

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Only a few days until the OSM's European tour:**

### **TO SEE YOUR ORCHESTRA: ON THE TOUR BLOG ON MEDICI.TV LIVE FROM VIENNA AND A CONTEST!**

**Montreal, February 28, 2014** – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is feverishly preparing for its visit to Europe from **March 11 to 25, 2014**, a large-scale tour of **11 concerts presented in 9 cities in 4 different countries**. The tour, **under the direction of Kent Nagano**, will kick off in Switzerland with a concert in **Zurich** (Tonhalle) on March 11, followed by a concert in **Bern** (Kulturcasino) on March 12 and then another in **Geneva** (Victoria Hall) on March 13. The OSM will then visit Austria, with two concerts at the Konzerthaus in **Vienna**, on March 16 and 17, before traveling to Spain for two concerts in **Madrid**, on March 19 and 20 (Auditorio Nacional de Música). The tour will conclude in Germany with a concert in **Cologne** (Köln Philharmonie) on March 23 followed by a performance in **Essen** (Essen Philharmonie) on March 24 and a final concert in **Munich** (Philharmonie im Gasteig) on March 25. This is the OSM's 11th European tour in its history, the most recent visit having taken place during the Orchestra's 2008-2009 season. **A number of ways will allow audiences from here and elsewhere, for the first time, to follow the OSM and share the excitement of what is a great adventure, an international tour!**

#### **Enjoy the tour experience on the OSM blog**

To experience the tour alongside Kent Nagano and the Orchestra, visit the OSM tour blog at [osm.ca/blogue](http://osm.ca/blogue). To learn more about the musicians' routine, get a look backstage at the concert halls, discover the great capitals of classical music, share the impressions of Maestro Kent Nagano, and understand what a tour for a large ensemble of 125 people is really like, the blog will make it possible for the public to follow along with the OSM day by day. Our various collaborators – our music director, Kent Nagano, our musicians, our soloists, specialists like our tour director and our archivist – will help you discover why the OSM enjoys an international reputation, while at the same time lifting the veil on some secrets!

#### **See the Orchestra before the big sendoff: a contest!**

To celebrate the tour with Montreal audiences, the OSM invites you to visit its blog and have a chance to win one of the pairs of tickets for the OSM EXPRESS concert "Kent Nagano and Stravinsky's Petrushka," a concert presented at Maison symphonique de Montréal on March 6 that will also be performed by the Orchestra in Vienna on March 16 and in Madrid on March 19! Don't miss the blog post of one of our musicians in the following days! The "Kent Nagano and Stravinsky's Petrushka" concert will be: A unique opportunity to see your Orchestra before the big sendoff.

**All the details on [osm.ca/blogue](http://osm.ca/blogue)**

#### **Experience the OSM tour live, at home and free of charge, on medici.tv**

**For the very first time, the public will be able to hear their Orchestra while on tour live from the mythical Konzerthaus in Vienna, world capital of classical music.**

The OSM recently announced that, in light of the success of a first concert broadcast over medici.tv, other

concerts will allow audiences from here and elsewhere to hear the Orchestra free of charge. The following two performances, connected to the tour, will be streamed live on medici.tv:

- *Symphonie fantastique*, program presented on March 5 **at Maison symphonique de Montréal**, consisting of Program 1 presented at Zurich, Berne and Geneva in Switzerland.
- *Mahler's Seventh Symphony*, concert presented on March 17 **at the Konzerthaus in Vienna during the OSM's European tour**

These performances will be offered at no charge live on the evenings of the concerts and over a three-month period following each of the concerts on medici.tv, an international Web platform offering a huge catalogue of classical music online that broadcasts concerts from the finest orchestras, festivals, events and contemporary classical artists. Find them at [www.osm.ca](http://www.osm.ca). This live broadcast is presented in association with Air Canada.

