

The OSM and education in 2014-2015:

THE 75TH EDITION OF THE OSM STANDARD LIFE COMPETITION, YAN ENGLAND, NEW AMBASSADOR OF THE YOUNG-AUDIENCE CONCERTS AND A SECOND BAL DES ENFANTS!

Montreal, Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is proud to present its 2014-2015 season in the area of education. The 75th anniversary of the OSM Standard Life Competition, a second Bal des enfants, a new ambassador for young-audience concerts, masterclasses for the rising generation – 80 years on, the OSM remains a young institution.

THE OSM STANDARD LIFE COMPETITION CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

With its creation in 1940, a major anniversary will be celebrated this year on the occasion of the 75th edition of the OSM Standard Life Competition. **The most prestigious national performance competition in Canada** will run this time from **November 18 to 22** in an edition devoted to **voice, brass and woodwinds**. An exceptional jury will follow the young competitors, one chaired by **Jesse Rosen**, president and executive director of the League of American Orchestras. The grand jury will be made up of the following members: **Kent Nagano**, music director of the OSM, **Welz Kauffman**, president and chief executive officer of the Ravinia Festival; for the voices: soprano **Miah Persson**, tenor **Michael Schade** and **Georges Delnon**, intendant of the Hamburg Opera; for the woodwinds: **Vincent Lucas**, principal flute of the Orchestre de Paris, clarinetist **Yehuda Gilad**, professor at the USC Thornton School of Music, and oboist **Louise Pellerin**, professor at Zurich University of Arts; for the brass: trumpeter **Jens Lindemann**, soloist and professor at UCLA, **Johannes Dengler**, principal horn with the Bayerische Staatsorchester, and trombonist **Ian Bousfield**, soloist and former principal with the Vienna Philharmonic and the London Symphony Orchestra.

The general public has been coming out in increasingly greater numbers to follow the semi-finalists and finalists in the Competition, with the OSM putting its energy into making the event as accessible as possible to the general public. While the semi-finals will be held in Tanna Schulich Hall at the Schulich School of Music, **the finals will take place for a third edition at Maison symphonique de Montréal** to make the experience that much more enjoyable for spectators. Moreover, it will be possible, for a second edition, to **follow the finals live on the OSM website**.

“We’re extremely touched to see that the colossal work of these young talents is being enjoyed by more and more people. A thousand people made the trip to Maison symphonique de Montréal last year. In addition, with new technologies offering fresh broadcast possibilities for classical music, supporters from all across Canada and from elsewhere can follow the finals live from Maison symphonique on the OSM website and live the experience of these young musicians along with them by way of social networks.” stated Pierre Goulet, president of the OSM Standard Life Competition.

All those who wish to apply to the Competition could do so now. Applications for the Competition will be accepted until October 1.

In total, the Competition awards more than \$100,000 in prizes and scholarships. As part of these numerous prizes, it is important to mention that the Grand Prize winner will perform with the OSM under the

direction of **Sir Roger Norrington** on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 and one of the grand prize winner's concerts will be presented on ICI Musique. The complete list of prizes and grants as well as all the details about the Competition can be found on www.osm.ca/competition.

YAN ENGLAND: OSM YOUNG-AUDIENCE CONCERTS AMBASSADOR

A well-known face on the small screen, Yan England has always been involved with the young. For the 2014-2015 season, the OSM has invited him to put his superabundant energy and his talents as a communicator to more good use by conveying his passion for music to young audiences. Yan developed a special relationship with the Orchestra after a first collaboration in 2014. Convinced of the relevance of the OSM's educational mission, Yan feels that music can help youngsters push back their limits. So without hesitation he agreed to plunge into the adventure! In addition to hosting a Youth Concert once again this season, Yan will write a column designed to pique young people's curiosity and awaken their interest in classical music. Watch for him on social networks and on the OSM website.

