

PRESS RELEASE

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ANNOUNCING THE OSM'S 2014-2015 SEASON

A DAZZLING, WIDE-RANGING 81ST SEASON

Electrifying programs and concert-events conducted by Kent Nagano:

Berlioz's *Romeo and Juliet* to open the season

A North-American premiere: *L'Aiglon*, an opera by Honegger and Ibert

OSM Éclaté concert featuring Philip Glass, composer and pianist

Adventures in the East: as seen by Saint-Saëns, Dukas, Kiya Tabassian and R. Strauss

A rare performance of Varèse's *Amériques*

3rd edition of Fréquence OSM with Mylène Paquette presented in association with Espace musique

Concluding the season, the first act of Wagner's *Die Walküre* in a concert version

**Pianist Lang Lang and violinist Maxim Vengerov,
Larry and Cookie Rossy Family Foundation artists in residence**

Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique: a color-filled series to discover this magnificent instrument

The return of Zubin Mehta with Mahler's *Third Symphony*, in a benefit concert

**An exceptional recital series, in collaboration with Pro Musica, featuring:
violinist Leonidas Kavakos and pianist Yuja Wang, violinist Maxim Vengerov, pianist Lang Lang and a
trio made up of Anne-Sophie Mutter, Lynn Harrell and Yefim Bronfman**

Great guest conductors, including:

**Masaaki Suzuki, Juanjo Mena, Lawrence Foster, Sir Roger Norrington,
John Storgårds and Christoph Gedschold**

Great soloists, including:

**pianists Benjamin Grosvenor, Boris Berezovsky, Emanuel Ax, Nikolai Lugansky,
Piotr Anderszewski, André Laplante and Alain Lefèvre**

**violinists Pinchas Zukerman, Christian Tetzlaff, Arabella Steinbacher,
Augustin Dumay and Andrew Wan, cellist Alisa Weilerstein**

sopranos Miah Persson and Heidi Melton, tenor Torsten Kerl and bass-baritone Philippe Sly

For the holiday season:

Kent Nagano and for the first time in Montreal, tenor Vittorio Grigolo

The return of Handel's *Messiah* with the OSM Chamber Choir

Screening of the Chaplin film *Modern Times*, accompanied by the OSM

OSM Pop: Les Trois Accords, Mika, Jean-Pierre Ferland and Florence K

The OSM Chamber Choir:

Magnificent program of Beethoven, Mozart and Haydn with organ

***The Stirring Sounds of Bach and Mendelssohn* to close the Montreal Bach Festival**

OSM musicians: 11 musicians as soloists with the Orchestra

Montreal, March 3, 2014 – Delighted to see the mandate of Kent Nagano continue until 2020, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal was filled with renewed enthusiasm today when it presented, at Maison symphonique de Montréal, a 2014-2015 season that is **dazzling and richly diversified – a season that promises deep emotions!** The **2014-2015 season** offers a number of sensational programs built around major works of the repertoire, some of them large in scale and some of them discoveries. Classicism and modernity rub shoulders throughout the season. In the foyer Allegro at Maison symphonique, **Kent Nagano**, music director of the OSM, unveiled the details of the 2014-2015 programming, accompanied by **Stéphane Lévesque**, principal bassoon with the Orchestra, and **Mylène Paquette**, the navigator who did a solo crossing of the Atlantic last fall. The event was hosted by **Jean-François Lépine**, international analyst and music lover, in the presence of OSM chief executive officer **Madeleine Careau**. The announcement marks the launch of the subscription renewal campaign, which ends on **April 25**, and the new-subscription and single-ticket-sale campaign, which begins on **April 28**.

Musical director, **Kent Nagano** declared: “As the OSM enters our 81st season, there is great cause to celebrate. Now firmly at home in the Maison symphonique de Montréal, its acoustics tuned and celebrated throughout the world as a leading concert hall, with successful installation and the coronation of our new organ, we look forward to a season which brings fresh perspectives to the OSM repertoire.

From our opening concert featuring Berlioz’ *Romeo and Juliet* to a rare performance of Arthur Honneger’s *L’Aiglon* and our season finale of Wagner’s *Die Walküre*, the 2014-2015 season offers ample opportunity for large-scale musical celebration, not to mention the newly installed majestic Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique whose tones will be heard throughout our entire season, performances by the OSM Chamber choir, and significant milestone anniversaries of a number of great historical figures, including Nielsen, Sibelius, Strauss and even Shakespeare.

