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PRESS RELEASE

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The OSM presents the 2014 edition of the *Couche-Tard Classical Spree*: Montreal's classical-music festival is getting bigger!

Montreal, May 1, 2014 –**The OSM *Couche-Tard Classical Spree Festival*** will be carving a special place for itself in Montreal's festival landscape with **an expanded program for its third edition**. To kick it off, on August 14 the festival presents **Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* with a chorus of 1,000, a large-scale free concert on the Olympic Park's Esplanade Financière Sun Life**. On August 15 and 16, the ***Couche-Tard Classical Spree*** at the Place des Arts, once again offers a **flurry of 45 minutes low-price concerts, taking place in four venues**, including Maison symphonique de Montréal. This third edition, which features **great masters from one generation to the next**, will introduce the public to all those composers who, in different eras, left a mark on their time. The festival will once more attract international-caliber artists such as violinist **Vadim Repin**, pianists **Rafal Blechacz**, **Andreas Haefliger** and **Marc-André Hamelin** as well as soprano **Erin Wall**, all of them stars in the contemporary classical-music firmament. This year, a **major program of free entertainment for the whole family** is being offered. Moreover, **as a special concert-event**, the festival is staging **Leonard Bernstein's *A Quiet Place***, a work that will be heard at Maison symphonique de Montréal with OSM musicians and 10 soloists.

This grand Montreal classical-music festival, accessible to all, is intended for music lovers as much as for the curious. A true **celebration of classical music**, the festival presents, in the OSM's tradition of excellence, beloved works and artists in a festive, urban and laid-back atmosphere. All the details on the programming of the OSM *Couche-Tard Classical Spree Festival* will be announced shortly. **The Orchestra is proud to share the beauty of the classical repertoire, and takes the breaking down of barriers between "great music," artists and public as its mission.**

THE OSM COUCHE-TARD CLASSICAL SPREE FESTIVAL, 2014 EDITION:

August 14

- Large-scale concert at the Olympic Park: this spectacular free outdoor concert has attracted thousands to the Esplanade Financière Sun Life at Olympic Park for two years. This year the OSM is presenting Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* with a chorus of 1,000 in an event spectators will no doubt long remember.

This concert is presented by SiriusXM; Air Canada is the official airline of the OSM.

The grand-scale concert on the Esplanade Financière Sun Life at Olympic Park is free.

August 15 and 16

- The Couche-Tard Cool Classical Journey: a flurry of 30 45-minute concerts, presented at 4 venues in the Quartier des spectacles, namely Maison symphonique de Montréal, the Cinquième Salle, Théâtre Jean-Duceppe and Salle Claude-Léveillée in Place des Arts. Great artists, from one generation to the next, will perform as soloists, chamber musicians or in concert with orchestra, including: violinists Vadim Repin and Andrew Wan, pianists Rafał Blechacz and Marc-André Hamelin, as well as soprano Erin Wall. Affordable prices from \$10 to \$40, taxes included. Concerts for the entire family, special presentations for children, and a program of free entertainment consisting of performances, exhibits and get-togethers with the artists are all in store.

The OSM wishes to thank Couche-Tard, Air Canada and Yamaha Canada Music Ltd., partners of this event.

August 15

- *A Quiet Place* by Leonard Bernstein presented at Maison symphonique de Montréal: with OSM musicians and 10 soloists.

- 30 -

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec

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