

THE OSM'S 2017 SUMMER SEASON UNVEILED



6th Edition of the OSM Classical Spree

- A musical celebration of the 50th anniversary of Expo '67
- Kick-off at Montreal's Olympic Park with *Porgy and Bess*
- OSM in the Park: A continuing tradition!

THE CLASSICAL SPREE IN BRIEF:

- The largest classical music festival in Montreal
- A myriad of internationally renowned artists
- A gathering of over 30,000 spectators at the inaugural concert at Olympic Park
- Over 30 concerts starting at only \$10
- Free entertainment for the entire family
- Massive outdoor programming in the heart of Montreal's Quartier des spectacles

Montreal, May 24, 2017 – The **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal**, Music Director **Kent Nagano**, and actor and spokesperson **André Robitaille** unveil the OSM's summer season outdoor programming and invite music lovers of all ages to take part in the **6th Edition of the Classical Spree**. As Montreal celebrates its 375th anniversary, the OSM marks the 50th anniversary of Expo '67, a great humanitarian event in the city's history. In 1967, Montreal opened to the world and showed the full scope of its international status by hosting the Universal Exposition or World Fair under the theme "Man and His World". Alongside this massive international gathering, the **World Festival of Art and Entertainment** was the most prestigious summit of musicians and music ensembles that Montreal had ever hosted!

In that Festival's same spirit of togetherness, the diversity, dynamism and cultural vitality of Montreal echo with full force in the **6th Edition of the Classical Spree**. **From Thursday, August 10 to Sunday, August 13, over 30 concerts** will take place at the Maison symphonique, in different halls at Place des Arts and at the Musée d'art contemporain, in addition to activities free of charge at the Espace culturel Georges-Émile Lapalme, on the Place des Arts Esplanade and at Complexe Desjardins. **On August 10 at 8 p.m. a grand outdoor opening concert for the whole family will kick off the event at the Esplanade Financière Sun Life, at Montreal's Olympic Park.**

THE OSM CLASSICAL SPREE

KICK-OFF AT THE ESPLANADE FINANCIÈRE SUN LIFE AT MONTREAL'S OLYMPIC PARK

***Porgy and Bess*, a grand outdoor concert free of charge**

Thursday August 10 – 8 p.m.

To launch the festivities, Maestro Kent Nagano and the Orchestra welcome soloists **Marie-Josée Lord, Gardy Fury, Will Liverman, Janai Brugger, and Justin Welsh**, as well as a Montreal choir to present a memorable performance of the best-known songs from **Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess***, including the much-loved "Summertime". Set in the black slums of South Carolina in the 1930s, this classic of American opera tells the moving love story between a disabled street beggar (Porgy) and a young woman (Bess) trapped in the clutches of a thug. The concert at Olympic

Park seeks to preserve the spirit of authenticity and respect of Gershwin's original, whose theme is as relevant as ever. **André Robitaille** presents the event in which classical, popular, and jazz music meld.

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CONCERTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Pierre et le loup (Peter and the Wolf)

Saturday August 12 – 10:30 a.m. – Maison symphonique

Children will have an awesome time discovering Prokofiev's famous symphonic fairy tale, with narrator André Robitaille guiding them through the story, and instruments from the orchestra personifying the different characters. Maestro Nagano conducts an ensemble of 25 instrumentalists (members of the OSM, winners of the OSM Manulife Competition, and guests) in an exciting performance rounded off by the world premiere of the *Concerto grosso for four bassoons, contrabassoon and orchestra* by Simon Leclerc, specially commissioned by the OSM for the occasion.

Virtuose: The Show

Saturday August 12 – 2 p.m. – Maison symphonique

After last year's success, *Virtuose: The Show* is back! Young talented performers present works of classical and popular music alongside pianist and host Gregory Charles. Special requests will be accepted, as these young virtuosos and their mentor are ready for any challenge!

CLOSING CONCERT AT MAISON SYMPHONIQUE

The "Ode to Joy" – All Sing Together

Sunday August 13 – 11 a.m. – Maison symphonique

In 1967, the OSM inaugurated the World Festival of Arts and Entertainment with a performance of the "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Fifty years later, the same message of freedom and universal brotherhood resonates in the closing concert of the **6th Edition of the OSM Classical Spree** conducted by Kent Nagano. Accompanied at the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique¹ by OSM Organist-in-Residence Jean-Willy Kunz, more than 200 choristers from seven Montreal Area choirs join their voices to present this grand finale for festival goers! Works by Brahms, Elgar, Janequin, Mendelssohn, Poulenc, and André Prévoist round out the programme.

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MUSICAL WHIRLWIND AT PLACE DES ARTS

Concerts presented in 1967 at the World Festival of Arts and Entertainment primarily took place at Place des Arts, just like many concerts of the OSM Classical Spree! This year, the OSM invites audiences to take part in a full-fledged cultural marathon, with more than 30 indoor concerts starting at \$10, accessible to all. **More than 200 musicians** will perform this year in **4 halls at Place des Arts**, proud partner of the Classical Spree since the very beginning.

Great figures of the local and international music scene play solo, duo, chamber, and orchestral music, and they invite you to join them for an exciting weekend entirely devoted to music, musicians, and their instruments. Classical, jazz, world music concerts, workshops, presentations, meetings and autograph signings populate the highly diverse weekend programming. Anyone who has ever attended this event will confirm that the atmosphere is simply electrifying!

Welcome to the Maison symphonique de Montréal!

