



KEVIN PARENT AND JIM CUDDY AT THE OSM!
Under the direction of Simon Leclerc
September 22 and 23 at 8:00 p.m. at Maison symphonique

Montréal, September 15, 2015 – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is pleased to announce the appointment of Simon Leclerc as **associate conductor of the OSM POP concert series** and announce at the same time the first concert in that series: [Kevin Parent and Jim Cuddy at the OSM](#), on **September 22 and 23 at 8:00 p.m.** Simon Leclerc, who possesses the rare talent of elevating pop music, of heightening its colors bringing out its nuances through his symphonic orchestrations, will be associated with the OSM for the next three seasons. After radically transforming the music of Mika and charming over 35,000 people on the Place des Festivals last July with the concert “Les Trois Accords symphonique,” Simon will kick off the new season of pop concerts by revisiting the worlds of Kevin Parent and Jim Cuddy in an orchestral version. Audiences will enjoy rediscovering, among others, hits that include Kevin Parent’s “Seigneur” and “Maudite Jalousie” along with Jim Cuddy’s “Ready to Fall” and “Pull Me Through.”

Simon Leclerc

Associate conductor of the OSM POP concert series

Simon Leclerc studied at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal and has become an arranger-orchestrator especially sought-after by Québec artists. With the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal he has been responsible for orchestral concerts staged around Lorraine Desmarais, Bruno Pelletier, Isabelle Boulay, Gino Vannelli, Diane Reeves, Laurence Jalbert, *Starmania*, *Notre-Dame de Paris* and *Starmania vs. Notre-Dame de Paris*. He spent six years in Los Angeles, leading the Paramount Pictures orchestra for television series like *Star Trek: Voyager* and *Star Trek: Enterprise*. During the OSM’S 2011-2012 season, Simon Leclerc conducted the Orchestra in concerts with Simple Plan, Rufus Wainwright, Marie-Mai and David Usher. After “Vincent Vallières & Isabelle Boulay go symphonic” in September 2012, the conductor revisited the Orchestra with Mes Aïeux and Plume Latraverse in June 2013, as well as with Cœur de pirate and Adam Cohen in October of the same year, conducting his one-of-a-kind orchestral arrangements of those musicians’ songs. In the spring of 2014 he led the OSM in “Hats off to *Les Belles-soeurs*,” after *Les Belles-soeurs*, René Richard Cyr and Daniel Bélanger’s piece of musical theater based on the play of the same name by Michel Tremblay. His last appearances with the OSM date from the fall of 2014 alongside the group Les Trois Accords and from February 2015 with singer Mika, and more recently with Jean-Pierre Ferland.

Kevin Parent

Kevin Parent grew up in the Gaspé, where his roots are. He started on guitar as a teenager and took his first steps onstage with covers of Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens and Pink Floyd. The general public adopted him from the moment that selections from *Pigeon d’argile*, his first album (one that earned him three Félix at the 1996 ADISQ gala), began to flood the airwaves. *Grand parleur, petit faiseur* made as much of an impact in 1998, followed by *Les vents ont changé* in 2001. Two compilations and various collaborations later, he came out with *Fangless Wolf Facing Winter*, his first album in English. He went back to French with an eponymous release in October 2009. Two years later he had a leading role in the Jean-Marc Vallée film *Café de Flore*, sharing the screen

with Vanessa Paradis, Évelyne Brochu and Hélène Florent. In 2013 Kevin Parent performed at the 25^{es} FrancoFolies de Montréal and released *Face à l'ouest*, an album with a disarmingly simple concept: most of the songs were recorded in a single take, with no effects. A great audience favorite, Kevin Parent has never lost the profound authenticity that has always guided his artistic and professional decisions.

Jim Cuddy

With more than four million albums and eleven Juno Awards to their credit, Blue Rodeo has made a name as one of the most important contemporary Canadian rock groups. Founded in 1984 by the principal singers, guitarists and songwriters in the band, Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor, its success and longevity can largely be accounted for by the pair's love for touring and their fans, and by their unwavering commitment to pushing back the limits of their creativity. Blending all their country, blues, folk and rock influences, Blue Rodeo possesses a sound all its own. To date the band has released thirteen studio albums, three live albums, a greatest hits box set and five DVDs. Blue Rodeo has also received a Governor General's Performing Arts Award, a star on Canada's Walk of Fame, membership in the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, fifteen SOCAN Classics awards, the National Achievement Award and the key to the City of Toronto. In 1998 Jim Cuddy released the first of his three solo albums, *All in Time*, certified Gold, which won him the Juno Award for Best Male Vocalist. *The Light That Guides You Home*, which appeared in 2006, took the Juno for Adult Alternative Album of the Year. In 2011 he released *Skyscraper Soul*, his third, critically acclaimed, solo album. Jim Cuddy has received two Juno Awards for his solo works and was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada in 2013.

Next Pop concert: OSM Soul!

In November, Simon Leclerc will reintroduce us to some of music's great classics as performed by soul voices, namely those of Elizabeth Blouin-Brathwaite, Gardy Fury, Kim Richardson, Dorian Sherwood and Normand Brathwaite, at the [OSM Soul](#) concert on November 3 and 4.

To reserve tickets or to learn more
about the programming for the OSM's 82nd season: 514 842-9951 or osm.ca

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