



ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE
DE MONTRÉAL



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The OSM'S REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN AID PROGRAM BASED ON LOST TICKETING REVENUES

Montreal, October 2, 2020 — The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) welcomes today's announcement by Quebec Premier François Legault and Culture and Communications Minister Nathalie Roy to provide a new \$50 million envelope to help the cultural sector deal with the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

“Like all cultural institutions, the OSM has been hard hit by the suspension of its activities caused by the pandemic, since last March,” said **Madeleine Careau, Chief Executive Officer** of the OSM. “This has resulted in the cancellation of more than 80 concerts and a loss of several millions of dollars. After the development of new programming adapted to the context of the pandemic, the adoption of a rigorous health protocol, and the resumption of public concerts only a few weeks ago before audiences limited to 250 people, the prospect of no longer being able to earn ticket revenues for at least another month amounted to no less than massive financial and organizational challenges. Today’s announcement lessens the impact of the new guidelines announced at the beginning of the week and allows us to plan our activities for the coming weeks and months with some form of safety net.”

The OSM is pleased that the provincial government has decided to compensate cultural organizations on the basis of lost ticketing revenues, responding to a demand that had been made via the “Group of 11,” composed of some of Montreal’s most prominent cultural institutions. “We applaud the fact that the Minister of Culture has succeeded in convincing the government to adopt this approach, which will assist us greatly in maintaining artistic creation and dissemination activities. We will, therefore, be able to continue to maintain employment for our musicians and administrative staff and to support the local music community, including many guest artists from Quebec,” affirmed **Ms. Careau**.

The OSM’s creative teams have already begun developing a plan to increase the Orchestra’s online presence in the coming weeks. The main elements of this plan will be communicated shortly.

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 and Digital Fall Concerts partner, BMO Financial Group, 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, Spinelli, Canada Life, National Bank, BBA, Cogeco, Estiatorio Milos, 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 programme 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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