



**NEWS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

## THE OSM AS NEVER SEEN BEFORE

### A new series of five concerts including two with Rafael Payare!

**Montreal, January 14, 2021** – The **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal** announces a series of five new concerts to be broadcast on **OSM.CA** between January 19 and April 13, 2021. The first two concerts will give music lovers an opportunity to better acquaint themselves with **Rafael Payare**, the Orchestra's recently appointed music director for the 2022-2023 season. The maestro will be joined alternately by pianist **Charles Richard-Hamelin** and cellist **Alisa Weilerstein**. Passion and love will fill the air in February, when the Orchestra presents **Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet***, under the baton of conductor **Alexander Shelley**, while irony and drama will take centre stage in March with **Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale***, under the direction of OSM Assistant Conductor **Thomas Le Duc-Moreau**. Finally, the Ukrainian-born Finnish conductor **Dalia Stasevska** makes her debut with the OSM musicians in a program that honours Finland and Russia. Let the music play on!

### TWO CONCERTS CONDUCTED BY RAFAEL PAYARE

Starting January 19, the public is invited to discover the musical world of **Rafael Payare** in a concert featuring Quebec pianist **Charles Richard-Hamelin** performing Mozart's stirring *Concerto No. 24*, a masterpiece of the repertoire. Gubaidulina's *Fairy Tale Poem* adds a touch of magic to this program, and the enchanting stories of *Ma mère l'Oye* are evoked with refined restraint in Ravel's delightful score. Then, on February 2, Maestro Payare will conduct a personal favourite, Dvorak's powerful *Symphony No. 7*, one of the composer's greatest works, and *Mediodía en el llano*, by his Venezuelan compatriot Antonio Estévez. Shostakovich's introspective *Concerto No. 2* will bring together Maestro Payare and his wife, the renowned cellist **Alisa Weilerstein**.

**More than 75,000 people from 52 countries tuned in on Sunday to view the concert!**  
**Thank you!**

The concert is also [available for replay until January 17.](#)



### RAFAEL PAYARE

[Artist-in-residence for the 20-21 season](#)

### SYMPHONIC LOVE STORIES, FROM TCHAIKOVSKY TO BERNSTEIN

Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, *Fantasy-Overture*, Bernstein's *Serenade for Solo Violin and Orchestra*, Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* and his *Prelude and Liebestod*... the makings of a perfect **Valentine's Day** symphonic rendezvous! Starting February 9, the NAC Orchestra's music director **Alexander Shelley** will be on the podium for this concert that sizzles with passion, featuring OSM concertmaster **Andrew Wan** (photo). Bernstein's *Serenade* was recently recorded for the *Ginastera – Bernstein – Moussa* album, released on the Analekta label in October 2020.



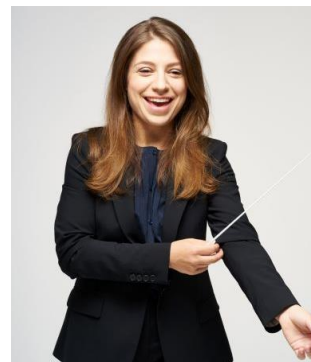
## STRAVINSKY'S THE SOLDIER'S TALE



This new series concludes with one of the 20th century's great masterpieces, Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, marking the 50th anniversary of the composer's death. The fruit of the genius of the Russian master and Swiss poet **Charles Ferdinand Ramuz**, this musical tale will be recorded in French and English, under the direction of **Thomas Le Duc-Moreau**, assistant conductor of the OSM. In addition to many of the Orchestra's principals, each of the two productions will feature a different cast. The English version, in collaboration with the **Black Theatre Workshop**, is directed by **Mariah Inger** and performed by **Chimwemwe Miller**, **Tristan D. Lalla** and **Warona Setshwealo**. The French-language production, directed by **Michel-Maxime Legault**, will star actors **Daniel Brière**, **Mani Soleymanlou** and **Marie-Thérèse Fortin**.

### A NORDIC ADVENTURE: DALIA STASEVSKA CONDUCTS SIBELIUS AND SHOSTAKOVICH

The year 2021 will mark the debut of the brilliant young Finnish conductor **Dalia Stasevka** (photo) with the OSM. She will lead the Orchestra in Sibelius's symphonic poem *Finlandia, Op. 26*, a work that established the Finnish composer's fame around the world. This will be followed by Rautavaara's *Harp Concerto*, showcasing the dazzling talent of **Jennifer Swartz**, OSM principal harp, and the first of Shostakovich's 15 symphonies, the *Symphony No. 1 in F minor, Op. 10*.



### DATES FOR NEW WEBCAST CONCERTS

Tuesday, January 19: **Charles Richard-Hamelin and Mozart's Concerto No. 24: Merging Finesse and Depth**

Tuesday, February 2: **Dvořák's Masterful Symphony No. 7 Conducted by Rafael Payare**

Tuesday, February 9: **Symphonic Love Stories: From Tchaikovsky to Bernstein**

Tuesday, March 2: **Stravinsky's The Soldier's Tale**

Tuesday, March 30: **A Nordic Adventure: Dalia Stasevka Conducts Sibelius and Shostakovich**

The concerts will be online at 7 p.m. and will be available for 14 days

Tickets on sale at [OSM.CA](http://OSM.CA), 514 842-9951 / 1 888 842-9951

\$20 per concert – Package offering a 15% discount when you buy all available concerts.

Please note that due to the uncertainty of the current situation, the *Hip Hop symphonique with the OSM* concerts scheduled for January 19 and 20, 2021 have been moved to **March 29 and March 30, 2022**, at 8 p.m.

*"During this pandemic, which is causing so much upheaval in our daily lives, there's nothing more reassuring than the rhythm of music to mitigate this loss of normalcy, to maintain hope, to keep dreams alive and to perpetuate beauty," said **Claude Gagnon, President, BMO Financial Group, Quebec**. Some studies even show that listening to 5 to 10 minutes of music a day is one of the most effective ways to get rid of stress and keep spirits up. The OSM will give us the opportunity to do so by launching this new five-concert music series. BMO is proud to support this initiative and to be a partner of this third series of the 20-21 season, and congratulates the OSM for boldly growing the good in our lives by offering a program of concerts that are accessible to as many people as possible."*

## THE OSM THANKS ITS PARTNERS, SUBSCRIBERS AND AUDIENCES

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 Government of Quebec and the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

The OSM is proud to be able to count on its loyal partners and wishes to thank Hydro-Québec, title presenter of the OSM, BMO Financial Group, season partner, and Power Corporation of Canada, major series sponsor. We also wish to express our gratitude to the OSM Foundation, Sélection Retraite, Yimby, Air Canada, Fondation J.A. DeSève, J. Armand Bombardier Foundation, Le Groupe Maurice, Canada Life, National Bank, BBA, Cogeco, Volvo Car Canada, Charton-Hobbs, DoubleTree by Hilton Montreal, ESKA, IRIS, Ritz-Carlton Montreal and Solotech.

The OSM is likewise grateful to its other partners and donors, as well its subscribers and audiences, who, in different ways, provide essential support for its activities. The Artists-in-Residence program is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Rossy Foundation. The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique was generously gifted to the OSM by Ms. Jacqueline Desmarais.

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**MEDIA RELATIONS:** Pascale Ouimet, Head of Public and Media Relations • T. 514 840-7436 • [pouimet@osm.ca](mailto:pouimet@osm.ca)