

The OSM and Charles Dutoit Special Event for the 2016 MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE

Montreal, Monday, February 23, 2015 – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is happy to participate in a special event reuniting the OSM and Maestro Charles Dutoit, produced and presented by Spectra Musique for the MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE in 2016. This announcement was made during a press conference held at noon today in the presence of Lucien Bouchard, President of the Board of Directors of the OSM, Alain Simard, President and Managing Director of Équipe Spectra, and Maestro Charles Dutoit. The event is a reunion between Charles Dutoit and the OSM, the maestro having held the position of Artistic Director of the Orchestra from 1977 to 2002, conducting for the last time in March 2002. The 24 years under the direction of Charles Dutoit constituted a chapter which saw the OSM rise to international recognition thanks to the completion of more than 30 tours and some 80 recordings which garnered more than 40 national and international prizes (Grammy, Juno, Félix, Charles Cros, Montreux, Japan Record Academy Award, etc.). This remarkable event will feature the works which Charles Dutoit and the OSM recorded together: Berlioz' *Roman Carnival Overture*, Stravinski's *Petrushka* (1911 version) and Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*, the very first work recorded. Pianist Martha Argerich, the guest soloist, will perform Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15*.

“We are delighted that Alain Simard was able to seize the opportunity to invite Charles Dutoit as a part of the MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE. That fruitful period when Charles Dutoit was at the helm of the OSM, as we all know, ended unhappily in 2002. There had to be a peaceful way forward. Charles Dutoit has contributed so much to our Orchestra. Since then the OSM has continued to develop, entering the 21st century in full command of its craft. Charles Dutoit's efforts to secure a hall for the OSM which would benefit the Orchestra's reputation were taken up by Kent Nagano, resulting with the inauguration of the new concert hall in 2011. Last season the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique was inaugurated and it has since known a popular success which shows no signs of slowing. The Orchestra continues to shine through tours and recordings. The concert hall draws an ever-renewing public thanks to innovative programming which, concert after concert, demonstrates the relevancy of classical music to our lives. With great enthusiasm, we all worked together to make the project of Charles Dutoit's return to Montreal a reality. We hope that the Montreal public will be as happy as we are to reunite with him,” stated Mr. Lucien Bouchard, President of the Board of Directors of the OSM.

“It is surely a great moment in the history of the OSM to witness the return of Charles Dutoit as part of the MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE. Charles Dutoit and I have known each other for many years, and it was he who invited me to conduct the Orchestra for the first time; he is a great artist for whom I have a deep respect, and who has led an impressive career. He accomplished so much with the OSM, leading the Orchestra through many recordings and tours to take its place on the international scene. At the OSM we are happy to finally see this project come to bear; we

had hoped for Charles Dutoit's return for a long time. A very special thanks is due to Alain Simard, whose contribution is essential to this project, as well as all my musician colleagues from the OSM and the administrative team for their time and effort," added Kent Nagano, Musical Director of the OSM.

"Over the course of our recent history certain projects have brought former conductors back to the podium, including Zubin Mehta, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos and Franz-Paul Decker. This special event, announced today as part of the MONTRÉAL EN LUMIÈRE, allows us to celebrate the musical and artistic heritage we share with Maestro Dutoit. Many members of the Orchestra have collaborated for many years with Maestro Dutoit, while others have never worked with him. It is therefore in the spirit of reunion and discovery that we approach this new project together. We have undertaken discussions surrounding this project in a climate of openness and calm with the upper administration of the OSM. Since Maestro Nagano's arrival in 2006 we have continued to contribute entirely and fully to the excellence of the Orchestra and the international renewal which it has experienced over the last few years. We are confident that this event will be a wonderful musical experience as much for us as for our public. We take this opportunity to underline the profound respect we hold for our Montreal audience. We hope that this concert, built on the great success that brought renown to the Orchestra, will serve as a reminder that thanks to their unwavering support over the years, our public is the single greatest factor in our success," concluded Stéphane Lévesque, Principal Bassoon and President of the OSM Musicians' Association.

Tickets go on sale starting Thursday at 9am

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

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec

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