



**THE OSM PRESENTS OVER 100 CONCERTS CELEBRATING ITS HISTORY  
REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITIES AT HOME AND ABROAD**

**Kent Nagano opens the season with *The Rite of Spring*, *Boléro* and a new commission by Canadian composer Matthew Ricketts and author Tomson Highway based on a Cree legend**

**The season closes with an evening of Berlioz, featuring *Symphonie fantastique* and *Lélio* narrated by Lambert Wilson**

**Brahms and the Art of Film week: 4 concerts in 4 days with the complete Brahms symphonies and premieres inspired by 4 silent films**

**The OSM blends sounds and images with silent movies like *The Artist***

**A world of discoveries for the young with *Children's Corner***

***Encounters with Mozart*: a week dedicated to Mozart's genius, including his famous *Requiem***

**5th anniversary of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique featuring 4 recitals, including an evening of improvisation**

**Holiday-season tradition at the OSM: the return of Handel's *Messiah* and a 4th appearance of Fred Pellerin**

**Talent from home and abroad: violinists Anne-Sophie Mutter, Julian Rachlin and Blake Pouliot; pianists Leif Ove Andsnes, Evgeny Kissin, Jean-Philippe Collard, Alain Lefèvre, Alexandre Tharaud, André Laplante, Daniil Trifonov, Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Charles Richard-Hamelin; singers Karina Gauvin, Marie-Nicole Lemieux and Hélène Guilmette; conductors Christoph Eschenbach and Bernard Labadie, as well as Michael Tilson Thomas, who will be conducting in Montreal for the very first time**

**Great works on the program: Bach's Mass in B Minor, Richard Strauss's *Alpine Symphony*, Mahler's Fourth Symphony, Vivier's *Siddhartha*, Holst's *The Planets***

**Two major tours: Nunavik / Northern Quebec and the great capitals of Europe!**

**Montreal, March 22, 2018** – The year 1934 saw the birth of the *Société des concerts symphoniques de Montréal*, which in 1953 would become the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. Over the years, the OSM made a name for itself as Montreal’s cultural ambassador for music. Today, the OSM and Kent Nagano unveiled the 2018-2019 programming marking the OSM’s 85th season. At a glance, the season offers more than 100 concerts, 60 programs, 112 artists and 2 tours.

*“The OSM’s 85th season is a reflection of the strong Montreal tradition, a musical tradition which has always had a core. This is to say that in our tradition, a symphony is a picture or a metaphor for human life and human experiences. It is a gigantic palette of styles with special connections to the folklore of many countries and regions within. A symphony is “diversity in unity” and it is exactly that which makes up our special social life in both small and large scale. We invite you all to celebrate with us this rich musical tradition.”* - OSM Musical Director **Kent Nagano**



### **AN OPENING AND A CLOSING THAT SPEAK TO DIVERSITY**

The 85th season of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal will be a great celebration of the cultural wealth of our shared territory. The opening concert, conducted by **Maestro Kent Nagano**, will showcase diversity with a captivating program. The Orchestra presents **Ravel’s Bolero**, a landmark work for Montreal audiences, and one that helped the OSM become the first Canadian orchestra to sell over 100,000 copies of a recording in 1984. **The Rite of Spring**, a resolutely contemporary composition for ballet by **Stravinsky** that caused a scandal at its premiere, will follow. Joining the two works will be the world premiere of a chamber opera in Cree, commissioned from Canadian composer **Matthew Ricketts** and Cree-Canadian author **Tomson Highway: Chaakapesh, The Trickster’s Quest**, inspired by a Cree legend. The OSM will be taking this work on tour when they revisit audiences in Northern Quebec and Nunavik in September 2018.\*

The season will close with an evening devoted entirely to **Berlioz** (MAY 29, 31 AND JUNE 1), marking the 150th anniversary of the French composer’s death. On the program, the **Symphonie fantastique**, a major work in the Orchestra’s repertoire, and the subject of more than one OSM recording. The **Symphonie fantastique** will be preceded by **Lélio**, a work incorporating music and spoken text that was written as a sequel to the symphony. These two autobiographical works are rarely presented on the same bill. The role of Lélio will be performed by the French actor **Lambert Wilson**.

\*To learn more about the tour in the Northern Quebec and Nunavik, see the paragraph devoted to tours.

