



ORCHESTRE
SYMPHONIQUE
DE MONTRÉAL

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INAUGURATION OF THE GRAND ORGUE PIERRE-BÉIQUE: ADDITIONAL CONCERT ON JUNE 9 2014!

Montreal, April 9, 2014 – By popular demand, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is pleased to **add an extra concert, as part of the inauguration of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, on Monday, June 9th**. This concert will be an addition to the following **sold out representations**: the inaugural concert on May 28th and the great concerts on May 29 and June 1st. **The tickets for the additional concert on June 9 at 6:30 p.m. are on sale now** at osm.ca or at **514-842-9951**.

The Saint-Saëns *Organ* Symphony

The first French symphony of importance since Berlioz, Camille Saint-Saëns's Third Symphony is eloquent testimony to the winds that were renewing the symphonic world in France in the late 19th century. Saint-Saëns here amalgamates the colors of the piano with those of the orchestra and uses the organ in a register that is both intimate and sparkling. Declared "the best organist in the world" by no less than Liszt, Saint-Saëns possessed an almost superhuman mastery of the qualities so particular to the instrument. During this additional concert, Jean-Willy Kunz, OSM organist in residence, will also perform Bach's celebrated Toccata in D minor and Liszt's Prelude and Fugue on the Theme B.A.C.H.

Program

BACH, Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565

LISZT, Prelude and Fugue on the Theme B.A.C.H.

SAINT-SAËNS, Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Op. 78, (*Organ*)

Artists

Kent Nagano, conductor

Jean-Willy Kunz, organist in residence

A reminder of the stages of realization of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique

Since the acceptance of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique on January 16, 2014, the final phase of the project, the break-in period of the instrument, is currently underway and will end on May 28, when the first sounds of the organ will ring out in Maison symphonique. The programming for the inauguration days of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique includes an open-house day for May 31, the inaugural concert on May 28, and two other concerts, on May 29 and June 1, at which OSM organist in residence Jean-Willy Kunz will be premiering a work commissioned from Canadian composer Samy Moussa. Details of the festivities, to which the public is of course invited, will be announced at a later date.

It will be recalled that in November 2006, a committee was set up with the goal of defining the artistic needs and technical properties of an organ designed expressly as an orchestral instrument, and to seek competitive bids. In September 2009, following discussions with the committee and music director Maestro Kent Nagano, the OSM

executive board decided in favor of Casavant Frères. Subsequently, Olivier Latry was named artistic advisor to the OSM so that compliance with the specifications determined by the committee could be guaranteed. The instrument was manufactured in the workshops of Casavant Frères in Saint-Hyacinthe and then installed in Maison symphonique de Montréal thanks to the efforts of builders from that internationally renowned house.

The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique

The organ at Maison symphonique de Montréal, to be inaugurated on May 28, 2014, was manufactured on behalf of the OSM by the house of Casavant with the collaboration of architects Diamond Schmitt + 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.

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 Dame 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.

The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique festivities are made possible thanks to the financial support of Estiatorio Milos and La Fabrique de la paroisse Notre-Dame de Montréal.

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

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