

**NOVEMBER AT THE OSM:
The return of Kent Nagano and the Orchestra at Maison symphonique,
a tribute to the Québec organ
and the 75th anniversary of the OSM Standard Life competition**

Montreal, Thursday, October 23, 2014 – After an acclaimed Asian tour in October, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and Kent Nagano will be happy to find themselves back with its Montreal audience for a very busy month of November. The OSM Concertmaster, **Andrew Wan**, will be performing the complete violin concertos of Saint-Saëns during four concerts.

The OSM is also getting together again with German violinist **Christian Tetzlaff**, who will perform Polish composer Karol Szymanowski's poetic *Violin Concerto No. 1*, and welcoming for the first time the Swedish soprano **Miah Persson**, a guest of the greatest opera houses, in the sublime *Four Last Songs* by Richard Strauss. That program, which consists of four works conducted by Maestro Nagano, will also feature Arnold Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night*, a piece whose profound nature has lost nothing to the passing of the years.

The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique will resound once again this month. After an added staging of the *Phantom of the Opera* program on November 1, **Jean-Willy Kunz**, OSM organist in residence, will be heard in an Orchestra premiere of Jacques Hétu's *Organ Concerto*, already a standard work in the repertoire.

Dina Gilbert will conduct two concerts this month: *Peter and the Wolf*, a fresh collaboration with the Platypus Theatre presented as part of the children's corner concerts, and *Amor!*, the first appearance in a regular series for the OSM's assistant conductor, a Spanish-inspired program that includes the celebrated *Concerto de Aranjuez* in its harp version, performed by OSM principal harp **Jennifer Swartz**.

In November, the OSM will celebrate the **75th anniversary of the OSM Standard Life competition**, devoted this year to voice, brass and woodwinds. The semifinals and finals of the Competition are completely free of charge and accessible. The semifinals will take place at the Tanna Schulich hall of McGill University, while the finals will be held once again at Maison symphonique de Montréal. The performances will be streamed live free of charge for a second year on osm.ca.

A new feature this year: the **Stingray Music "Public's choice"** will enable the audience to vote for the candidate of their choice, both in the concert hall and online. All details will be released soon. Since its founding in 1940, the Competition has crowned over 300 prize-winners and launched them on the national and international scene. The Competition offers an essential and formative experience that will contribute to the development of the competitors' careers by affording them the opportunity of very special contact with the musicians of the OSM and a preeminent international jury.

In Bourgie Hall at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, OSM chamber musicians will be offering a program establishing links between the worlds of Franz Schubert and Anton Webern.

A prizewinner at the Niccolò Paganini International Violin Competition in 1988 and named Gramophone artist of the year 2014, violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** is partnering with pianist **Yuja Wang**, winner of numerous awards, including Best Debut Album from *International Piano* magazine. The two artists are appearing for the first time in Montreal, at the Maison symphonique, as a duo, in four sonatas from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Another prominent guest, **China's National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra**, will perform in Montreal under the direction of its principal conductor, **Lü Jia**, in a program devoted largely to Chinese composers.

The Phantom of the Opera

Series: Organ
Saturday, November 1 – 8 p.m. (additional presentation)

William O'Meara, organ

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Here is an unconventional evening which observes Halloween in sublimely appropriate fashion. The Maison symphonique transforms into a movie theater for the projection of the film *The Phantom of the Opera*, with an accompanying soundtrack improvised live by **William O'Meara** at the controls of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique. Well known to movie buffs that frequent the Cinematheque Ontario, the organist became a master of the nearly forgotten art of accompanying silent movies. The character of the *Phantom of the Opera* has fascinated audiences for over 100 years. Gaston Leroux was the first to tell the story in his fantastical novel published in 1910, but there have also been numerous musicals, pop adaptations, a ballet and films based on the tale. One of these is the 1925 movie directed by New Zealand filmmaker Rupert Julian (1879-1943).

[For further details](#)

Mussorgsky and Rachmaninoff

Series: BMO Financial Group Tuesday Grand Concerts and Air Canada Thursday Grand Concerts 1
Tuesday, November 4 – 8 p.m.
Thursday, November 6 – 8 p.m.

Juraj Valčuha, conductor
Christian Tetzlaff, violin

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Named “Instrumentalist of the Year” by *Musical America* in 2005, German violinist **Christian Tetzlaff** is making a return to the OSM in the *Violin Concerto No. 1* by Karol Szymanowski, one of his best known scores, which plunges the listener into a magical dream-world atmosphere. Slovak conductor Juraj Valčuha, principal conductor with the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI since 2009, will lead the OSM for the first time, in two essential works from the Russian repertoire: *A Night on Bald Mountain* by Modest Mussorgsky (the symphonic poem set to images by Walt Disney in *Fantasia*) and Sergei Rachmaninoff’s *Symphonic Dances*. Dedicated to conductor Eugene Ormandy and to the Philadelphia Orchestra and described as possibly a “last spark” by their composer, the *Symphonic Dances* unfold more or less like a concerto for orchestra, and feature new orchestral colors.

