréal.

Air Canada, Eska and Yamaha Canada Musique Ltd., Tourisme Montréal, and Archambault
are the official partners of the OSM Couche-Tard Classical Spree.

The major free concert at Olympic Park is presented by SiriusXM.
Air Canada is the official partner.

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

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