### **Audiences from elsewhere get to discover the OSM**

Besides the concert hall and on medici.tv, the general European public will be able to hear our Orchestra when certain concerts on the tour are recorded:

- Concert in Geneva on March 13: recording of the concert for Radio Suisse SSR: a delayed broadcast on April 9, 2014, at 8 p.m. on Espace 2; concert made available to the European Broadcasting Union
- Concert in Cologne on March 23: live streaming of the concert on philharmonie.tv and radio recording for delayed broadcast on April 6 at 9:05 p.m. on Deutschlandfunk 4

### **The programs presented on tour**

Kent Nagano will conduct **three programs**, allowing the Orchestra to demonstrate the entire range of its virtuosity. The first program, featuring **pianist Marc-André Hamelin, one of our greatest Canadian artists, and pianist Kit Armstrong, a young prodigy discovered by our audience at last summer's Cool Classical Journey**, will comprise works by Wagner, Hefti, Liszt, Debussy and Berlioz, as well as Canadian composer Claude Vivier. The second program will allow audiences to hear **Grammy-winning soprano Ekaterina Lekhina**, and contain works by Ravel, Stravinsky and Chin. Finally, the third program will consist of Mahler's Seventh Symphony.

### **Itinerary and programs**

Tuesday, March 11 (7:30 p.m.):	<b>Zurich, Tonhalle (Program 1)</b>
Wednesday, March 12 (7:30 p.m.):	<b>Bern, Kulturcasino (Program 1)</b>
Thursday, March 13 (8:00 p.m.):	<b>Geneva, Victoria Hall (Program 1)</b>
Sunday, March 16 (7:30 p.m.):	<b>Vienna, Konzerthaus (Program 2)</b>
Monday, March 17 (7:30 p.m.):	<b>Vienna, Konzerthaus (Program 3)</b>
Wednesday, March 19 (7:30 p.m.):	<b>Madrid, Auditorio Nacional de Música (Program 2)</b>
Thursday, March 20 (7:30 p.m.):	<b>Madrid, Auditorio Nacional de Música (Program 3)</b>
Saturday, March 22 (8:30 p.m.):	<b>Oviedo, Príncipe Felipe Hall (Program 3)</b>
Sunday, March 23 (8:00 p.m.):	<b>Cologne, Köln Philharmonie (Program 2b)</b>
Monday, March 24 (8:00 p.m.):	<b>Essen, Essen Philharmonie (Program 1b)</b>
Tuesday, March 25 (8:00 p.m.):	<b>Munich, Philharmonie im Gasteig (Program 1c)</b>

#### **Program 1**

Wagner, *Parsifal*, prelude (13 min)  
Hefti, *Adagio* (world premiere) (10 min)  
Liszt, Piano Concerto No. 2 in A major, (21 min)  
Soloist: Marc-André Hamelin, piano

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Berlioz, *Symphonie fantastique* (49 min)

#### **Program 2**

Ravel, *Le Tombeau de Couperin* (17 min)  
Chin, *snagS&Snarls* (20 min)  
Soloist: Ekaterina Lekhina, soprano

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Stravinsky, *Petrushka* (1947 version) (35 min)

**Program 1b**

Vivier, *Orion* (13 min)  
 Liszt, Piano Concerto No. 2 in A major, (21 min)  
 Soloist: Kit Armstrong, piano

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 Berlioz, *Symphonie fantastique* (49 min)

**Program 1c**

Debussy, *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*  
 (9 min)  
 Liszt, Piano Concerto No. 2 in A major, (21 min)  
 Soloist: Marc-André Hamelin, piano

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 Berlioz, *Symphonie fantastique* (49 min)

**Program 2b**

Ravel, *Mother Goose*, Suite (16 min)  
 Chin, *snags&Snarls* (20 min)  
 Soloist: Ekaterina Lekhina, soprano

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 Ravel, *Daphnis et Chloé*, Suite No. 1 (12 min)  
 Stravinsky, *Petrushka* (1947 version) (35 min)