We are pleased to share the stage next season with many of the world’s leading soloists, resident artists and conductors. In addition, as is our tradition, many of the OSM’s exceptional artists will appear as soloists, chamber players and recitalists. Together our guests and the OSM are dedicated to bringing Montréal, Québec, Canada and the international community beyond the emotion, spirit, magic, power, and depth of the beauty of the world of symphonic music.”

And **Madeleine Careau**, OSM chief executive officer, declared: “We are happy to be celebrating the renewal of Kent Nagano’s mandate until 2020, and the 2014-2015 season will underscore in a wonderful way all our achievements. Unforgettable concert-events and series promise deep emotion to our loyal listeners and new music lovers while opening new doors to the future, notably by way of our larger-than-life instrument, the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique. We will be honoring our educational mission with the 75th anniversary of the OSM Standard Life Competition, a second Bal des enfants, and a good number of other projects. Our season will in particular be showcasing the outstanding talent of our musicians and of course be welcoming internationally renowned artists who will happily join us in thrilling to the sound of our exceptional home, Maison symphonique de Montréal.”

KENT NAGANO PRESENTS HIGHPOINTS

Kent Nagano will be conducting, to **open the season**, **Berlioz’s *Romeo and Juliet*** (September 10 and 11). He will also be found heading the OSM in **Debussy’s *La mer*** and **Ravel’s *Daphnis et Chloé*** (September 17), **Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*** (September 20) and **Richard Strauss’s *Sinfonia domestica*** and ***Death and Transfiguration*** (September 21 and 23). ***Symphonic Crossing***, the 3rd edition of Fréquence OSM inspired by the sea-going epic of navigator Mylène Paquette (September 27) promises to be spectacular. Fréquence OSM is presented in association with Espace musique. The season will continue with Schoenberg’s ***Transfigured Night*** and **Schubert’s “Unfinished” Symphony** (November 19 and 20). Maestro Nagano is preparing a very special collaboration with OSM concertmaster **Andrew Wan**, in a complete reading of the

Saint-Saëns violin concertos (November 26, 27 and 29). As the holiday season approaches (December 16 and 18), Kent Nagano will offer a program with tenor **Vittorio Grigolo** and **Luc Beauséjour** on the organ. In 2015, he will conduct the OSM in **Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra** (January 13, 14 and 15) and in **Mendelssohn's "Reformation" Symphony** (February 17, 18 and 19).

With an eye to making discoveries, Maestro Nagano then offers audiences two programs on the theme of the Orient in association with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and connected to the exhibit **Benjamin Constant: The Pomp and Splendor of European Orientalism**, which will be two of the don't-miss events of the season. Audiences will discover *Adventures in the East* (March 4 and 8), and with the much anticipated OSM Éclaté event *Travels with Philip Glass* (March 7), featuring the pianist and celebrated American composer. Also noteworthy is the opportunity to hear **Varèse's Amériques** (March 11 and 12) to mark the 50th anniversary of the composer's death, a large-scale work for orchestra rarely played (1922 version); this will be a premiere at the OSM. For the pièce de résistance, Kent Nagano will conduct the North American premiere of **L'Aiglon**, a collaboration between Jacques Ibert and Arthur Honegger, a musical drama based on the play by Edmond Rostand evoking the fate of Napoleon's son (March 17, 19 and 21). Finally, the OSM and Maestro Nagano continue their **performances of concert versions of Wagner's operas** with the presentation of the first act of *The Valkyrie* (May 27, 28 and 30), which will bring the dazzling season to a close.

THE OSM'S EXCELLENT MUSICIANS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Several musicians from the OSM will also be acting as soloists with the Orchestra. In addition to the collaboration of Kent Nagano and **Andrew Wan** that will see the entire set of Saint-Saëns violin concertos performed (November 26, 27 and 29), audiences can also hear, on February 19, Schumann's *Konzertstück*, a seldom heard work for four horns (with **John Zirbel**, **Denys Derome**, **Catherine Turner** and **Jean Gaudreault**) and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 (with violinist **Richard Roberts**, flutist **Timothy Hutchins** and harpsichordist **Olga Gross**). Harpist **Jennifer Swartz** will be showcased in the *Amor!* program (November 9). Principal cello **Brian Manker**, meanwhile, will perform the Khachaturian Concerto-Rhapsody for Cello and Orchestra (March 26). And **Andrei Malashenko**, timpani, will be part of the next OSM Éclaté.

The chamber-music gifts of OSM musicians continue to be featured in a concert series presented at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' Bourgie Hall. During the 2014-2015 season the musicians can be heard in a total of eight concerts, part of two series: the first in connection with works of art presented at the MMFA, and the second exploring the links between music and literature.

