



ORCHESTRE  
SYMPHONIQUE  
DE MONTRÉAL

Présenté par



## THE OSM'S EUROPEAN TOUR: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

**Montreal, Monday, April 1, 2014** – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, under the direction of Kent Nagano, scored an unqualified success with its European tour, which ran from March 11 to 25. Whether in a first concert at the Tonhalle in Zurich, which kicked things off in eloquent fashion, an unforgettable Mahler Seventh at the Vienna Konzerthaus seen around the world on medici.tv, or a final electrifying concert at Munich's Philharmonie im Gasteig, the OSM was welcomed from the beginning to the end of its travels with full houses, enthusiastic audiences and rave reviews both locally and internationally. The tour, the 42th for the OSM and one that underscored the Orchestra's 80th season in a very special way, consisted of 11 concerts, presented in 9 cities in 4 different countries (Switzerland, Austria, Spain and Germany).



*OSM – Konzerthaus, Vienna – March 17, 2014*

### **The OSM, a first-class ambassador**

“Back in Montreal at the conclusion of a tour crowned with success, I wish to salute the musicians of the OSM,” declared Kent Nagano, Music Director of the Orchestra. “We’re grateful that their work and their commitment to music and the art of performance were hailed with so much enthusiasm. The musicians carried out their mission in good spirits, with considerable energy, and above all with the highest standards of quality. We’re delighted to have had the opportunity to share what we do best with European audiences, and we have no hesitation in saying that the members of the Orchestra played the role of cultural ambassadors for Montreal in an exemplary way.”

### **Unanimous reviews**

Audiences and critics alike were won over by the orchestra's performances, as these excerpts from the local and European press indicate:

"The orchestra...has clearly defined, acoustically excellent sections that mix superbly; they create a *forte* of cultivated precisely *not* American, but clear French power, and they show their strength in a really soft but expressive *piano*."

Peter Hagmann, *NZZ (Neue Zürcher Zeitung)*, March 13, 2014

"Nagano revealed himself here to be a real warlock, masterfully driving the orchestral musicians to the climax of this musical orgy."

*Tages-Anzeiger*, March 14, 2014

"...the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and its conductor, Kent Nagano, focused on every nuance of sound with sensuous precision. ...it was in itself a small miracle of controlled impulsiveness and transparency."

Daniel Ender, *Der Standard*, March 17, 2014

"Everything we hoped for, everything we imagined was as nothing alongside the purely mind-blowing moment we experienced. First of all a lesson in conducting. In eight years I have never seen Kent Nagano conduct like that: a constant buzz of activity, not overlooking the slightest accent, with unbelievable energy, clarity and relevance. The cameras of medici.tv documented something for the ages."

Christophe Huss, *Le Devoir*, from Vienna, March 18, 2014

"A few minutes before 9 on Monday evening – 3 p.m. for hometown fans of the OSM watching the Internet broadcast – Mahler's wild, woolly, manic, marvellous, palpable, delusional, ineffable and otherwise indescribable Seventh Symphony came to a full-tilt fortissimo conclusion in the Vienna Konzerthaus."

Arthur Kaptainis, *The Gazette*, Vienna, March 17, 2014

"One must take the hat off when listening to the Montreal orchestra. Its sound is beautiful and enormously powerful, yet never strident. All its sections combine the brilliance of North American orchestras with the ductility of those from Europe."

*La Razon*, March 24, 2014

"Kent Nagano conducts his Orchestre symphonique de Montréal in Munich. The audience gives him an ovation. ...From this conductor we never expect total musical intoxication, but rather the careful illumination of the score."

*Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Munich, March 26, 2014

### **Reminder: the European tour**

The tour kicked off in Switzerland with a concert in Zurich (Tonhalle) on March 11, followed by a concert in Bern (Kulturcasino) on March 12 and then another in Geneva (Victoria Hall) on March 13. The OSM then visited Austria, with two concerts at the Konzerthaus in Vienna, on March 16 and 17, before traveling to Spain for two concerts in Madrid, on March 19 and 20 (Auditorio Nacional de Música), and a concert in Oviedo (Príncipe Felipe Hall) on March 22. The tour wound up in Germany with a concert in Cologne (Köln Philharmonie) on March 23 followed by a performance in Essen (Essen Philharmonie) on March 24 and a final concert in Munich (Philharmonie im Gasteig) on March 25.

Maestro Nagano conducted three programs, allowing the OSM to present works that are part of the Orchestra's tradition and works that reflect the Orchestra's broad repertoire, as well as contemporary works:

*Orion* by Canadian composer Claude Vivier, and *Adagio*, a premiere by Swiss composer David Philip Hefti – which made it possible to demonstrate in persuasive fashion the entire range of the virtuosity of the Orchestra, and its depth. The first program, in which pianists Marc-André Hamelin and Kit Armstrong were guest soloists, comprised works by Wagner, Hefti, Vivier, Liszt, Debussy and Berlioz. The second program, which featured the talent of soprano Ekaterina Lekhina, contained works by Ravel, Stravinsky and Chin. Finally, the third program presented Mahler's Seventh Symphony.

**Reminder: Mahler's Seventh Symphony, presented at the Konzerthaus in Vienna, is still available free of charge on medici.tv.**

The OSM and Mahler's Seventh Symphony concert, presented on March 17 at the Konzerthaus in Vienna, was broadcast live on medici.tv, an international Web platform offering a huge catalogue of classical music online. It is still possible to watch the performance, since it is being made available for a period of three months following the date of the concert. The OSM was happy to be able to share one of its concerts for the very first time on the occasion of a tour. To join the 21,000 people who watched the concert live, visit [www.osm.ca](http://www.osm.ca). This broadcast is made possible thanks to the support of Air Canada.

**Reminder: the tour blog**

The OSM tour blog is still online and the public can consult it to relive the best moments of the tour through the eyes of Kent Nagano, of musicians and of members of the administrative team: [www.osm.ca/blogue/](http://www.osm.ca/blogue/)

- 30 -



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

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