



ORCHESTRE
SYMPHONIQUE
DE MONTRÉAL

PRESS RELEASE

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OSM ANNOUNCES SIX COMMUNITIES FOR ITS TOUR OF NUNAVIK AND NORTHERN QUEBEC

Montreal, April 27, 2018 – From September 9 to 19, 2018, Maestro Kent Nagano and musicians of the OSM will trace a path from the arctic down through Quebec's interior toward the Côte-Nord. Beginning with performances in the Inuit villages of **Kuujuaq**, **Salluit** and **Kuujuarapik**, they will then travel southward for concerts in the Cree community of **Oujé-Bougoumou** and the Innu communities of **Mashteuiatsh** and **Uashat mak Mani-Utenam**.

Yesterday's announcement was made at the Maison symphonique de Montréal during a reception as part of the Nordic Festival where the Orchestra performed, amongst other works, **Alexina Louie's *Take the Dog Sled*** for two throat singers and orchestra, which was commissioned in 2008 for the OSM's first tour in Nunavik.

Commissioned especially for the upcoming tour, ***Chaakapesh: The Trickster's Quest***, a new chamber opera by author **Tomson Highway** and composer **Matthew Ricketts**, will be performed in five languages (Cree, Inuktitut, Innu, French and English) and will feature collaborations with local artists in each community the OSM visits. The work will feature **Geoffroy Salvas** (baritone) and **Owen McCausland** (tenor) in Cree language roles, as well as **Florent Vollant** and **Akinisie Sivuarapik** narrating in Innu and Inuktitut respectively. It will receive its world premiere in Montreal on the opening concerts of the OSM's 85th season, September 6 and 8, 2018.

Kent Nagano stated, "This creation, touring and cultural exchange project constitutes a daring re-imagining of our practices as a modern orchestra. By reaching north, we are pushing the physical and artistic boundaries of our practice in order to share, exchange and create exceptional works reflecting the diversity of our country, as well as our current reality of living on shared and sometimes disputed territory. By engaging with diverse traditions, we are transforming the expectations that attend to symphony orchestras in the 21st century, while doing our best to address an urgent need for projects of mediation and reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous populations."

ARTISTS PARTICIPATE IN CREATIVE RESIDENCIES

Tomson Highway, **Matthew Ricketts** and members of the OSM artistic team participated in two artistic residencies, in Montreal and the Northern village of **Ivujivik**, during the creation of the new work. Organised in collaboration with the **Avataq** Cultural Institute, the residencies were unique opportunities for indigenous and non-indigenous artists to come together and exchange.



ÉLODIE PARRIAUX, PROJECT MANAGER AVATAQ, TOMSON HIGHWAY,

MATTHEW RICKETTS,
DURING AN ARTISTIC RESIDENCY, DECEMBER 4, 2017, PUVIRNITUK, NUNAVIK

OSM COLLABORATES WITH THE STUDENTS OF NUNAVIK SIVUNITSAVUT

As part of the OSM's ongoing commitment to bridging cultural divides through music, members of the OSM and the students of **Nunavik Sivunitsavut** have met over a series of exchanges to share knowledge, stories and music from their respective cultures. Nunavik Sivunitsavut is a joint post-secondary program of John Abbott College, the Kativik School Board, and the Avataq Cultural Institute, designed to develop knowledge and leadership skills rooted in Inuit culture. This year's cohort of students was present for last night's concert at the Maison symphonique, as well as several rehearsals and workshops.



ADAM JOHNSON, OSM ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR, STUDENTS OF THE NUNAVIK SIVUNITSAVUT, DURING A MUSICAL WORKSHOP, MARCH 29, 2018, MONTREAL



KENT NAGANO, EVIE MARK (INSTRUCTOR), OSM MUSICIANS, AND STUDENTS OF NUNAVIK SIVUNITSAVUT, MAISON SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL, APRIL 11, 2018

ROGER FRAPPIER AND MAX FILMS COME ON BOARD TO PRODUCE A DOCUMENTARY

Producer **Roger Frappier** and **Justin Kingsley** of **MAX FILMS** (*Hochelaga Land of Souls*) have joined the project to produce a feature documentary, inspired by the scope, ambition and audacity of the OSM's creation and touring project. Frappier, Kingsley and their team will follow the OSM and its collaborators throughout the process leading up to the tour, including activities of cultural exchange and outreach.

THE OSM THANKS ITS PARTNERS

This project is one of the 200 exceptional projects funded through the Canada Council for the Arts' New Chapter program. With this \$35M investment, the Council supports the creation and sharing of the arts in communities across Canada. The OSM also wishes to acknowledge the invaluable support of its project partners for the Tour of Northern Quebec: ArcelorMittal Mining Canada G.P., BBA, Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau-Pivallianiq, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton.

Contributions from the Orchestre's public partners are essential to its operations, and the OSM would like to thank its main partner, the Conseil des arts et lettres du Québec, the gouvernement du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, and the City of Montreal.

The OSM is proud to have the support of its loyal sponsors and would like to thank its title sponsor Hydro-Québec and BMO Financial Group, its season partner.

PRESS RELATIONS:

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