

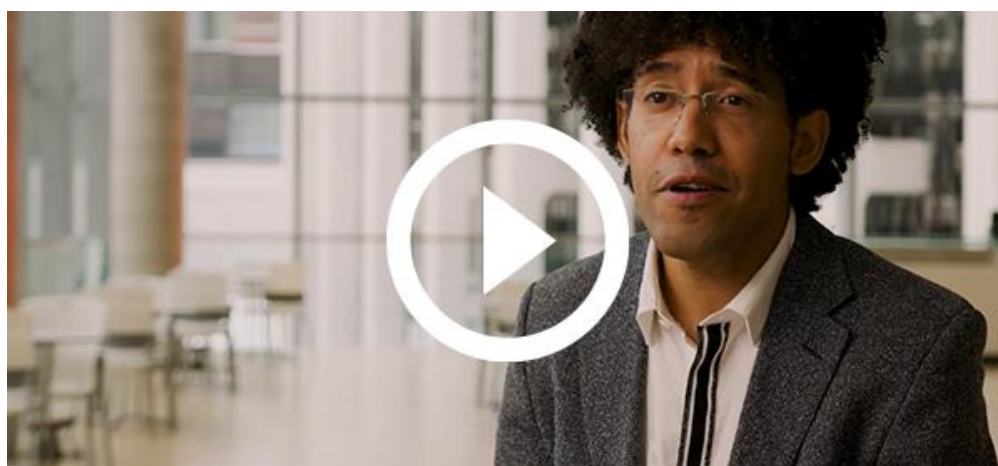


PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

THE OSM UNVEILS ITS 2021–2022 SEASON EXPERIENCE THE EXTRAORDINARY!

Montreal, August 24, 2021—It is with immense excitement and emotion that the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal today unveils its 2021–2022 season, the very first for the Orchestra under new Music Director **Rafael Payare**. The year 2021 also marks the 10th anniversary of the magnificent Maison symphonique de Montréal, the OSM’s home venue inaugurated on September 7, 2011. With audiences and artists reunited at last for this 88th OSM season, together let us prepare to experience the extraordinary!

Launching on September 14, the OSM’s 88th season promises to be an outstanding one, with 61 concerts at the Maison symphonique, including four premieres of works by Canadian composers— there is something for everyone! The OSM will welcome more than 20 artists from here as well as international guest soloists, fifteen of whom are first-time collaborators with the Orchestra. On the podium this season: sixteen guest conductors, two OSM Conductors Emeriti, and of course, the OSM’s new Music Director.



“By combining our strengths and exploring new musical territories, I am delighted to be able to create, with the Orchestra, new encounters between music and the public in Montreal. It will be a privilege for me to contribute to this rich tradition of art and activity.”

—**Rafael Payare**, OSM Music Director

22
21
Season

FROM SHOSTAKOVICH'S *FIFTH* TO BEETHOVEN'S TRIUMPHANT *NINTH*

Opening Concert



Maestro Rafael Payare will conduct three different programs in September, including the season's Opening Concert, **RAFAEL PAYARE CONDUCTS SHOSTAKOVICH'S FIFTH SYMPHONY**, presented on September 14, 16 and 18. For this grand event, he leads the OSM in this brilliant, intense, and dramatic work that fully resonates with our experiences of the past year. Also on the program: Ravel's *La valse*, and *Kaléidoscope* by composer Pierre Mercure, an important work of the Quebec repertoire, created for the OSM back in 1948.

Closing Concert



To conclude the 2021–2022 season, make way for **BEETHOVEN'S TRIUMPHANT *NINTH*** on May 31 and on June 1 and 2, 2022. This powerful hymn to human fellowship will follow Brahms' *Schicksalslied* (Song of Destiny). The two great masterpieces for choir and orchestra with Rafael Payare and the OSM Chorus thus close the OSM's 88th season with magnificence and hope.

A BLEND OF TRADITION AND MODERNITY: FEATURED COMPOSERS

Along with works by canonic composers of the 19th and 20th centuries such as Beethoven, Brahms and Shostakovich, the OSM's 2021–2022 season also shines the spotlight on the German and Russian repertoires that form an integral part of the Orchestra's musical tradition. As for contemporary music, it remains central to the OSM's programming: the Maison symphonique will resound with creations by current composers, including Canadians **Gabriel Thibaudeau**, **Dorothy Chang**, **Simon Bertrand** and **Ana Sokolović**, who pursues her second season as an OSM Artist-in-Residence.

MOMENTOUS CONCERTS: RECONNECT WITH TWO CONDUCTORS EMERITI



This season is also a time for momentous and joyous reunions! In December, OSM Conductor Emeritus **Kent Nagano** and storyteller **Fred Pellerin** come together to present a brand-new symphonic Christmas tale, the fifth such event to delight OSM audiences. Then, in what will be a historic concert on February 5, **Zubin Mehta**, another OSM Conductor Emeritus, returns to mark 60 years after leading the Orchestra on its first international tour! As an homage to his friend Pierre Béique, who was a great admirer of Wagner, Mehta will conduct excerpts from some of the Bayreuth master's finest operas, joined by the warm and powerful voice of American soprano **Christine Goerke**.

