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Press release
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Wrap-up of the OSM Classical Spree Festival's fourth edition:

WITH MORE THAN 25,000 PEOPLE AND THE GREAT MAJORITY OF CONCERTS SOLD-OUT AT PLACE DES ARTS, AND WITH OVER 45,000 PEOPLE ON THE OLYMPIC PARK'S ESPLANADE FINANCIÈRE SUN LIFE

THE OSM CLASSICAL SPREE FESTIVAL IS NOW AN ESSENTIAL EVENT ON MONTREAL'S FESTIVAL LANDSCAPE

Montreal, Saturday, August 8, 2015 – The public responded in greater numbers than ever to the call of classical music on the occasion of the fourth edition of the OSM Classical Spree Festival. Both dedicated music lovers and the simply curious had a wealth of options to choose from at the musical marathon presented by the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and its music director, Kent Nagano. On August 5, over 45,000 heads were counted at the major open-air concert on Olympic Park's Esplanade Financière Sun Life, enjoying the great moments of Bizet's opera *Carmen* in a concert version hosted by André Robitaille, spokesperson for this year's Festival. Then, on August 7 and 8, more than 25,000 people visited Place des Arts to attend a flurry of 30 short concerts in the company of great artists from one generation to the next and to take part in numerous activities offered free of charge. The Children's Zone welcomed the youngest visitors to a number of workshops that proved to be highly popular once again this year, and visitors of all ages could learn how to conduct an orchestra, attend acrobatic music shows, and hear opera arias, an ensemble of flutists and much more, all in a festive atmosphere.

"To be part of Montreal's great and special summer festival scene," stated OSM music director Kent Nagano, "and to feel that the public so enthusiastically embracing classical music – individually, in groups, in families, as tourists – warms our hearts as Montrealers. The OSM colleagues, international guests and I are overjoyed to find that with this Festival 2015 we have shared great music with record breaking attendance. It has once again confirmed that you can never be too classic!"

Madeleine Careau, chief executive officer of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, was delighted to add, "With these first four editions behind us, editions that have enjoyed an increasingly greater success, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the public for welcoming us so generously, the great majority of the Classical Spree concerts at Place des Arts being sold-out. Our thanks also go to our invaluable public and private partners, without whom we could not have become the key event that we are now in Montreal. We're already looking forward to next year and the fifth anniversary of the OSM Classical Spree Festival on the weekend of August 12, 2016!" Concerning the figures for the OSM's summer program, she added: "Over the summer, more than 130,000 people came out to share memorable moments with us. If our mission is to make the wonderful repertoire of classical music as accessible as possible, we hope we can modestly claim that we've succeeded."

The OSM Classical Spree Festival

In addition to the large-scale free concert on the Olympic Park's Esplanade Financière Sun Life, the Classical Spree presented 30 45-minute concerts in a burst at Maison symphonique de Montréal and three other venues in Place des Arts, at prices ranging from \$10 to \$40. The fourth

edition of the event included violinist James Ehnes, pianists Nikolai Lugansky, Benjamin Grosvenor and Oliver Jones, soprano Marie-Ève Munger, saxophone quartet Quasar and OSM concertmaster Andrew Wan, and for the first time in Montreal, violinist Shunske Sato. Kent Nagano for his part conducted seven concerts. Young music lovers were also invited by Jean-Willy Kunz and Patrice Bélanger to discover Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* in a concert designed especially for families. This year once again a wide-ranging free entertainment program was offered throughout the Festival. Activities, interviews, exhibits and get-togethers with artists rounded off the programming for this not-to-be-missed celebration of classical music. André Robitaille was Festival spokesman this year.

A crowd of more than 130,000 people sampled the OSM's summertime activities

In the space of a few weeks the OSM welcomed thousands of people both at Maison symphonique de Montréal and in other settings. First of all, three free *OSM Concerts in the Parks with SiriusXM* drew 20,000 people in Montreal North, Blainville and Pincourt despite poor weather. The Orchestra then made its way to Festival de Lanaudière to stage two open-air concerts under the direction of Kent Nagano, which 8,000 people came to see. The OSM also took part in the Just For Laughs Festival, attracting 35,000 people to the concert "*Les Trois Accords symphonique*" at Place des Festivals. And as we know, Kent Nagano then kicked off the OSM Classical Spree Festival with Bizet's *Carmen* in a free large-scale performance on the Olympic Park's Esplanade Financière Sun Life before a crowd of over 45,000 spectators. The Festival then continued at Place des Arts, where more than 25,000 people attended some 30 low-priced concerts and participated in free activities for the entire family, a chance to discover classical music in a truly festive spirit.

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the Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine and the City of Montreal.

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The free large-scale concert on the Esplanade Financière Sun Life at Olympic Park
is presented by SiriusXM.

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