## BRAHMS AND THE ART OF FILM



The OSM and Kent Nagano invite music lovers to four concerts over four days to witness performances of the complete Brahms symphonies (Feb. 7-10). Four films will also be screened as part of these original programs, accompanied by contemporary works, including premieres by Canadian composers **Simon Bertrand** and **Zosha di Castri**, as well as French composer **Régis Campo**. The films are presented thanks to a collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada and the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema at Concordia University. Featured guest soloists include violinist **Veronika Eberle**, pianist **Rudolf Buchbinder** and OSM bass clarinetist **André Moisan**.

## ENCOUNTERS WITH MOZART



**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** left to posterity a great number of sublime symphonic and vocal works. The OSM presents *Encounters with Mozart* from April 16 to 18, 2019. Under the direction of **Bernard Labadie** and **Hervé Niquet**, featured works include Mozart's unfinished masterwork, the **Requiem**, **Symphonies Nos. 36 and 39**, **Piano Concerto No. 21** featuring French pianist **Alexandre Tharaud**, the overture to **Der Schauspieldirektor** (The Impresario), and **A Little Night Music**. Two chamber music pre-concerts will be offered to ticket holders, offering a rich overview of the many musical genres mastered by Mozart.

## THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND ORGUE PIERRE-BÉIQUE

2019 marks the 5th anniversary of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, gifted to the OSM by the late Madame **Jacqueline Desmarais** and built by Casavant Frères. Honouring this great instrument its 6,489 pipes, Maison symphonique will host some great names from the organ world: **Thierry Escaich**, for a start, who will set the instrument resonating to images from the classic movie **Nosferatu** for a Halloween evening (OCT. 30). Quebec's **Isabelle Demers** who will pay tribute to French composers with the recital **Symphonic France** (JAN. 31) and **Olivier Latry**, the OSM's organist emeritus who will join a number of other organists for *The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique: Anniversary Concert* (MAY 19), a recital celebrating this majestic and versatile instrument. A fourth evening of organ music is sure to delight: **Improv and Organ** (FEB. 22), with master of ceremonies **François-Etienne Paré** and actors including **Réal Bossé** and **Salomé Corbo**, who will improvise to the music played by the evening's organists, among them **Jean-Willy Kunz**, OSM organist in residence.

## THE HOLIDAY TRADITION CONTINUES



The Christmas tradition launched by **Kent Nagano** and **Fred Pellerin** in 2011 carries on this year by popular demand with a brand-new *conte* – *Les jours de la semelle* (DEC. 12, 13, 15) – featuring the colorful characters of the now famous village of Saint-Élie-de-Caxton. The OSM also revives one of its most cherished traditions, presenting **Handel's Messiah** (DEC. 18), this time under the direction of **Paul McCreesh**, one of the great specialists in Baroque music. The oratorio has been performed by the OSM over 40 times since 1958 and remains one of the Orchestra's most frequently played works. A classic not to be missed!

Radio-Canada, a loyal OSM partner, will broadcast the premiere of the Fred Pellerin concert over ICI RADIO-CANADA TÉLÉ on December 23, 2018, at 8 p.m.

## MUSIC AND IMAGES

In addition to the films presented as part of the Brahms week, the love story between music and cinema continues. The Orchestra will screen among others, **The Artist** – the silent movie that took the Oscar for Best Picture in 2012 – under the direction of the 2017 Opus Awards “Discovery of the Year”, **Dina Gilbert** (JAN. 8); *City Lights* by the great **Charlie Chaplin** (NOV. 6); and **Nosferatu** (OCT. 30), a masterpiece of German expressionism.

## FAMILY OUTINGS!

Since the time of Wilfrid Pelletier, the OSM's first music director, education has been at the heart of the Orchestra's mission, making it possible for young people to discover orchestral music. **Children's Corner**, which blends theatre and music, offers 60-minute concerts for the whole family. Conducted by OSM conductor in residence **Adam Johnson**, concerts that will charm both kids and grownups include **Puss in Boots** (NOV. 18), with actors **Didier Lucien**; **Peter and the Wolf** (JAN. 27), narrated by **Patrice Bélanger** (also the OSM's young-audience ambassador); and **Pinocchio** (MAY 12), designed and narrated by **Lionel Rougerie**. On the program for these three concerts, works by **Bartók, Poulenc, Prokofiev, Stravinsky, Bizet, Gounod** and **Kosma**.