**Program 3**

Mahler, Symphony No. 7 (77 min)

**The tour soloists****MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN**

Marc-André Hamelin's 2013-2014 season, which showcases his vast repertoire and his broad interests, includes multiple appearances with Celebrity Series of Boston, San Francisco Performances and deSingel in Antwerp, and at London's Wigmore Hall. He will also be presenting recitals and playing with the Pacifica and Takács quartets, violinist Anthony Marwood, clarinetist Martin Fröst and pianist Emanuel Ax. Other highpoints of his season are with the Berlin Philharmonie, at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall, at the Kennedy Center for the Washington Performing Arts Society, at Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, at the Herkulessaal in Munich and at the Muziekgebouw aan't IJ in Amsterdam.

In the course of the season he will be giving the world premiere of a piano concerto by Mark-Anthony Turnage with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin. He will also perform with the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, the WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne and the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, as well as this European tour with the OSM and Kent Nagano.

His most recent recording contains works for piano by Busoni, and the previous one, Haydn concertos with Les Violons du Roy. He has also released three two-disc boxes of Haydn sonatas, a solo disc of works by Liszt and an album of his own compositions, *Hamelin: Études*, nominated for a Grammy and rewarded with first prize by the German Critics Association.

Born in Montreal and a resident of Boston, Marc-André Hamelin received an award for the entire body of his work from the German Critics Association and has been named Officer of the Order of Canada, Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec and member of the Royal Society of Canada.

**KIT ARMSTRONG, PIANO**

A 21-year-old pianist-composer, Kit Armstrong studied at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he got his diploma under the guidance of Benjamin Kaplan. At 13 he was introduced to Alfred Brendel, and the two have maintained a close relationship ever since. Mr. Brendel, who described him as the greatest talent he had ever met, has influenced him as a teacher, mentor and advisor. Kit Armstrong has presented recitals in Vienna, London, Zurich, Cologne, Berlin and Brussels, among other cities, and conductors he has played under include Manfred Honeck, Christoph von Dohnányi and Robin Ticciati. In October he will be making his debut with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra under Esa-Pekka Salonen. Among the numerous awards he has won may be mentioned six Morton Gould Young Composer Awards from the ASCAP Foundation, including the prestigious Charlotte V. Bergen award in 2007. Kit Armstrong also has a degree in mathematics from the Université de Paris.

## EKATERINA LEKHINA, SOPRANO

Grammy winner Ekaterina Lekhina was awarded first prizes at Plácido Domingo's Operalia competition in 2007 and at the Saint-Petersburg International Competition in 2005.

At her debut in 2006 with the Vienna Volksoper she performed the roles of Madame Herz and the Queen of the Night in Mozart's *Der Schauspieldirektor* and *Die Zauberflöte*. She then reprised those roles with different opera houses in Germany and in Asia. Subsequently she took on Olympia in *The Tales of Hoffmann* at the summertime opera festival in Klosterneuburg, Austria, in Tel Aviv, at the Vienna Volksoper and in London at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where she scored a critical success.

For the 2008-2009 season she did Musetta in Puccini's *La Bohème*, the title role in Mozart's *Zaide* in Aix-en-Provence and Briggita in Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Vladimir Jurowski. She performed at the Festival de Knowlton in Québec, where she took the role of Lisa in Bellini's *La Sonnambula* and that of Giulietta in Bellini's *I Capuleti e I Montecchi*, with Kent Nagano.

Since then, Ekaterina Lekhina has expanded her already sizeable repertoire. She knows the roles of La Principessa di Navarra in Donizetti's *Gianni di Parigi*, Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Zerbinetta in Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, the Queen of Shemakha in Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Golden Cockerel* and Clémence in Kaija Saariaho's *L'amour de loin*, a recording with Kent Nagano that received a Diapason d'or in France. She performs regularly in America, in Europe and in Asia, especially in Italy, Chile, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Russia, Canada and India.

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

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