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PRESS RELEASE

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INAUGURATION OF THE GRAND ORGUE PIERRE-BÉIQUE: CONCERTS, BROADCASTS AND AN OPEN HOUSE!

Montreal, Wednesday, May 7, 2014 – With the inauguration of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique fast approaching, the public is invited to discover this larger-than-life instrument. The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is pleased to unveil the final program details for the inauguration of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique. The first notes of this instrument with the Orchestra in the Maison symphonique de Montréal will ring out during a grand inaugural concert planned for May 28, two other concerts on May 29 and June 1, and an additional concert on June 9, led by Kent Nagano and highlighting organist emeritus Olivier Latry and organist in residence Jean-Willy Kunz. Audiences at home and abroad will be able to hear the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique thanks to two live broadcasts of the May 29 concert by ICI Musique and medici.tv. As well, on May 31, everyone is invited to come and see the new instrument at the OSM during a free open house, featuring seven recitals and assorted events at Place des Arts. These festivities are presented by Estiatorio Milos. In anticipation of the inauguration, the public will be able to follow a social media campaign and discover the multiple facets of this remarkable organ and hear musical excerpts of the instrument!

OPEN HOUSE – SATURDAY, MAY 31

The 80th season of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal will end with the inauguration of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, the Casavant Frères Opus 3900. The OSM invites the population to an open house, whose theme is *The organ in the city*. The day will feature seven free 45-minute recitals at the Maison symphonique de Montréal, an exhibit by Casavant Frères at the Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme, and a talk hosted by Georges Nicholson at the Salon urbain.

First come, first served

To attend a recital and take part in the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique open house, arrive early, as places are limited. The public is invited to come to the Salon urbain of the Place des Arts on May 31, starting at 9 a.m. (1600 St Urbain Street, in front of the entrance of the Maison symphonique) to get their tickets. Only one ticket will be given out per person for the next available recital, until all the tickets have been handed out. Note that the first of the seven recitals is suitable for the whole family. Once a ticket has been issued, a person may leave and return in time for the recital, but it is recommended to stay and enjoy the events taking place on site!

Espace Milos contest

For a chance to get a seat in advance to the concert of their choice and avoid lineups at the ticket office, the public is invited to take part in a contest. Win the privilege of reserving one of 1,400 seats (200 seats per concert) in the Espace Milos. To enter, go to osm.ca now. Each winner will receive a limit of two tickets for the concert of his or her choice (according to availability), and will have access to the Espace Milos located on the corbeille, which offers an impressive view of the entire Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, all this in the exceptional acoustics of the Maison symphonique. Enter now!

LIVE BROADCAST OF THE MAY 29 CONCERT

To make it possible for the most people possible to share the experience of the larger-than-life Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, two broadcasts of the May 29 concert at the Maison symphonique de Montréal, *Bach, Liszt and Saint-Saëns*, will be offered to audiences at home and abroad. A historic moment!

- The May 29 concert will be broadcast live on ICI Musique (100.7 FM in Montreal), as part of the *Soirées classiques* series hosted by Mario Paquet.
- This concert will also be streamed for the OSM on medici.tv and will be made available free of charge both live and as a replay for three months following the concert. This will mark the fourth OSM concert presented on medici.tv. This internationally recognized web platform offers an extensive catalogue of classical music online, and broadcasts concerts presented by the world's leading orchestras, festivals, events, and contemporary classical artists. The live streaming on medici.tv is presented in collaboration with Air Canada.

Led by maestro Nagano, two original creations will be presented as world premieres during this concert. The first, *Maan Varjot* by Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho, is a joint order from the OSM, the Orchestre national de Lyon and London's Southbank Center. The Second, *A Globe Itself Infolding* was an order by the OSM to Canadian composer, Samy Moussa.

DISCOVER THE GRAND ORGUE PIERRE-BÉIQUE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

In the days leading up to the inauguration of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, informative video and audio clips will give the public a chance to get to know the OSM's new instrument better. They will be able to find out about Pierre Béique, founder and first general manager (1939-1970), Olivier Latry, OSM organist emeritus and Jean-Willy Kunz, OSM organist in residence, as well as discovering the various steps involved in the project and listening to the tonal colour of some of the instrument's 83 stops in excerpts performed by Jean-Willy Kunz. Make sure you don't miss a thing! Follow the OSM on Facebook and Twitter!

A LOOK BACK AT THE STAGES IN THE GRAND ORGUE PIERRE-BÉIQUE PROJECT

Since the acceptance of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique on January 16, 2014, the instrument has been undergoing its breaking-in phase. This phase of the project will end on May 28, when the first sounds of the organ will ring out in the Maison symphonique.

It will be recalled that in November 2006, a committee was formed with the goal of determining the artistic needs and technical properties of an organ designed expressly as an orchestral instrument, and to launch a call for tenders. In September 2009, following discussions with the committee and music director Maestro Kent Nagano, the OSM's executive committee decided in favour of Casavant Frères. Subsequently, Olivier Latry was named artistic advisor to the Orchestra so that compliance with the specifications determined by the committee would be guaranteed. The instrument was manufactured in the workshops of Casavant Frères in Saint-Hyacinthe and then installed in the Maison symphonique de Montréal by the builders of that internationally renowned house.

The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique

The organ at Maison symphonique de Montréal, which will be inaugurated on May 28, 2014, was manufactured for the OSM by the house of Casavant 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 3900. 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 founder and first general manager (1939-1970) of the OSM. A committed music lover and astute administrator, 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.

The acquisition 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 inimitable contribution made by Mr. Pierre Béique to the OSM's mission of excellence.

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

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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.