## GREAT GUESTS FROM HERE AND ABROAD

Many outstanding soloists and conductors will be joining us on the Maison symphonique stage: violinists **Julian Rachlin** (OCT. 18, 20) and **Anne-Sophie Mutter** in a rare Montreal appearance (MARCH 15); conductors **James Feddeck** (OCT. 2, 3), **Christoph Eschenbach**, last here in 1989 (OCT. 18, 20), **Juraj Valčuha** (OCT. 24, 25), **François-Xavier Roth** (OCT 31, NOV 1), **Alain Altinoglu** (NOV. 13, 14), **Paul McCreesh** (DEC. 18), **Dina Gilbert** (JAN. 8), **Nikolaj Znaider** (JAN. 12, 13), **David Robertson** (JAN. 16, 17), **Hervé Niquet** (APR. 16, 18), **Bernard Labadie** (APR. 17, 18), **Pablo Heras-Casado** (MAY 8, 9), **Karina Canellakis** (MAY 15, 16, 17), and the American **Michael Tilson Thomas**, conducting for the very first time in Montreal (MAY 22, 23). Pianists **Charles Richard-Hamelin** (OCT. 11, 12, 14), **André Laplante** (OCT. 24, 25), **Till Fellner** (NOV. 13, 14), **Alain Lefèvre** (JAN. 12, 13), **Leif Ove Andsnes** (JAN. 26),

**Alexandre Tharaud** (APR. 17), **Jean-Philippe Collard**, OSM artist in residence\* (APR. 30, MAY 1 AND 5), **Daniil Trifonov** (MAY 15, 16, 17), **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** (March 5, 6) and **Evgeny Kissin** (MAY 25). In addition, singers contralto **Marie-Nicole Lemieux** – who will take the stage on two occasions (Dec. 4, 5 AND FEB. 24) – and sopranos **Karina Gauvin** (JAN. 16, 17) and **Hélène Guilmette** (DEC. 4, 5).

\*The OSM Artists in Residence program is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Larry & Cookie Rossy Family Foundation.

## GREAT WORKS

In December the OSM presents one of the most beautiful works of sacred music by **Johann Sebastian Bach**, the **Mass in B Minor** (DEC. 4, 5), as part of the Montreal **Bach Festival**. A very special moment to turn inward in contemplation with splendid voices of four great vocal artists (**Hélène Guilmette**, **Marie-Nicole Lemieux**, **Julian Prégardien** and **Peter Harvey**) and the OSM Chorus. **Kent Nagano** conducts **The Planets** (APR. 30, MAY 5), Holst's well-known work that variously evokes war or peace, not to mention the gaiety of Jupiter. Conductor **Juraj Valčula** will conduct **Strauss's Alpine Symphony** (OCT. 24, 25), a journey through the landscapes of the Bavarian Alps from daybreak to nightfall. **Mahler's Fourth Symphony** (JAN. 16, 17) will be led by American conductor **David Robertson** and features the divine voice of **Karina Gauvin** in the final movement, "The Heavenly Life." Finally, the OSM will perform **Claude Vivier's Siddhartha**, inspired by the Herman Hesse novel describing the journey of a young man seeking spiritual illumination (Feb. 27, 28).

## THE OSM ON TOUR

Since its founding the OSM has undertaken no fewer than 40 international tours and some 30 national excursions, showcasing the talent and music from this part of the world in so many others.

### *Northern Quebec\**

In 2008, **Maestro Nagano** and seven musicians traveled to Nunavik to perform Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* in Inuktitut; ten years later the Orchestra is at it again, returning to the Far North to visit six villages in three nations: Inuit, Innu and Cree.

The opera *Chaakapesh, The Trickster's Quest* by **Tomson Highway** and **Matthew Ricketts** was commissioned for the occasion. The idea of this tour is to share classical music with all the peoples of Quebec while presenting a point of encounter and exchange between the different cultures by way of rich and respectful interaction through music.

The tour will consist of a musical journey from North to South, from Nunavik to the Côte-Nord, by way of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and northern Quebec from September 10 to 19 2018.

\*This is one of the 200 exceptional projects funded through the Canada Council for the Arts' New Chapter initiative. With this \$35M initiative, the Council supports the creation and sharing of the arts in communities across Canada.