GREAT GUEST CONDUCTORS, INCLUDING ZUBIN MEHTA

Music director of the OSM from 1961 to 1967, **Zubin Mehta** will revisit the Orchestra in Mahler's *Third Symphony*, the work comprising the program for the benefit concert on May 19. Among other guest conductors should be mentioned the visits of: **Juraj Valčuha**, who will conduct Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances* (November 4, 6 and 9); for the first time, **Masaaki Suzuki**, in a Bach and Mendelssohn program (December 3, 4 and 7); also for the first time, **Juanjo Mena**, in Tchaikovsky's *Fifth Symphony*; **Lawrence Foster**, in the rarely given Enescu *Third Suite*; **Sir Roger Norrington**, in Schumann's *First Symphony*, "Spring"; **John Storgårds**, in a Scandinavian program (April 22, 23 and 26) to mark the 150th birthday of Sibelius and Nielsen; and **Christoph Gedschold**, in Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11, "The Year 1905" (May 6 and 7). In an unusual program, notable finally is the presence of **Timothy Brock** conducting the Charlie Chaplin soundtrack he restored to accompany the masterpiece *Modern Times* (May 21).

LANG LANG AND MAXIM VENEROV, ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

These two undeniably great names on the international scene will collaborate exceptionally during the season with the OSM as artists in residence. They will join the Orchestra as part of orchestral concerts (Maxim Vengerov will play the double role of conductor and soloist in a Schumann/Tchaikovsky program), and will each present a recital in addition to offering masterclasses to young performers. The OSM *Artists in Residence* Program is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Larry and Cookie Rossy Family Foundation.

SHOWCASING THE GRAND ORGUE PIERRE-BÉIQUE

Following the recent inauguration of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, the jewel of Maison symphonique, this 81st season will create a special place for the spectacular instrument, whether by way of a recital series or by integrating the organ – Opus 3,900 of Casavant Frères – into certain large-scale concerts and innovative programs. Hence, **Olivier Latry** (October 16), organist emeritus of the OSM, **Jean-Willy Kunz**, organist in residence, and two other Canadian organists (**Isabelle Demers** and **William O'Meara**) will be giving recitals in the course of the season.

The great tradition of the organ in Québec will be honored with our organist in residence, when he performs Jacques Hétu's Organ Concerto, Op. 68 (November 9). In addition, a magnificent concert brings together organ and voice, with **Isabelle Demers** and **Marianne Fiset** (February 21). A work by composer Tod Machover, inspired by Montaigne, for organ, brass quintet, electroacoustics and narrator will be premiered on May 16. In another vein, to breathe new life into a highly impressive art virtually forgotten today, organist **William O'Meara** will improvise a soundtrack to the 1925 version of the film *The Phantom of the Opera* directed by Rupert Julian (October 31). Moreover, the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique will be featured at preconcert events.

Purchase of this organ was made possible courtesy of Mrs. Jacqueline Desmarais, who assumed the total cost and who in so doing, and with this designation, wished to keep alive the memory of the inimitable contribution made by Mr. Pierre Béique to the OSM's mission of excellence.

THE OSM CHORUS AND CHAMBER CHOIR SPOTLIGHTED

Under the direction of Andrew Megill, the OSM Chamber Choir will be heard in a Germanic program consisting of Beethoven, Mozart and Haydn with organ (October 26), and the OSM Chorus in an Italian program that includes Verdi, again with organ (April 19). Moreover, the Chamber Choir will be giving the program *The Stirring Sounds of Bach and Mendelssohn* to conclude the Montreal Bach Festival. (The OSM is official symphonic partner of the Bach Festival.) And the Chamber Choir will begin a cycle of the cantatas of Bach on September 13 and 14 at Bourgie Hall.

RETURN OF THE MESSIAH, A HOLIDAY-SEASON CLASSIC

Two season programs will be presented in December. *The Messiah*, a return visit guaranteed to delight audiences, will feature the OSM Chorus and a quartet of Canadian soloists, with the Orchestra led by Andrew Megill (December 9 and 10). The OSM is also happy to be welcoming for the first time the tenor **Vittorio Grigolo**, "Il Pavarottino," in a program under the direction of Kent Nagano consisting of both classical works and holiday favorites (December 16 and 18).

GREAT ARTISTS IN RECITAL

Again presented in association with Société Pro Musica, the OSM recital series continues to impress. It will consist of a duo made up of violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** and pianist **Yuja Wang** (November 15), violinist **Maxim Vengerov** (February 23), pianist **Lang Lang** (March 13) and an exceptional trio made up of violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, cellist **Lynn Harrell** and pianist **Yefim Bronfman** in scores by Beethoven and Tchaikovsky (April 9). In association with Show One, violinist **Gidon Kremer** will be back, this time in tandem with young pianist **Daniil Trifonov** (February 25).