[For further details](#)

Amor!

Series: Fondation J.A. DeSève Symphonic Matinees
Thursday, November 6 – 10:30 a.m.

Dina Gilbert, OSM assistant conductor
Jennifer Swartz, OSM principal harp

Maison symphonique de Montréal

OSM assistant conductor, **Dina Gilbert**, has prepared a program with a Spanish theme that juxtaposes works by Maurice Ravel, Joaquín Rodrigo and Manuel de Falla with the monumental *Guernica* after Pablo Picasso’s overwhelming canvas by Québec composer Clermont Pépin – a Beauce native, like Dina Gilbert. This symphonic poem would win first prize at a competition organized by Université Laval for its centenary in 1952. The program also includes Ravel’s *Alborada del gracioso*, a virtuoso work that ranks with the most popular in the composer’s catalogue; the two suites extracted from the ballet *The Three-Cornered Hat* by Manuel de Falla; and the famous *Concerto de Aranjuez* by Rodrigo, a loving tribute to the composer’s wife performed here in its harp version by **Jennifer Swartz**, OSM Principal Harp.

[For further details](#)

Tribute to the Québec organ

Series: Musical Sundays
Sunday, November 9 – 2:30 p.m.

Juraj Valčuha, conductor
Jean-Willy Kunz, OSM organist in residence

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Preconcert discussion at 1:30 p.m.
hosted by Matthieu Dugal, with Jean-Willy Kunz

This concert matches the two Russian works from the programs of November 4 and 6 with the OSM premiere of Jacques Hétu's *Organ Concerto*, interpreted by organist in residence **Jean-Willy Kunz**. First performed in 2002 at the inauguration of the Davis Concert Organ at Edmonton's Winspear Centre, the work in five movements of varied forms is an especially convincing example of the esthetic of this Québec composer who passed away in 2010, a former student of Dutilleux and Messiaen.

[For further details](#)

China's National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra

Thursday, November 13 – 8 p.m.

This concert is presented by the National Arts Centre of Canada

China's National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra

Lü Jia, conductor

Lü Siqing, violin

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Following an Asian tour in October that took it to China for the first time, the OSM welcomes China's National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra. It will be under the direction of its principal conductor, **Lü Jia**, first-prize and jury-prize winner in 1989 at the Antonio Pedrotti International Competition for Orchestra Conductors, and the first Chinese conductor to have led the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and to have recorded the complete symphonic work of Mendelssohn.

The program includes two Chinese pieces: *Wu Xing* (Five Elements) by Qigang Chen (a composer to whom we also owe *Enchantements oubliés*, heard during the OSM's 2013-2014 season) and the popular *Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto* by He Zhanhao and Chen Gang. The latter is one of the most triumphant marriages between East and West, a great classical success of recent decades, which evokes an old legend of damned lovers who metamorphose into butterflies and disappear together forever. It will be performed here by **Lü Siqing**, first-prize winner at the prestigious Niccolò Paganini International Violin Competition in 1999, and who has recorded the work on the Naxos label. Also on the program, Antonin Dvořák's Symphony No. 8, regarded by some as the Czech composer's "Pastoral," embracing as it does Man's sense of wonder before Nature.

[For further details](#)

Wang and Kavakos: a perfect duo!

Series: Recitals, in collaboration with Pro Musica

Saturday, November 15 – 8 p.m.

Leonidas Kavakos, violin

Yuja Wang, piano

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Hailed on the international scene as solo performers, pianist Yuja Wang and violinist Leonidas Kavakos chose to be chamber-music partners. A first album appeared in 2014 devoted to the violin sonatas of Johannes Brahms. And this recital does contain the German composer's *Second Sonata*, as well as the Robert Schumann's *Second Sonata*. The program is rounded out by Maurice Ravel's *First Sonata*, a posthumous work, and the rarely played *Sonata in B minor* by Ottorino Respighi, who demonstrates a more concentrated and intimate instrumental mastery than in his spectacular orchestral scores, including the *Fountains of Rome* contemporaneous with the sonata.

[For further details](#)

Peter and the Wolf

Replacing The Young Person's Adventure Guide to the Orchestra, concert originally announced

Series: Industrial Alliance Children's Corner
Sunday, November 16 – 1:30 p.m.