An array of great international soloists of all generations cross the stage at the Maison symphonique, starting with *The Sound of Jazz*, conducted by **Kent Nagano** and featuring Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* performed by Quebec pianist **Charles Richard-Hamelin**. Other prestigious guests of the OSM include pianists **Jean-Philippe Collard** and **Till Fellner**, violinist **Veronika Eberle**, cellist **Luigi Piovano** and guitarist **Sharon Isbin**. Seven soloists from the ranks of the OSM conducted by Maestro Nagano perform Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, with choreography by Étienne Gagnon-Delorme and narration by actor **Patrice Robitaille**. The latter, unique work of diabolical charm is a must for music lovers!

Kent Nagano will conduct no fewer than 10 concerts over 4 days, and this includes the bewitching *Mediterranean Journey*, an incursion in China and Japan entitled *The Fascination of Asia*, Brahms' Double Concerto, and Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" and Choral Fantasy.

At the Cinquième Salle and Salle Claude-Léveillée

Here is an opportunity for the public to attend concerts in Place des Arts' most intimate venues. OSM Concertmaster **Andrew Wan**, pianist **Charles Richard-Hamelin** and cellist **Brian Manker** join forces in a "speed trio" to perform choice works by Brahms. Pianist **Jean-Philippe Collard** plays a recital devoted to Chopin and a concert in tribute to Fauré and chamber music, and **Till Fellner** performs a solo recital of Schubert and Schumann. OSM clarinetist **André Moisan** hosts a concert for the whole family showcasing the many faces of his instrument. Four exceptional winners of the **OSM Manulife Competition** also come together onstage to perform delightful works by Mozart and Beethoven.

Music at Piano Nobile

Four concerts will take place in the light-filled Piano Nobile space at Place des Arts. Support for next-generation talent is one of the OSM's priorities, and that mission brings to the Piano Nobile young violinist Blake Pouliot, 2016 winner of the OSM Manulife Competition, playing Debussy and Ravel, and Bomsori Kim, winner of the CIMC in 2016 who performs sonatas for violin and piano by Beethoven and Szymanowski. Montreal pianist Lorraine Desmarais pays tribute to three jazz masters who came to Montreal in 1967: Monk, Brubeck and Ellington. Jennifer Swartz presents *The Harp, Beyond Angels* with her musical accomplice, Andrew Wan.

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AND ELSEWHERE...

Beverly Webster Rolph Hall at the MAC

Music also fills the Musée d'art contemporain with West African, Iranian, or Spanish rhythms, sounds that only a clarinet can produce, and even music by Elvis Presley who makes a surprise appearance at a chamber music concert. Composer Robert Normandeau hosts an immersion in the sonic universe of Expo '67 to a background of electroacoustic works from back then.

FREE ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Free animated events will be presented at every corner of the Place des Arts and its Esplanade throughout the entire weekend, as well as on the Grande-Place at Complexe Desjardins, as musicians and artists from diverse communities gather to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the World Arts and Entertainment Festival. Make new and exciting discoveries or deepen your knowledge in a fascinating series of talks and demonstrations on the Stingray Classica Stage. Saturday evening, OSM Assistant Conductor Adam Johnson demystifies the workings of an orchestra, while winners of the OSM Manulife Competition perform free of charge during the whole festival. These concerts and activities are just a taste of the 2017 Classical Spree, the classical music festival at the heart of Montreal.

CINEMA BY STARLIGHT

West Side Story

Friday August 11 – 8 p.m.

(original English version with French subtitles)

West Side Story is a grand, tragic love story inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and set in New York City in the 1950s. An absolute masterpiece of American film.

The Barber of Seville: The Opera

Saturday August 12 – 8 p.m.

(original Italian version with French subtitles)

Slapstick and irresistible music are features of Rossini's great masterpiece and classic of comic opera. Produced by the Metropolitan Opera in 2014.

OSM IN THE PARK

Earlier in the summer months, **from July 25 to 28**, music lovers and film aficionados have a date with host **André Robitaille** for **four great concerts** in the **OSM in the Park** series. Conducted by **Adam Johnson**, the Orchestra performs in **Brossard, Blainville, Montreal (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)**, and **Terrebonne**, with famous musical masterpieces from the classical repertoire or soundtracks that vividly evoke the Silver Screen.

Cinema and Great Classics of the Repertoire

4 FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS IN BROSSARD, BLAINVILLE, MONTREAL, AND TERREBONNE

Tuesday July 25, Wednesday July 26, Thursday July 27, and Friday July 28 – 7:30 p.m.

Summer just wouldn't be the same without the outdoor series OSM in the Park! The orchestra is conducted by **Adam Johnson**, Assistant Conductor of the OSM with the participation of Todd Cope, Solo Clarinet, for a tour of parks that include stops at the Poly-Aréna Park in Brossard, Equestrian Park in Blainville, Promenade Bellerive Park in Montreal's Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve borough, and Île-des-Moulins in Terrebonne.

These outdoor concerts hosted by André Robitaille will feature great works of the classical repertoire, famous because of their association with cinema, such as *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Apocalypse Now*, *The King's Speech*, *Jean de Florette*, and *Of Gods and Men*. The Orchestra will also perform popular works specially composed as film soundtracks, from *Titanic* to *Star Wars*! Audiences are invited to close their eyes and open their ears, and be swept away by the magic of the Silver Screen.

At the heart of the city or in the great parks of the metropolitan area, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal invites the whole family to take advantage of summer and escape to the sounds of beautiful music. A myriad of concerts indoors and free outdoor events await young and old!

For complete details about the Classical Spree: vireeclassique.osm.ca.

For more details about OSM in the Park: osm.ca.

The OSM thanks its partners:

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal wishes to thank the **Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine du ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Occupation du territoire**, the **ministère du Tourisme**, and **Ville de Montréal**.

Presenting Sponsor of the OSM: **Hydro-Québec**

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¹ The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique was generously gifted to the OSM by Madame Jacqueline Desmarais.