

LAUNCH OF THE 2017 EDITION OF THE OSM MANULIFE COMPETITION

Free concerts and activities open to the public

Montreal, November 20, 2017 – The Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal will launch the **2017 edition** of the **OSM Manulife Competition** tomorrow, November 21, at 5:30 p.m. in the Foyer Allegro of the Maison Symphonique de Montréal, in the presence of **Pierre A. Goulet** and **Charles Milliard**, co-presidents of the **OSM Manulife Competition**, **Stéphane Lemelin** from McGill University’s Schulich School of Music, **Hugo Laporte**, ambassador for the 2017 edition, members of the jury, including the president, **Laurent Bayle**, as well as the 22 semi-finalists. The event will be hosted by **Marie-Christine Trottier** of **ICI Musique**.

Dedicated this year to woodwinds, brass and voice, the Competition will run from November 21 to 25. During this year’s edition of Canada’s most prestigious national performance competition, candidates will compete for various prizes and scholarships worth more than \$100,000. The Grand Prize winner will be announced the evening of November 25 at the Maison Symphonique de Montréal.

“Manulife is very proud to be involved with **the OSM Manulife Competition** for a 25th consecutive year, continuing the important work of organizations we have acquired,” said **Richard Payette**, President and CEO of Manulife Quebec, adding “This is yet another of the many ways Manulife helps people achieve their dreams and aspirations.”

“Inspired by the leadership of its founding music director, Wilfrid Pelletier, the OSM has always placed classical music education and training at the heart of its culture,” said **Kent Nagano**, music director of the OSM. “Since 1940, the Competition has contributed to the Orchestra’s mission by serving as both a showcase and a springboard for the most brilliant young Canadian musicians, propelling them toward their future careers by inspiring them to surpass their own expectations,” added Maestro Nagano.

Details on each of the rounds and free activities open to the public

- **The public can come hear and support the participants** during the semi-finals, which will take place on Nov 22 (woodwinds), Nov 23 (brass) and Nov 24 (voice), in the Tanna Schulich Hall at McGill University. **The finals will be presented at Maison Symphonique de Montréal on Saturday, November 25.** Please consult the Competition [schedule](#) for full details.
- The public is also invited to attend masterclasses given by Competition judges Jörgen van Rijen and Martin Fröst.

- **The general public will be able to follow the semi-finals and finals live anywhere in the country on the OSM's website: osm.ca**

Acclaimed musicians and members of the international jury, flutist **Timothy Hutchins**, clarinetist **Martin Fröst** and conductor **Masaaki Suzuki** will perform in the concert **The Magnificence of Bach and Mozart** at the Maison symphonique on November 21 and 23. Tickets for these performances are available at osm.ca starting at \$45.

Stingray Rising Stars Award: Public's Choice – The public is invited to follow each of the candidates throughout the Competition on the [OSM's](http://osm.ca) website and also to vote for the candidate of their choice on Stingray Music's [voting](#) page, starting November 21, and in the lobbies at the Maison Symphonique during the finals on Saturday, November 25. Participants who cast a vote will have a chance to win a pair of tickets for the concert by the **OSM Manulife Grand Prize winner** with the OSM on January 10, 2018.

A partner of the Competition for a number of years, **ICI Musique** will devote its show "Toute une musique," airing on Tuesday, November 22 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. (rebroadcast on Muse on Wednesday, November 23, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.), to the event. Hosted by **Marie-Christine Trottier**, this special program will take a look back at the history of the Competition, and pay tribute to the remarkable careers of those for whom it served as a springboard over the years.

Radio-Classique also returns this year as media partner to the **OSM Manulife Competition**. The station's « Le continental » morning program, hosted by Gregory Charles and Chantal Lavoie, will be airing Competition-related content throughout the week.

The Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal

Since its founding in 1934, the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal has distinguished itself as a leader in the orchestral life of Canada and Québec. A cultural ambassador of the highest order, the Orchestra has acquired an enviable international reputation through the quality of its many recordings and tours. The OSM carries on that rich tradition under the leadership of its current music director, Kent Nagano, featuring innovative programming aimed at updating the orchestral repertoire and strengthening the Orchestra's connection with the community. Over the years the OSM has undertaken over 40 tours and roughly 30 national and international excursions. The Orchestra has made more than 100 recordings, on the Decca, EMI, Philips, CBC Records, Analekta, ECM and Sony labels, as well as on its own label, which have garnered it over 50 national and international awards.

The **OSM Manulife Competition** came into being in 1940, on the initiative of Wilfrid Pelletier, the first music director of the Société des Concerts Symphoniques de Montréal, which in 1954 would become the OSM. To date, more than 350 prize-winners have made a name for themselves during this performance competition's rounds, among them **Angela Hewitt, James Ehnes, Louis Lortie, André Laplante, Angèle Dubeau, Karina Gauvin, Jonathan Crow, Stéphane Tétreault, Jan Lisiecki** and **Andrew Wan**.

Manulife – Official presenter

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Indispensable partnerships for the OSM

The Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal thanks the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal and the Ville de Montréal for their generous support.

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

BMO Financial Group is the OSM's 2017-2018 season partner.

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The OSM Manulife Competition is presented by
Manulife in collaboration with Stingray Music.

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