

## Opening of the 81<sup>st</sup> season of the OSM: A dazzling season ahead!

**Montreal, Wednesday, September 10, 2014** – Flushed with an anniversary season crowned with success, the inauguration in May of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique and a summertime concert series that brought more than 100 000 people, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is ready to take on the 2014-2015 programming. The 81<sup>st</sup> season opens with a great and beautiful love story set to music by Hector Berlioz, *Romeo and Juliet: A Night in Verona*. First concert, first shivers – a harbinger of emotions to come! Friends of the OSM, long time music lovers and newcomers, are expected to come in great numbers tonight to take a walk on the purple carpet and celebrate the opening of this new season,

Faithful to tradition, this year the Orchestra will be presenting large-scale concerts, intimate recitals, theme evenings, explosive performances, premieres of original works and prominent guests. More than enough to delight a varied audience, however conventional or adventurous their tastes may be.

Kent Nagano will be conducting a number of the great works on the schedule along with some concerts-events. Apart from *Romeo and Juliet* may be mentioned Debussy's *La mer* and Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*, Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Richard Strauss's *Sinfonia domestica* and *Death and Transfiguration*, parts of programs, incidentally, that the OSM is taking along on its tour of Asia in October. The much anticipated 3rd edition of *Fréquence OSM – Symphonic Crossing*, a co-production with Radio-Canada, will pay tribute to Mylène Paquette via the contributions of Céline Bonnier, Rémy Girard, Benoît Brière and Michel Désautels as well as Olympic athlete Joannie Rochette. With OSM concertmaster Andrew Wan, the music director of the OSM is preparing a complete reading of the violin concertos by Saint-Saëns for late November. Kent Nagano will then be offering, around the holiday period, a seasonal program with tenor Vittorio Grigolo and Luc Beauséjour on the organ. The OSM Éclaté event *Travels with Philip Glass* will bring the American pianist and celebrated composer together with Maestro Nagano. The latter will direct the North American premiere of a true pièce de résistance, *L'Aiglon*, a musical drama evoking the fate of Napoleon's son that resulted from a collaboration between Jacques Ibert and Arthur Honegger. To conclude the season, the OSM and Maestro Nagano are continuing, with Act I of *The Valkyrie*, their interpretations of Wagner operas in concert versions.

### Distinguished guests

Throughout the year we will be welcoming prestige guests like pianist Lang Lang and violinist Maxim Vengerov, artists in residence for 2014-2015. The OSM Artist in Residence Program is made possible through the generous contribution on the Larry and Cookie Rossy Family Foundation. Also to be heard are pianists Benjamin Grosvenor (first appearance with the OSM), Boris Berezovsky, Emanuel Ax, Nicolai Lugansky, Piotr Anderszewski, André Laplante and Alain Lefèvre; violinists Pinchas Zukerman, Christian Tetzlaff, Arabella Steinbacher and Augustin Dumay; cellist Alisa Weilerstein; sopranos Miah Persson and Heidi Melton and tenor Torsten Kerl. Among the guest conductors, the return of Zubin Mehta will be especially looked forward to (he will lead Mahler's Third Symphony in a benefit concert), and there will be visits by Masaaki Suzuki, Juanjo Mena, Lawrence Foster, Sir Roger Norrington, John Storgårds and Christoph Gedschold. As well as an exceptional recital series presented in collaboration with Pro musica.

### Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique

Further to the recent inauguration of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, the jewel of Maison symphonique, a choice place is being reserved for the instrument with a lineup of rich and varied activities featuring organist emeritus Olivier Lamy, organist in residence Jean-Willy Kunz and a number of guest soloists.

## **OSM Pop**

Under the direction of Simon Leclerc, the OSM POP series will be celebrating in its very own way the 10th anniversary of a quartet noted for their off-the-wall music and quirky humor: Les Trois Accords. Also performing in orchestral dress will be international star Mika and Jean-Pierre Ferland, who is singing in the company of Florence K. The OSM Express series continues, concerts being presented at 7 p.m. without intermission.

These then are the highlights of the 81st season, evenings and matinees guaranteeing pleasure and emotion in equal measure. With the quality and variety of works on the program and the appearance of numerous prestige guests, the 2014-2015 season of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal promises, once again, to be unforgettable.

Consult the complete programming of the OSM's new season and reserve your tickets online: [osm.ca](http://osm.ca)  
By telephone: 514 842-9951

## **ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE OSM**

The contribution of the Orchestra's public partners being indispensable to its operations, the OSM thanks its principal partner, Loto-Québec, as well as the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal and the Ville de Montréal.

The Orchestra is also honored to announce that BMO Financial Group will be associated to the OSM for the next five years as season partner.

The Orchestra also expresses its gratitude to BBA, Fondation J.A DeSève, Fillion Électronique, Power Corporation of Canada, Industrial Alliance, Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, Standard Life, Galaxy, TD, Spinelli Lexus, Aéroport de Montréal, Pratt and Whitney Canada, Cogeco, Groupe Investors, ESKA and Milos.

The OSM considers itself privileged to be able to count on the support of invaluable partners, and in that light thanks its presenting sponsor, Hydro-Québec, as well as Air Canada, official carrier of the OSM.

The OSM lastly salutes all its other partners, who supply, at different levels, essential support for its activities.

Information: 514 842-9951 or [www.osm.ca](http://www.osm.ca)

- 30 -

**Information:** Isabelle Brien, Head of Media Relations  
T 514 840-7414 | C 514 293-1683 | [ibrien@osm.ca](mailto:ibrien@osm.ca)