"I've been an avid music fan since I was very young," says Yan England, Youth Concerts ambassador for the 2014-2015 season. "I played piano, saxophone, and was part of the wind band at my high school. I remember the first time I attended an orchestra concert – I was so excited! I was overwhelmed by all those instruments, by the power of the sound! The OSM Youth Concerts are the best way to be introduced to orchestral music. These concerts have existed for 80 years! I invite all young people to come to the concerts – you'll see how great it is."

YOUNG-AUDIENCE CONCERTS: YOUTH CONCERTS AND CHILDREN'S CORNER

So once again this season the OSM is continuing that tradition by welcoming some 20,000 students from primary and secondary schools. Under the auspices of the OSM concerts for young audiences, schools (Youth concerts) and families (Children's Corner) can discover symphonic music thanks to productions adapted for a younger public. First of all, a new coproduction from the OSM and Platypus Theatre, a program constructed around Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* (Youth Concerts: November, 11-12-13) (Children's Corner: November 16) Then, secondary schools are invited to discover different scientific phenomena linked to music during a concert "The Science of Music" hosted by Yan England on January 27, 28 and 29. Finally, a reprise of the show that was a finalist at the Opus award Gala, *The Magic of Mozart* (Youth concerts: February, 3.4 and 5 and Children's Corner: February 22) with **Mélanie Delorme**, **Éloi Cousineau** and **Daniel Clarke Bouchard**. Those two productions will be under the direction of OSM assistant conductor **Dina Gilbert**. The third production is called *The Classical Clown* (May 3), a concert that will be led by conductor **Marc David**, with mime **Dan Kamin**.

An educational project made possible thanks to Ruth and David Steinberg

Moreover, as part of the *Russian Legends* Youth Concert last April, the educational project *Pictures at an Exhibition* took place thanks to the generous contribution of Ruth and David Steinberg. Because of their donation, the OSM was able to invite 300 schoolchildren from the greater Montreal area to attend this particular matinée free of charge. This was a first experience for students who had never had the chance to attend one of the Orchestra's concerts. To prepare for this very special outing, the students carried out a multidisciplinary project in class inspired by the theme of the concert – the imaginary and Russian orchestral music – and were thus led to discover this great music and the OSM through a collaborative project that helped them get the most out of their experience.

COLLABORATION WITH MUSIC INSTITUTIONS

The OSM cares very much about its partnerships with the primary higher-education music institutions, namely McGill University's Schulich School of Music, the Faculty of Music at the Université de Montréal and the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. A number of the OSM's guest artists, including Lang Lang and Maxim Vengerov, artists in residence for the 2014-2015 season, will be offering masterclasses for young musicians. Details for these activities will be revealed at a later date.

Additionally, the OSM is pleased to announce a new partnership with École secondaire Pierre-Laporte. Students will attend certain of the Orchestra's concerts, while the OSM's assistant conductor, Dina Gilbert, will mentor the school's music program, hosting workshops, doing presentations for the students during the season and organizing special activities.

Reminder: news from the Conservatoire

On May 3rd, Kent Nagano led the Orchestre symphonique du Conservatoire de musique de Montréal during a sold out concert at the Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Montréal in. On the program, the Fifth Symphony by Jean Sibelius and Max Bruch's First Violin Concerto in G minor featuring OSM concertmaster Andrew Wan.

BAL DES ENFANTS

The first edition of the **OSM Bal des enfants** in February, made it possible for hundreds of children from all backgrounds to discover orchestral music at a grand party designed especially with them in mind: animations, gala atmosphere and symphonic concert led by Kent Nagano. The event was such a success that the OSM is happy to announce that the next Bal des enfants will take place by popular demand on February 14, 2015. Details to follow!

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

BMO Financial Group is the OSM's season partner.

Air Canada has been the official airline of the OSM for over 30 years.

Rio Tinto Alcan is proud to support music education at the OSM.

The Concours OSM Standard Life is presented in collaboration with Galaxie.

Fondation J.A DeSève and Great-West, London Life and Canada-Vie are proud to be associated with the youth concerts.

The Children's Corner is presented by Industrielle Alliance.

The OSM Bal des enfants is presented by Sun Life Financial.

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