

THE OSM AND THE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN 2014-2015

Yan England, ambassador for young-audience concerts



Montreal, Monday, November 10, 2014 – Since its very beginnings, the OSM has always placed education at the heart of its mission, and the tradition of familiarizing thousands of young people with orchestral music is one it is always happy to continue. This season, the OSM is once again offering educational, innovative and fun-filled concerts designed expressly with young audiences in mind. Year after year these concerts welcome close to 20,000 primary- and secondary-level students as part of the **OSM Youth Concerts**, as well as families for the **Children’s Corner** series, and provide both students and families with an introduction to orchestral music through productions tailored to different age groups.

Yan England: ambassador for young-audience concerts

A well-known face on the small screen, Yan England has always been involved with the young. For the 2014-2015 season, the OSM has invited him to channel his boundless energy and his talents as a communicator into conveying his passion for music to a young audience. Yan developed a special relationship with the Orchestra after an initial collaboration in 2014. Convinced of the relevance of the OSM’s educational mission, he believes that music can lead young people to push back their limits. So with no hesitation he agreed to take the plunge into the adventure! In addition to once again hosting a Youth Concert this season, Yan England will be writing a column designed to pique youngsters’ curiosity and kindle their interest in classical music. Look for it on the OSM’s social networks and website.

“Since I was very young I’ve been in love with music. I played piano and saxophone, and I was in my high school wind band. I remember the first time I went to an orchestra concert, I was really excited. I was so impressed by all those instruments, by the power of the sound! The OSM Youth Concerts are the best way of getting an introduction to orchestral music. These concerts have existed for 80 years, and I invite all young people to come to them – you’ll see how great they are!” Yan England

Searching for the big bad wolf

The young-audience concerts begin at Maison symphonique with the production of *Peter and the Wolf* under the direction of OSM assistant conductor **Dina Gilbert** and with a staging by **Peter Duschenes** of Platypus Theatre. Primary-school students will be able to attend, with their classes, the presentation of the legendary story set to music on **November 11, 12 and 13**, while families can attend on **November 16**. This brand-new interpretation of the much-loved classic will have fledgling concert-goers discover young Peter dealing with the pressures of everyday life, when he suddenly finds himself in the middle of an adventure: capturing a wily wolf. Children will be pressed into service to help Peter catch the mangy marauder once and for all! Two dancers, Amelia Griffin and Mélissa Roy, colorful sets and incredible masks make for a modern and humorous re-telling of this enduring story.

Science and music with Yan England

On January 27, 28 and 29, 2015, it will be high schools' turn to discover the various scientific phenomena connected to music, thanks to the generous collaboration of the Montréal Science Centre, at *The Science and Music* Youth Concert hosted by **Yan England**. Music is closely linked to science, whether in the production of sounds by instruments, their timbre or their acoustic. Under the direction of **Dina Gilbert** and with the contribution of OSM organist in residence **Jean-Willy Kunz**, the scientific phenomena related to music will be explored in a program that includes works by Bach, Ravel and Richard Strauss.

Discovering Mozart with Dina Gilbert

Under the direction of **Dina Gilbert**, in the company of actors **Mélanie Delorme** and **Éloi Cousineau** along with young pianist **Daniel Clarke Bouchard**, *The Magic of Mozart* concert will allow youngsters to discover the orchestral world through the music of the celebrated Austrian composer. This concert will be presented as part of the OSM Youth Concerts on February 3, 4 and 5, 2015, as well as in the Children's Corner series on February 22, 2015.

Classical Clown

The final production of the season, *Classical Clown*, led by conductor **Marc David**, will star mime **Dan Kamin**. The encounter between the classical clown and the conductor will set a lot of sparks flying as the two of them struggle for control of the orchestra in a newly-devised battle of the wills set to the music of Beethoven, Grieg, Britten and Stravinsky. By the end of the show the clown will have conducted, the conductor will have turned clown, and the audience will have had a role to play as well. This concert is presented on May 3, 2015, as part of the Children's Corner series.

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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.

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

BMO Financial Group is the OSM's season partner.

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

Rio Tinto Alcan is proud to support the OSM's educational program.

Fondation J.A DeSève and Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life
are proud to be associated with the OSM Youth Concerts.

The Children's Corner series is presented by Industrial Alliance.

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