



ORCHESTRE  
SYMPHONIQUE  
DE MONTRÉAL

Presented by



## **Beginning of the season dedicated to the organ at the OSM**

Montreal, Wednesday, October 8, 2014 – Following the recent inauguration of the **Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique** in May, this jewel of the Maison symphonique de Montréal will take centre stage during the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal's 2014-2015 season, thanks to a rich and varied program featuring OSM organist emeritus **Olivier Latry**, OSM organist in residence **Jean-Willy Kunz**, as well as guest organists **William O'Meara** and **Isabelle Demers**, and soprano **Marianne Fiset**.

### **Olivier Latry in recital Thursday, October 16, 8 p.m.**

With the Canadian International Organ Competition in full swing, the OSM's organ season will kick off with a recital by Olivier Latry on **Thursday, October 16 at 8 p.m.** Recognized as one of the most important organists of his generation, not only in France but on the international stage, Olivier Latry has been the tenured organist of the Great Organ of Notre-Dame de Paris since 1985 and has concertized in more than 50 countries. He will perform *Cortège et litanie* by Marcel Dupré, the composer who succeeded Charles-Marie Widor as titular organist at Saint-Sulpice in Paris. Also on the bill will be Widor's Symphony No. 5 in F major, Op. 42, which ends with the famous "Toccata," and the Prélude, Fugue and Variation, Op. 18 by César Franck. A transcription by Edwin Henry Lemare of the Prelude and "Liebestod" from Richard Wagner's opera *Tristan und Isolde* and a transcription by Max Reger of Franz Liszt's *Legend No. 2, St. Francis of Paola Walking on the Waves* will complete the recital.

Georges Nicholson will chat with Olivier Latry in a pre-concert talk beginning at 7 p.m. at the Maison symphonique.

### **The OSM Chamber Choir and the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique Sunday, October 26, 2:30 p.m.**

Under the direction of Andrew Megill, the OSM Chorus will sing Beethoven, Mozart, and Haydn on **Sunday, October 26 at 2:30 p.m.**, accompanied by **Patrick Wedd** on the **Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique**. Some of the most beautiful works from the dramatic vocal repertoire will be presented, including Beethoven's moving *Elegiac Song*, Op. 118, written to commemorate the death of a friend, and Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, regarded by many as the composer's most popular mass.

### ***The Phantom of the Opera*: silent movie projection and live organ improvisation Friday, October 31 and an additional concert on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 8 p.m.**

The story of *The Phantom of the Opera* was first told by Gaston Leroux in a fantasy novel published in 1910, and numerous musicals, pop adaptations, a ballet, and films based on this tale have been produced since then. On **Friday, October 31 at 8 p.m., with an additional concert on Saturday, November 1 at 8 p.m.**, renowned organist **William O'Meara**, a master in the

nearly forgotten art of providing musical accompaniment to pre-1930s silent films, will improvise a live musical score for *The Phantom of the Opera*, the 1925 film directed by Rupert Julian.

**Jacques Hétu's Organ Concerto**  
**Sunday, November 9, 2:30 p.m.**

A tribute to the Quebec organ will be presented on **Sunday, November 9 at 2:30 p.m.** Under the direction of Slovakian conductor **Juraj Valčuha**, Music Director of the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI since 2009, this concert will juxtapose two of the pillars of the symphonic repertoire—Mussorgsky's *A Night on Bald Mountain* and Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances Op. 45*—and an OSM premiere of **Jacques Hétu's Organ Concerto, Op. 68, performed by Jean-Willy Kunz**, who studied with John Grew and Mireille Lagacé. First heard in 2002, the work in five movements of varying forms is a particularly compelling example of the aesthetic of this Quebec composer who died in 2010.

Matthieu Dugal will chat with Jean-Willy Kunz in a pre-concert talk beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Maison symphonique.

**Isabelle Demers and Marianne Fiset**  
**Saturday, February 21, 8 p.m.**

On **Saturday, February 21 at 8 p.m.**, organ and voice will be in the spotlight in a recital featuring **Isabelle Demers**, who is regarded as one of North America's most virtuosic organists, and soprano **Marianne Fiset**, winner of the Montreal International Music Competition's First Grand Prize in 2007 and the title of "Révélation Radio-Canada Musique" in 2009. On the program will be some pieces for solo organ and others for voice and organ, including the celebrated *Exsultate, jubilate* by Mozart, the "Pie Jesu" from Fauré's Requiem, and the Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 543, by Bach.

**Jean-Willy Kunz and the OSM Chorus**  
**Sunday, April 19, 2:30 p.m.**

OSM organist in residence Jean-Willy Kunz will also accompany the OSM Chorus on **Sunday, April 19 at 2:30 p.m.**, in an all-Italian program that will present Allegri's *Miserere* (which Mozart transcribed from memory as a child), Gabrieli's *Jubilate Deo*, and Scelsi's more contemporary *Gloria*. This concert is a showcase for the voice, with organ accompaniment for most of the pieces.

**Finale of the organ season: premiere of an OSM commission**  
**Saturday, May 16, 8 p.m.**

The curtain will come down on the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique season on **Saturday, May 16 at 8 p.m.** with **the premiere of a multidisciplinary work by composer Tod Machover**, based on the essays of Montaigne, for organ, brass quintet, and narrator. The concert will feature **Jean-Willy Kunz**, actor **Gilles Renaud**, and OSM musicians **Paul Merkelo** and **Christopher Smith** on trumpet, **Denys Derome** on horn, and **Vivian Lee** and **Pierre Beaudry** on trombone.

The public is invited to join Matthieu Dugal and Tod Machover for a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. at the Maison symphonique to learn some background before the performance.

## Two preconcert organ recitals

Two regular OSM season concerts will be preceded by a 30 minute organ recital. One hour before the concert **The Stirring Sounds of Bach and Mendelssohn**, (December 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. and December 7 at 1:30 p.m.), the audience will be able to hear organist **John Grew** perform works by Bach and Daquin.

Then, at the end of the season, organist **Jonathan Oldengarm** will present Wagner's transcriptions immediately before the concert of *Die Walküre* (On May May 27, 29 and 30 at 7 p.m.).

## The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique

The organ at Maison symphonique de Montréal, inaugurated on May 28, 2014, was manufactured on behalf of the OSM by the house of Casavant Frères with the collaboration of architects Diamond Schmitt + Ædifica for its visual design, and is 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.

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

BMO Financial Group is a partner for the 2014-2015 season.

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

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