### *The Great European Capitals*

A twelfth European tour is on the agenda for March 2019 (MARCH 11 TO 23), when the Orchestra will visit some of the most highly esteemed concert halls of the great capitals of Europe: **Dusseldorf** (*Tonhalle*), **Hamburg** (*Elbphilharmonie*), **Essen** (*Philharmonie*), **Vienna** (*Konzerthaus*), **Paris** (*Philharmonie*), **Brussels** (*Palais des Beaux-Arts*), **Munich** (*Philharmonie Im Gasteig*), **Regensburg** (*University Audimax*) and **Berlin**, at the prestigious *Philharmonie*.

Works and guest soloists: pianist **Rafał Blechacz** will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major; pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** will play the Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 5, "Egyptian"; while Quebec contralto **Marie-Nicole Lemieux** will join the Orchestra for Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*. Also on the program for this tour, Debussy's *Jeux*, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* and *Petrushka* (1947), and three excerpts from Berlioz's *Damnation of Faust*: Hungarian March, Ballet des sylphs and Menuet des follets.

### **Salzburg and Cracow**

Before opening the prestigious **Salzburg Festival** in a concert on July 20, 2018, the Orchestra will make a stop in Cracow on July 18, for the very first time in its history. The OSM under **Kent Nagano** will perform **Krzysztof Penderecki's** imposing *Saint Luke Passion*, a work for orchestra, choruses and soloists, in celebration of the Polish composer's 85th birthday.



### **COME SEE THE MUSIC**

If our eyes could perceive music, what would they see? In exploring a form of synesthesia associating music and colors, the OSM wanted to provide an answer to that question and visually transpose the depth of its musical reflections. In addition to its moments of innovation and premieres, the 85th season is characterized by a rich programming retracing with fresh eyes the great moments that have united the Orchestra and its Montreal audience. In order to represent the artistic vision of **Maestro Kent Nagano**, the OSM called on the services of people living with the neurological phenomenon of synesthesia to translate music into colors in an unprecedented way, with the help of an algorithm created for the occasion. Hence, the visuals for the season's marketing campaign will be a reflection of their visual interpretation of great works of the repertoire, as they see the music.

### **TICKETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE RIGHT NOW**

#### **Be part of the great family of subscribers for the OSM'S 85th season!**

Being an OSM subscriber means enjoying the ultimate experience: seeing your favorite concerts, benefiting from exclusive offers, savings, and above all, flexibility.

#### **By series**

This season the OSM once again presents concerts on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays (evenings and mornings), Saturdays and Sundays (afternoons) in the framework of eight major series of six concerts each, in addition to the Express series (75- to 90-minute concerts without intermission at 7 p.m.).

#### **À la carte**

Select 4, 5 or 6 concerts according to your schedule and tastes and save on regular ticket prices.

#### **34 and under: A great evening at low prices!**

\$34 per ticket or \$25 per ticket in a subscription of 4 concerts or more

## COMMITTED PARTNERS

*"Montreal is privileged to have one of the best orchestras in the world. Led by the incomparable Kent Nagano, the OSM features an incredible group of musicians performing in a room of exceptional acoustic quality. It is therefore a tremendous honour for BMO to continue its long-standing season partnership with the OSM," says Claude Gagnon, Managing Director, Operations, **BMO Financial Group**, Quebec. "The OSM, with its diversified team of international talent, is able to renew and reinvent itself, year after year, with all of its trademark creativity and cultural innovation. The fact that it is celebrating its 85th anniversary speaks to the place it holds in music lovers' hearts."*

## THE OSM THANKS ITS PARTNERS, ITS SUBSCRIBERS AND ITS AUDIENCE

The contribution of the Orchestra's public partners being indispensable to its operations, the OSM thanks its principal partner, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, along with the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal and Ville de Montréal.

The OSM would like to especially thank the Quebec government for its financial support announced on March 15, which will allow the Orchestra to continue its mission.

The OSM is proud of its long standing partnerships, and wishes to thank Hydro-Québec, title presenter of the OSM, as well as BMO Financial Group, season partner.

We also wish to express our gratitude to Power Corporation of Canada, Manulife, Fondation J. A. DeSève, Investors Group, TD Bank Group, Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, Cogeco, Estiatorio Milos, BBA, Spinelli Lexus, IRIS, Eska, Le Groupe Maurice, Alfid, Ritz-Carlton Montreal, Hyatt-Regency Montreal, IRIS, PricewaterhouseCoopers, GDI, McKinsey & Company, Charton-Hobbs, Solotech and Stingray Music.

The OSM also salutes all of its other partners and donors, as well as the subscribers and audience who provide, at many different levels, essential support for its activities.

Tickets also on sale at [placedesarts.com](http://placedesarts.com)

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