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

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

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GRAND ORGUE PIERRE-BÉRIQUE: OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2014

The recitals presented by Maestro Kent Nagano during the open house to let the public discover this larger-than-life instrument:

Recital 1: 11 a.m.
Carnival of the Animals
Family concert

Jean-Willy Kunz, organ (France/Quebec)
Patrice Bélanger, actor

Saint-Saëns (arr. Kunz), *Carnival of the Animals*

Recital 2: 12:30 a.m.
Cultural Encounters

Christian Lane, organ (United States – winner of the CIOC)

Cook, *Fanfare*
Denis Bédard, *Masque*
L. Couperin, Chaconne in G minor
Bossi, Intermezzo
Schütz, *Dance with Me*
Widor, Symphony No. 6, Op. 42, No. 2 “Allegro”

Recital 3: 2 p.m.
City Music

Régis Rousseau, organ (Chicoutimi – director of the Conservatoire de musique de Saguenay)

Bach (arr. Guilmant), Cantata *Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir*, BWV 29, “Sinfonia”
Anonymous, *Livre d’orgue de Montréal*, Four pieces in F, Nos. 59 to 62
Plein jeu
Duo
Récit
Dialogue
Bovet, Hamburg Prelude No. 1, “Salamanca”
Vierne, Fantasy Piece, Op. 54, No. 6, “Carillon de Westminster”

Recital 4: 3:30 p.m.
Architecture Through the Ages

Hans-Ola Ericsson, organ (Sweden – teacher at McGill University)

Messiaen, *Apparition de l’église éternelle*
Bach, *The Musical Offering*, BWV 1079, “Ricercar a 6”
Richard P. Scott (born 1953), *Frozen Fountain* – premiere
Mussorgsky (trans. K. John), *Pictures at an Exhibition*, “The Great Gate of Kiev”

Recital 5: 5:30 p.m.
The Church and Mysticism

Mireille Lagacé, organ (Quebec)

Bach, Fantasia in G minor, BWV 542
Buxtehude, *Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ*, BuxWV 196
Buxtehude, *In dulci jubilo*, BuxWV 197
Buxtehude, *Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich*, BuxWV 202
Bach, Prelude and Fugue in B minor, BWV 544

Recital 6: 7 p.m.
Music and Film

Philippe Bélanger, organ

Harold Lloyd, *Never Weaken* (1921)
Film accompanied by organ improvisation

Recital 7: 8:30 p.m.
***The Rite of Spring* on the organ**

Olivier Latry, organ (France)
Shin-Young Lee, organ (Korea)

Stravinsky (trans. Latry), *The Rite of Spring* (version for organ, 4 hands)

THE GRAND INAUGURAL CONCERTS

The Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony

Series: Special Concerts

Inaugural gala concert of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique

Under the honorary co-presidency of Mrs. Jacqueline Desmarais and Mr. Lucien Bouchard.

Co-presidents for the evening will be Mr. Louis Vachon, president and chief executive officer of National Bank, and Mr. Tom Little, president of Bell Business Markets.

Wednesday, May 28, 2014 – 7 p.m.

Maison symphonique de Montréal

The first French symphony of importance since Berlioz, Camille Saint-Saëns's Third Symphony is eloquent testimony to the winds of change that were blowing through the symphonic world in France in the late 19th century. In this work, Saint-Saëns blends the colours of the piano with those of the orchestra and uses the organ in a register that is by turns intimate and dazzling. Declared "the best organist in the world" by Liszt, Saint-Saëns possessed an almost superhuman mastery of the qualities that were so particular to the instrument. For the inaugural concert of the new Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique in the Maison symphonique de Montréal, this work will be performed by France's Olivier Latry, OSM organist emeritus and tenured organist at the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. He will also perform Bach's celebrated Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565, and Liszt's Prelude and Fugue on the Theme BACH.

For more details

Bach, Liszt and Saint-Saëns

Series: Special Concerts

Thursday, May 29, 2014 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 1, 2014 – 2:30 p.m.

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Presenter of the organ's inaugural concert: Estiatorio Milos

Partner of the organ's inaugural concert: La Fabrique de la paroisse Notre-Dame de Montréal

"The organ is not just an instrument," wrote Saint-Saëns in his memoirs. "It is an orchestra, a reunion of Pan flutes of every calibre, some as minuscule as children's toys, others as gigantic as columns of the temple [. . .] Add to that the inexhaustible breath of the monster's huge lungs, providing sounds with the incomparable and inimitable calm that everybody knows."

This concert will showcase the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique in the Maison symphonique in works by Bach, Liszt, and Saint-Saëns. Solo or with orchestra, Olivier Latry, organist emeritus and tenured organist at the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, and Jean-Willy Kunz, the OSM's organist in residence, explore the multiple facets of the new instrument designed and built by Casavant Frères, Quebec organ builders of international repute.

Under the direction of Maestro Kent Nagano, two new works will also be presented in world premieres. The first, *Maan varjot* by Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho, is a joint commission by the OSM, the Orchestre national de Lyon, and London's Southbank Centre, while the second, *A Globe Itself Infolding*, was commissioned by the OSM from Canadian composer Samy Moussa.

Preconcert talks

Thursday, May 29, 2014 – 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 1, 2014 – 1:30 p.m.

On the parterre level of the Maison symphonique

Before the May 29 and June 1 concerts, Georges Nicholson will chat with Kent Nagano and Olivier Latry, organist emeritus of the OSM.

For more details

Bach, Debussy, Saint-Saëns, and Ravel

Series: Special Concerts

Monday, June 9, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Kent Nagano, conductor

Jean-Willy Kunz, organist

BACH, Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565

DEBUSSY, *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*

SAINT-SAËNS, Symphony No. 3, “with organ”

RAVEL, *Boléro*

A few tickets for the inaugural concerts are still available! Reserve yours today at osm.ca or by calling 514 842-9951.