

Press release
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ZUBIN MEHTA & THE OSM: A GREAT REUNION

Tuesday, May 19 at 7 p.m. at Maison symphonique de Montréal

Montréal, Monday, May 4, 2015 – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal will have the privilege of welcoming **Zubin Mehta**, music director of the OSM from 1961 to 1967, back to where it all began for this brilliantly powerful conductor. On **Tuesday, May 19 at 7 p.m.** and for the very first time at the Maison symphonique de Montréal, the Maestro will lead the OSM in the sublime *Symphony no. 3 in D minor* by **Gustav Mahler**. A concert presented as a tribute to his friend Pierre Béique, the first OSM general manager; a precious friendship which allowed a young Zubin Mehta to become the OSM music director at just 25 years old. Presented to benefit the OSM Foundation in honor of Pierre Béique, the concert will feature mezzo-soprano **Michelle DeYoung**, the **OSM Women's Chorus**, the **McGill Conservatory Youth Choir** and the **Chœur des enfants de Montréal**.

It was with Zubin Mehta that the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal undertook its first overseas tour, positioning itself as of then on the international scene. Not only was this the first such tour for the OSM, but a first for any Canadian orchestra. The love story between Zubin Mehta, one of the great conductors of our time, and the OSM will be renewed for this evening's concert. A great reunion that will give rise to a historic concert – an absolute must.

Musical program:

Zubin Mehta, conductor
Michelle DeYoung, mezzo-soprano
OSM Women's Chorus
Chœur des enfants de Montréal
McGill Conservatory Youth Choir
Andrew Megill, OSM chorus master

Mahler, *Symphony no. 3 in D minor* (approx. 100 min.)
Tuesday, May 19, at 7 p.m., at Maison symphonique de Montréal

Great historic moments

It was in October 1960 that Zubin Mehta led the OSM for the first time, a grand-scale debut at the Montreal Forum for the Indian-born conductor, only 24 at the time. During that season Zubin Mehta would lead the OSM on two occasions, before becoming its music director the following year to the delight of audiences and musicians alike.

His early years with the OSM were marked by a first overseas tour by a Canadian orchestra and by the inauguration of the Grande Salle at Place des Arts, the OSM's new home (which would become Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier in 1966), where Zubin Mehta shared the podium with Wilfrid Pelletier.

After six years as music director of the OSM, Zubin Mehta positioned the Orchestra on the international scene, and wound up his mandate in spectacular fashion. Music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic

since 1962, Zubin Mehta invited his “other orchestra” to perform in Montréal as part of the World’s Fair here in May 1967. The two orchestras combined in playing Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique* and Ravel’s *La valse*, followed by the marvelous Respighi piece *The Pines of Rome*. A sublime moment!

Conductor Emeritus of the OSM

Since his departure, Zubin Mehta has come back on dozens of occasions to conduct the OSM, where he remains conductor emeritus, a title he shares with Wilfrid Pelletier, the Orchestra’s first music director. His recent visits have included Mahler’s *Second Symphony* at a special concert marking the launch of the Pierre-Béique Endowment Fund, designed to ensure the long-term success of the Orchestra. His last appearance with the OSM goes back to September 2008, in a musical program presented at Notre-Dame Basilica. This evening’s concert will mark his first appearance at Maison symphonique de Montréal.

Mahler’s *Third Symphony*

The *Third Symphony* is the longest Mahler composed, with close to 100 minutes of ode to nature, profound and epic music, tracing the stages of Creation. “Just as Wagner had reordered the artificial world of opera in his own image, Mahler refashioned the symphony, investing this logically-laid-out ‘holy of holies’ with his fantastical imagination.” With these words Pierre Boulez described the singular universe of Mahler’s symphonies. In six movements, the *Third Symphony* addresses the stages of Creation from inanimate nature through the inception of plant life, to animals and humans, before finally ascending to angels and love.

To reserve your tickets: 514 842-9951 or osm.ca

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

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