



Présenté par



COMMUNIQUÉ

THE OSM SAYS THANK YOU TO THE PUBLIC: MORE THAN 20,000 ADMISSIONS TO CELEBRATE THE INAUGURATION OF THE GRAND ORGUE PIERRE-BÉIQUE

Montreal, Thursday, June 5, 2014 – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is pleased to note that the inauguration of its new instrument, the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, ignited so much enthusiasm, with over 20,000 admissions!

“We thank the public for coming out to meet the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique,” declared OSM chief executive officer Madeleine Careau, “whether for the inaugural concerts with more than 8,000 tickets sold or for the open-doors day, which accounted for a distribution of close to 12,000 tickets all by itself. Thanks to the public for demonstrating such pride; it was truly heartwarming.”

The festivities comprised, in addition to a dress rehearsal, an inaugural concert on May 28 and two other concerts on May 29 and June 1, as well as an additional concert scheduled for June 9, conducted by Kent Nagano and featuring OSM organist emeritus Olivier Latry and organist in residence Jean-Willy Kunz. And on May 31 the community was invited to make the acquaintance of the new OSM instrument on the occasion of a free open-doors day with seven recitals and other activities in Place des Arts.

Broadcasts

Two live broadcasts of the May 29 concert, by ICI Musique as part of *Soirées classiques* hosted by Mario Paquet, and by medici.tv, made it possible for audiences from here and elsewhere to hear the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique.

And it is still possible to view the May 29 concert free of charge on medici.tv, which offers the concert at no charge for three months following the concert date. Visit osm.ca to discover or relive this historic concert!

Upcoming opportunities to hear the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique

The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique will play a substantial role in the OSM’s summer period and next season, either by way of a recital series or through the Casavant Frères Opus 3,900 being incorporated in certain large-scale concerts and innovative programs.

During the summer:

- As part of the OSM Couche-Tard Classical Spree Festival, singer **Pierre Lapointe** and **Jean-Willy Kunz**, OSM organist in residence, will showcase the sounds of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique in an unusual concert for voice and organ (August 16)
- On the occasion of the Montreal Fashion & Design Festival, **Jean-Willy Kunz** will make the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique resonate during a free grand open-air parade on the Place des Festivals (August 20)

During the 2014-2015 season:

- **Olivier Latty**, organist emeritus of the OSM, will present a recital (October 16)
- In a different register, reviving an impressive art form virtually forgotten today, organist **William O'Meara** will improvise a soundtrack to Rupert Julian's 1925 version of *The Phantom of the Opera* (October 31)
- **Jean-Willy Kunz**, OSM organist in residence, will perform the Organ Concerto, Op. 68 by Jacques Hétu (November 9)
- A magnificent concert matching organ and voice will be presented with **Isabelle Demers** and **Marianne Fiset** (February 21)
- A work by composer Tod Machover, inspired by Montaigne, for organ, brass quintet, electroacoustics and narrator, with the participation of **Jean-Willy Kunz**, will be premiered (May 16)
- Chorus and organ: under the direction of Andrew Megill, the OSM Chorus will perform in a Germanic program consisting of Beethoven, Mozart and Haydn with **Patrick Wedd** (October 26) and in an Italian program that includes Verdi, again with **Jean-Willy Kunz** (April 19)
- With holiday season approaching, Kent Nagano will present a program with tenor **Vittorio Grigolo** and **Luc Beauséjour** on the organ (December 16 and 18)

In addition, the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique will be showcased at preconcert events as well as during youth concerts throughout the season.

For more information, browse through the entire programming and reserve your seats online on osm.ca or by phone from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at **514-842-9951**.

The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique

The organ at Maison symphonique de Montréal, inaugurated on May 28, 2014, was manufactured by the house of Casavant on behalf of the OSM (and is the Orchestra's property), with the collaboration of architects Diamond Schmitt + Ædifica for its visual design. This is a large organ intended for orchestral use, and is recorded in the books of the Saint-Hyacinthe builder as Opus 3,900. It consists of 109 registers, 83 stops, 116 ranks and 6,489 pipes.

It bears the name Grand Orgue Pierre Béique in tribute to the OSM founder and first general manager (from 1939 to 1970). An astute administrator and a committed music lover, Pierre Béique took over from Antonia Nantel, wife of Athanase David, who had acted, since 1934, as secretary of the board of directors of the Société des concerts symphoniques de Montréal, the forerunner of the OSM.

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.

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

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The organ festivities are presented by Estiatorio Milos in association with the Fabrique de la paroisse Notre-Dame de Montréal.

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

Source: **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal**
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