PRESTIGIOUS LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

Throughout the year, the Orchestra's musicians will perform alongside leading international soloists as well as rising young virtuosos. Some featured guests include violinists **Hilary Hahn**, **Christian Tetzlaff** and **Simone Lamsma**, pianists **Éric Le Sage**, **Louis Lortie**, **Daniil Trifonov** and **Alexander Malofeev**, as well as OSM Organist Emeritus **Olivier Latry**. The sublime voices of **Marie-Nicole Lemieux**, **Karen Cargill**, **Frédéric Antoun** and **Marie-Sophie Pollak** will fill the Maison symphonique, while the Orchestra welcomes conductors **Michael Tilson Thomas**, **Xian Zhang**, **David Zinman**, **Hervé Niquet** and **Gemma New** to its podium, among others.

PROGRAMMING FOR ALL AUDIENCES!

Numerous will be the families to cross the Maison symphonique's threshold to enjoy concerts in the OSM's popular **Children's Corner series**, as well as a special event to mark the culmination of the long-term **OSMose** project. An initiative of the OSM and philanthropist Michel Phaneuf, in collaboration with music therapist Nathalie Leroux and École Saint-Étienne, OSMose enables children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as well as students in the regular curriculum to connect with music and the arts through adapted workshops. Established in 2019, this year the project will bring together students and families in two concerts at the Maison symphonique in April of 2022. The fourth large-scale Youth event this season will be the **Bal des enfants** conducted by **Rafael Payare** in April of 2022. Dates for ticket sales to be announced.

Also in April, the music of Quebec composer Gabriel Thibaudreau is featured in a cinematic concert to accompany the 1923 silent film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, a world premiere! There will also be six chamber music concerts interspersed throughout the season at Bourgie Hall, showcasing the artistry of members of the Orchestra. Finally, the programming for the **OSM POP series** conducted by Dina Gilbert consists of four concerts including **IAM X OSM**, featuring the iconic francophone rap group and scheduled in May 2022, as well as **THE OSM TO THE HIP HOP BEAT**, in two performances with Alclair Ensemble, Dead Obies, Koriass, FouKi and QuietMike, in March 2022.

TWO ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE



The OSM receives two Artists-in-Residence in its midst this season: American conductor **Michael Tilson Thomas**, and for a second year, Serbian-born Canadian composer **Ana Sokolović**, whose accordion concerto *Balkanales* will be heard in the February concert **FROM THE MOLDAU TO THE BALKANS: SLAVIC ACCENTS**, under the Chinese-American conductor **Xian Zhang**. In March, OSM audiences will have the opportunity to hear the illustrious American conductor Michael Tilson Thomas in two concerts, **MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS: MONUMENTAL**, featuring Schubert's majestic Symphony no. 9, and **MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS: DREAMER**. Tilson Thomas, who is also a composer, has invited Canadian soprano **Measha Brueggergosman** to join him in conveying the ironic and sarcastic overtones of a near-inscrutable poet in *Poems of Emily Dickinson*, one of the conductor's own works.

"Our 2021–2022 season is the expression of continuity, resilience and of our faith in the power of music to connect us with powerful emotions and a sense of belonging."

—**Madeleine Careau**, Chief Executive Officer OSM

TICKET INFORMATION

Presale for subscribers and donors as well as clients who possess credits begins on August 24 at 9 a.m. and ends on September 6. Sale of subscriptions and webcasts begins on August 24. Sale of individual concert tickets for the general public begins on September 7 at noon.

Please note that evening concerts are presented without intermission and will begin at 7:30 p.m. The number of audience members admitted in-hall must comply with public health regulations in place. The OSM's priority is the health and safety of everyone. There is also welcome news for those who enjoy viewing concerts at home: again, this season, several concerts will be recorded for webcast. Please visit osm.ca for more details.

For programming details or to purchase tickets: OSM.CA / 514 842-9951 or 1 888 842-9951

"BMO is proud to present this 88th 2021–2022 season. Once again, the OSM has proven it knows just how to offer us fantastic programming that will appeal to everyone. I would like to welcome new Music Director Rafael Payare, whose extraordinary reputation precedes him. We all look forward to seeing him in action." — **Claude Gagnon**, President, Operations, BMO Financial Group, Quebec

THE OSM WISHES TO THANK ITS PARTNERS, SUBSCRIBERS AND AUDIENCES

Contributions from the Orchestra's public partners are essential to its operations. The OSM wishes to acknowledge its main public partner, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, as well as the Canada Council for the Arts, the Government of Quebec, and the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

The OSM is proud of its support from loyal sponsors, and gratefully acknowledges its Presenting Sponsor, Hydro-Québec, its Season Presenter, BMO, as well as its Major Series Sponsor, Power Corporation of Canada. It also wishes to express its gratitude to the OSM Foundation, Volvo, PricewaterhouseCoopers, McKinsey, Sélection Retraite, Yimby, Fondation J.A. DeSève, Le Groupe Maurice, Canada Life, National Bank, BBA, Cogeco, Fondation Groupe Forget, Charton-Hobbs, DoubleTree by Hilton Montreal, ESKA, IRIS, Ritz-Carlton Montreal, Solotech, and Clarins.

The OSM is likewise grateful to its other donors and partners, as well as to its subscribers and audiences, who in many different ways provide essential support to its activities. The Artists-in-Residence program is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Rossy Foundation.

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

-30-

[Click here](#) to access the complete press kit.

If you wish to **schedule an interview** or **attend a concert** in September,
Contact the OSM public relations team without delay!

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