



PRESS RELEASE
for immediate release

THE OSM AS NEVER SEEN BEFORE

Announcing Four New 2020–2021 Spring Season Concerts

The OSM is overjoyed to reconnect with live audiences at the Maison symphonique on April 7 and 8 and on May 4 and 5!

Montreal, March 25, 2021 – More than ever before, spring in Montreal heralds rebirth, and the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is all set to welcome its cherished public back to the Maison symphonique! Of these four new concerts available via webcast, two will also take place before a live audience, in five performances April 7 and 8 as well as May 4 and 5 (there will be two performances on May 5). Beginning on April 1, **Bernard Labadie** conducts the Orchestra for its spring concert free of charge in celebration of Easter. Then, both OSM Assistant Conductor **Thomas Le Duc-Moreau** and guest conductor **Dalia Stasevska** will be on the podium for concerts featuring guest soloists—OSM Competition winners—to transport listeners from North America to the Baltic region with works by Barber, Grant Still, Sibelius and Tchaikovsky. Finally, Canadian violinist **James Ehnes** and OSM Concertmaster **Andrew Wan** will swap playing and conducting the Orchestra’s string ensemble in a concert whose prevailing themes are spirituality and hope.

EASTER CONCERT: CONTEMPLATION AND DEVOTION WITH HAYDN

Free concert, webcast from April 1 to 6



Conducted by **Bernard Labadie**, the Orchestra will perform Josef Haydn’s *The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross*. This profoundly emotional work evokes the light that shines beyond the darkness we collectively face today. This sacred and solemn work of orchestral music in seven movements, interspersed with passages recited from the Bible by outstanding Quebec actor **Yves Jacques**, is sure to deliver much-needed moments of comfort and contemplation.

BARBER AND GRANT STILL: AMERICAN SOUNDS

In-hall at the Maison symphonique on April 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. + via webcast from April 20 to May 4

Under the direction of OSM Assistant Conductor **Thomas Le Duc-Moreau** (photo), William Grant Still’s *Symphony no. 2, “Song of a New Race”* will fill the Maison symphonique with jazzy, hybrid and vibrant sounds inspired by African American tradition, symbolic of the American “New Man” of the 1930s. In the first part, audiences will hear two exquisitely lyrical works by Samuel Barber: the Violin Concerto performed by young virtuoso and 2013 OSM Competition winner **Kerson Leong**, and the composer’s best-known work, the *Adagio for Strings*.



NORTHERN LIGHTS: DALIA STASEVSKA CONDUCTS TCHAIKOVSKY AND SIBELIUS

Webcast from April 27 to May 11

Finnish-Ukrainian conductor **Dalia Stasevska** (photo) leads the OSM in works that reflect the retrospective visions of two major composers. Tchaikovsky paid tribute to Mozart in his graceful, delicate *Variations on a Rococo Theme*, in which we will hear cello soloist **Bryan Cheng**, winner of the 2019 OSM Competition. Sibelius broke with Romanticism in his luminous Symphony no. 3, whose formal balance reminiscent of Classical style is tinged with characteristic Nordic serenity. The ethereal *Paradisfåglar* (Birds of Paradise) by Swedish composer Andrea Tarrodi completes this program.



THE OSM AND JAMES EHNES: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

In-hall at the Maison symphonique on May 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. and on May 5 at 10 :30 a.m. + via webcast from May 25 to June 8



Whether sprightly or spiritual, the OSM strings summon a captivating journey! Canadian violinist **James Ehnes** (photo) and OSM Concertmaster **Andrew Wan** alternately play and conduct the ensemble in a program that features Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony, a work of tragic depth echoing the many conflicts of the 20th century. Bach's elegant, robust Violin Concerto BWV 1052R rekindles the flames of hope, while Vaughan Williams transforms them into pure light with overflowing rich harmonies in his *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis*.

NEW IN-HALL CONCERTS AT THE MAISON SYMPHONIQUE

CONCERTS WITHOUT INTERMISSION

BARBER AND GRANT STILL: AMERICAN SOUNDS • APRIL 7 AND 8 AT 7 P.M.

THE OSM AND JAMES EHNES: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT • MAY 4 AND 5 AT 7 P.M. AND MAY 5 AT 10:30 A.M.

NEW WEBCAST CONCERTS

ONLINE CONCERTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR A PERIOD OF 14 DAYS.

EASTER CONCERT: CONTEMPLATION AND DEVOTION WITH HAYDN • APRIL 1 TO 6:: FREE::

BARBER AND GRANT STILL: AMERICAN SOUNDS • APRIL 20 TO MAY 4

NORTHERN LIGHTS: DALIA STASEVSKA CONDUCTS TCHAIKOVSKY AND SIBELIUS • APRIL 27 TO MAY 11

THE OSM AND JAMES EHNES: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT • MAY 25 TO JUNE 8

:: TICKETS:: Access to all four concerts via webcast, or in-hall where applicable, can be purchased now: OSM.CA, 514 842-9951/1 888 842-9951 **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!**

WEBCASTS Tickets for webcasts are available at the rate of \$20 per unit. Bundle rate of 15% off with the purchase of access to all four concerts.



The health and safety of the public, musicians and staff is our first priority. Concerts will proceed under the strictest sanitary conditions, in full compliance with Public Health guidelines. For details on these guidelines, we invite you to consult osm.ca.

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 to have the support of its loyal sponsors and gratefully acknowledges its Presenting Sponsor, Hydro-Québec, its Season Partner, BMO, as well as its Major Series Sponsor, Power Corporation of Canada. 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 donors and partners, 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 has been generously gifted to the OSM by Ms. Jacqueline Desmarais.

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