PRESTIGIOUS ENSEMBLES AND GUEST ARTISTS

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal will be hosting **Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra** (October 5), **La Pietà and Angèle Dubeau** (October 23), **China's National Center for the Performing Arts Orchestra** (November 13) and the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** (May 9). The OSM, meanwhile, will perform at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto on May 13.

The Orchestra will host numerous guest soloists, including pianists **Benjamin Grosvenor** (first appearance at the OSM), **Boris Berezovsky**, **Emanuel Ax**, **Lang Lang**, **Nikolai Lugansky**, **Piotr Anderszewski**, **André Laplante** and **Alain Lefèvre**, violinists **Pinchas Zukerman**, **Christian Tetzlaff**, **Maxim Vengerov**, **Arabella Steinbacher** and **Augustin Dumay**, cellist **Alisa Weilerstein** and sopranos **Miah Persson** and **Heidi Melton**, tenor **Torsten Kerl** and bass-baritone **Philippe Sly**.

OSM POP

As part of the series conducted by conductor and orchestrator Simon Leclerc, the OSM will have the pleasure of celebrating the 10th anniversary of Québec group **Les Trois Accords** on September 30 and October 1. Also, the OSM will welcome international star **Mika**, who will be performing for the first time with orchestra on February 10 and 11. **Jean-Pierre Ferland** will also appear with the Orchestra, **alongside Florence K** as guest artist, on April 28 and 29.

OSM STANDARD LIFE COMPETITION

A great anniversary will be celebrated this season on the occasion of the **75th edition of the OSM Standard Life Competition**, devoted this year to voice, brass and woodwinds, and boasting an exceptional jury chaired by Jesse Rosen, president and CEO of the League of American Orchestras, and on which Kent Nagano will sit (November 18 to 22). The finals will once again be held at Maison symphonique de Montréal and will be open to the general public, who last year turned out in considerable numbers. The winner will perform with the OSM under the direction of Sir Roger Norrington on Tuesday, April 14.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Three productions for young audiences will be staged this season. First of all, a reprise of the show that was a finalist at the Opus awards gala, *The Magic of Mozart* (November 16), with **Mélanie Delorme**, **Éloi Cousineau** and **Daniel Clarke Bouchard**, and secondly a new coproduction of the OSM and Platypus Theatre, a program based on Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* (February 22). These two productions will be under the direction of OSM assistant conductor **Dina Gilbert**. The third production is called *Classical Clown* (May 3), a concert led by conductor **Marc David**, with mime **Dan Kamin**.

LAUNCH OF THE SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN AND START OF SINGLE-TICKET SALES

Beginning today, OSM subscribers are invited to renew their regular-series subscriptions. The renewal period runs to **April 25**, during which time they also benefit from priority in the purchase of additional tickets to all concerts. Beginning **April 28**, the general public will be able to purchase new subscriptions as well as single tickets.

The OSM again this season offers concerts on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays (evenings and mornings), Saturdays and Sundays (afternoons), most of which are part of eight major series of six concerts each.

The OSM invites those 34 and under to be part of next season. A subscription, or the TD Classic special ticket rate, which have both proved to be very popular since the inauguration of the OSM's new home, Maison symphonique de Montréal, makes it possible for students and young professionals to enjoy seats in the choir and balcony for six concerts of their choosing or to attend the OSM Saturday Evenings series in the parterre. Moreover, special rates are offered to youngsters 17 and under who accompany an adult to OSM concerts.

The OSM box office can be reached at 514 842-9951. The public is invited to experience the online ticketing service, easier and friendlier now, on the OSM website, osm.ca, at any time.

ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE OSM

The contribution of the Orchestra's public partners being indispensable to its operations, the OSM thanks its principal partner, Loto-Québec, as well as the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal and the Ville de Montréal.

The OSM considers itself privileged to be able to count on the support of invaluable partners, and in that light thanks its presenting sponsor, Hydro-Québec, as well as Air Canada, official airline of the OSM.

The Orchestra is also honored to announce that BMO Financial Group will be associated to the OSM for the next five years as season partner.

The Orchestra also expresses its gratitude to Power Corporation of Canada, Fillion Électronique, BBA, Fondation J.A. DeSève, Industrial Alliance, Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, Standard Life, TD, Spinelli Lexus, Aéroports de Montréal and ESKA.

The OSM lastly salutes all its other partners, who supply, at different levels, essential support for its activities.

Information: 514 842-9951 or www.osm.ca

Hydro-Québec., presenter of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

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