Dina Gilbert, OSM assistant conductor
Peter Duschenes, artistic director, Platypus Theater
Platypus Theatre

Maison symphonique de Montréal

OSM Assistant conductor, Dina Gilbert, will lead the Orchestra in this new collaboration with Platypus Theatre. In a brand-new interpretation of a much-loved classic, Peter is a dreamer coping with the pressures of daily living when suddenly he finds himself in the middle of an exciting adventure: the capture of a wily wolf. Two dancers, Amelia Griffin and Mélissa Roy, colorful sets and incredible masks make for a modern and humorous re-telling of this story which hasn't aged since its creation in 1936. An ideal production for the whole family, *Peter and the Wolf* brings listeners in on the action as they help catch the mangy marauder once and for all!

[For further details](#)

75th anniversary of the OSM Standard Life competition-devoted to brass, voice and woodwinds

From November 18-22, 2014

Semifinals :

Tanna Schulich Hall of the Schulich School of Music of McGill University
Wednesday, November 19, Woodwinds, starting at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 20, Brass, starting at 9:30 a.m.
Friday, November 21, Voice, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Finals:

Maison symphonique de Montréal
Saturday, November 22, starting at 9:30 a.m.
Followed by the Awards Ceremony

[For further details](#)

The voice of romanticism

Series: Fillion Électronique Wednesday Grand Concerts 2 and Power Corporation of Canada Thursday Grand Concerts 2

Wednesday, November 19 - 8 p.m.

Thursday, November 20 - 8 p.m.

Kent Nagano, conductor

Miah Persson, soprano

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Swedish soprano **Miah Persson**, who has conquered critics with her performances of the Mozart repertoire and the role of Sophie in Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, appears for the first time with the OSM. She will sing Strauss's *Four Last Songs*, an ultimate and wonderful tribute to the voice, a melancholy yet life-affirming journey from spring to dusk, which would enjoy great audience success beginning with its premiere in Munich.

The Prelude and the "Liebestod" that recounts the final scene of Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, one of the most deeply moving passages in the operatic repertoire; Arnold Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night*, a direct descendent of the Richard Wagner opera both in its musical language and in its theme; and Franz Schubert's *Symphony No. 8, "Unfinished"* complete this program conducted by Maestro Nagano.

[For further details](#)

Death and the Maiden

Series: Chamber music with OSM musicians - Pictures in Music

Friday, November 21 – 6:30 p.m.

Brigitte Rolland, violin

Alexander Read, violin

Natalie Racine, viola

Anna Burden, cello

Bourgie Hall – Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

If the name Anton Webern today is associated with serialism, the composer nevertheless wrote at least two movements for string quartet making good use of tonal language, including the *Langsamer Satz* (slow movement), a piece inspired by a walking excursion in Lower Austria with the woman who would become his wife. Borne by his love, he wrote a work that conveyed in striking fashion the upheavals of the soul, with the ardent admirer ending up by discovering a joyful calm. Written in 1909, four years later, the Five Movements for String Quartet weave motifs in a crystalline texture with great mastery, each facet complementing the next, leaving the listener with an almost abstract impression of contrasts. If death hovers over the *String Quartet "Death and the Maiden"* inspired by an earlier lied and which some perceive as a mini-requiem – this haunting score also bears within itself an ineluctable willingness to live.

[For further details](#)

The Saint-Saëns Violin Concertos

Series: BBA Wednesday Grand Concerts 1, Fondation J.A. DeSève Symphonic Matinees, Rush Hour Concerts and OSM Saturday Evenings

[Wednesday](#), November 26 – 8 p.m.

[Thursday](#), November 27 – 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

[Saturday](#), November 29 – 8 p.m.

OSM Young Ambassadors event after the concert on Saturday, November 29

Kent Nagano, conductor

Andrew Wan, OSM concertmaster

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Concertmaster with the OSM since 2008, **Andrew Wan** has won numerous awards, including the 2012 prix Opus for best performance for his work with the New Orford String Quartet. During the four concerts of this final week in November he will be heard in a complete reading of the *Violin Concertos* by Camille Saint-Saëns (the First and Second on November 26 and 29, the Third during the two concerts on November 27), two of which were dedicated to the Spanish virtuoso Pablo de Sarasate. Two of Mozart's best-known works complete the programs: His *Symphony No. 40*, of unequalled emotional power, and the inescapable *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*.

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The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal wishes to thank
Loto-Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts de Montréal
for their generous support.

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

BMO Financial Group is partner of the 2014-2015 season.

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

The OSM Standard Life Competition is presented by Standard Life
and in collaboration with Galaxy Stingray.

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