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PRESS RELEASE

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THE OSM IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF ORGANIST IN RESIDENCE OLIVIER LATRY BECOMES ORGANIST EMERITUS

Montreal, December 18, 2012 – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is seeking an **organist in residence** for the Grand Orgue Pierre Béique in Maison symphonique de Montréal, whose inauguration will take place in May 2014. The call for applications specifies the setting up of a selection committee and a major competition, at the conclusion of which an organist in residence, either a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident, will be chosen. **Kent Nagano** will take part in the selection process. **Olivier Latry**, meanwhile, titular organist at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris since 1985 and currently advisor to the OSM in regard to the acquisition of the organ, becomes **organist emeritus**.

In addition to playing during the season, the organist in residence will be charged with the development and the showcasing of the Grand Orgue Pierre Béique, notably through the coordination of concerts and organ recitals as well as through outreach activities. His or her mandate will also include making this magnificent instrument better known by way of education programs involving the general public, the young and the rising musical generation (graduate students). He or she will answer questions of a technical nature from guest organists and partners, and will be responsible for the maintenance of the instrument in collaboration with Casavant Frères.

The organist in residence is scheduled to assume his or her responsibilities in November 2013. **Applications** must be submitted **between now and January 31, 2013**. The final auditions, the first taking place in Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste and the second in Maison symphonique de Montréal, will be held on March 17, 2013, and open to the general public. The creation of a work by Serge Provost, commissioned by the OSM, will mark the second audition. The selection committee will count on the participation of the following members: Kent Nagano, Olivier Latry, Pierre Grandmaison, John Grew, Jacquelin Rochette, Noël Spinelli et Patrick Wedd.

Olivier Latry will take part in the selection process for the organist in residence. In his capacity as organist emeritus, his duties will consist of performing with the Orchestra as soloist or presenting a recital annually, in addition to serving as music consultant and overseeing the organ programming. Moreover, he will evaluate the condition of the instrument on an annual basis.

“The Grand Orgue Pierre Béique in Maison Symphonique de Montréal will become a key player in Montreal’s musical and cultural life,” declared Olivier Latry. “And in doing so it will symbolize the renewal of this great instrument’s tradition in Québec and in Canada.”

The Grand Orgue Pierre Béique

It will be remembered that the organ was generously offered to the OSM by Madam Jacqueline Desmarais. Designed and manufactured by the house of Casavant Frères on behalf of the OSM, which is its owner, the great organ consists of 6,489 pipes, 4 keyboards, 109 registers, 83 stops and 116 ranks. It is the 3,900th instrument from the prestigious Québec organ maker.

The organ at Maison symphonique de Montréal, to be inaugurated on May 28, 2014, was designed and built on behalf of the OSM by the house of Casavant with the collaboration of architects Diamond and Schmitt and Ædifica for its visual design, and will be the Orchestra's property. 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.

The instrument 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 Mrs. 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, in so doing, wished to keep alive the memory of the lasting contribution made by Mr. Pierre Béique to the OSM's mission of excellence.

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.

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

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec.
The 2012-2013 season is presented in association with National Bank.

- 30 -

Source: **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal**
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