



PRESS RELEASE
for immediate release

The OSM concludes an extraordinary season with two distinctive concerts!

VOICES OF WOMEN: AN ODE TO LIFE

CAPTIVATING MELODIES: BERLIOZ'S *LES NUITS D'ÉTÉ*

Montreal, May 13, 2021 – The OSM concludes a thoroughly exceptional season by presenting two concerts that are sure to leave a lasting impression! First, offered free of charge via webcast on June 15. **VOICES OF WOMEN: AN ODE TO LIFE** pays tribute to women creators and performers, and to all women in an ode to their sensitivity and diversity. Next, audience members are invited to join us at the Maison symphonique on **May 28 and 29** for the last concert of the season, **BEWITCHING MELODIES: BERLIOZ'S *LES NUITS D'ÉTÉ*** led by Dutch conductor and Music Director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra **Otto Tausk**. In this program, also available via webcast, works by Berlioz and Prokofiev showcase several Quebec soloists and musicians from the Orchestra. Do not miss these two final events—a brilliant conclusion to an unprecedented season.

VOICES OF WOMEN: AN ODE TO LIFE

Free, available via webcast from June 15 to June 22



Under the direction of **Dina Gilbert** and featuring an entirely female cast of performers, **VOICES OF WOMEN: AN ODE TO LIFE** integrates the multiple, timeless, and exceptional voices of women artists. Seize this opportunity to appreciate diverse local and international composers (**Ana Sokolović, Alexina Louie, Barbara Croall, Lili Boulanger** and **Elizabeth Maconchy**) in a selection that highlights throat singing, violin, flute, and orchestra. Weaving a narrative swathed in the colours of the tundra, Innu poet **Joséphine Bacon** gives a reading of her poetry on the themes of night, the seasons, and the cycle of life. With sensitivity, wisdom, and creativity, this event creates a valuable space for dialogue between cultures, eras, and languages.

This concert is dedicated to the memory of all the victims of violence against women whose voices can no longer be heard.

BEWITCHING MELODIES: BERLIOZ'S *LES NUITS D'ÉTÉ*

At the Maison symphonique, May 28 at 7 p.m. and May 29 at 2:30 p.m. and via webcast from June 8 to 22



The OSM is delighted to welcome the conductor of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra **Otto Tausk**, who will direct Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été*, a cycle of six art songs evoking love with tenderness, restlessness, mystery, and exhilaration. These works for solo voice and orchestra will be shared among four of our most brilliant Canadian artists: **Hélène Guilmette**, **Caroline Gélinas**, **Frédéric Antoun** and **Geoffroy Salvas**. Melody then flows from the voice to the orchestra in one of Prokofiev's last works, the Symphony no. 7, crafted to highlight each one of the OSM's instrumental sections.

THANKS, AND THANKS AGAIN!

The OSM prepares to close this 2020–2021 chapter of its history with a feeling of immense gratitude: first, toward its public, who has shown unwavering loyalty and to **Kent Nagano**, to whom we are deeply grateful for his massive artistic and humanistic contribution. Appointed Emeritus Conductor in February, Maestro Nagano was finally able to give his farewell performances in a series of four concerts at the helm of the Orchestra. This 87th season was also marked, on January 7, by the appointment of **Rafael Payare** as the ninth Music Director in the Orchestra's history. Triumphantly ushering in this new era, an imposing concert under Maestro Payare's direction, offered free of charge via webcast, brought together **125,000 people from 80 countries**. In total, **39 new** concerts have been recorded since September 2020 and rendered accessible via webcast, several of which were free of charge.

Despite the global crisis, the OSM and its musicians have demonstrated unparalleled resilience, optimism, and passion for music. While its desire to maintain its privileged relationship with the Quebec community rose to the occasion, the OSM also achieved its goal to bring comfort through art, a matter of urgent need in the past year. Thanks, and thanks again!

:: TICKETS on sale as of 10 A.M. today: OSM.CA, 514 842-9951 / 1 888 842-9951

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 wishes to thank the Gouvernement du Québec for its support through the Plan de relance économique du milieu culturel, during the Orchestra's 2020-2021 season.

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.