



## AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCH BASED ON A RIGOROUS PROCESS

**Montreal, January 7, 2021** — The appointment of Rafael Payare as the next Music Director of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) is the result of a rigorous process that began in 2017, shortly after the announcement of Maestro Kent Nagano's decision to step down as Music Director of the Orchestra at the end of the 2019-2020 season.

An 11-member committee, chaired by Ms. Suzanne Fortier, Principal and Vice-chancellor of McGill University, was set up to identify a conductor with the qualities and stature needed to hold the important position of Music Director of the OSM for several years.

The search was global in scope and was based on six main criteria:

- innate musicianship and technical excellence;
- creativity and artistic innovation;
- vitality and demonstrated leadership with the musicians;
- ability to continue developing the Orchestra's repertoire;
- willingness to get involved in the Montreal community;
- knowledge of French or a sincere commitment to learning it quickly.

"I would like to mention that several very high-calibre candidates expressed interest in the position of the OSM's Music Director, which reflects the Orchestra's outstanding quality and reputation," said Ms. Fortier.

The international recruitment of a top-level music director is normally a process that can easily take two or three years, as there are many constraints to contend with, including the availability of prospective candidates, all of whom have busy agendas and professional commitments that are decided years in advance.

"This time, we had to deal with a situation that was completely beyond our control: that of COVID-19. The pandemic, which began in March of last year as we were nearing the end of the process, meant we had to postpone it for several months," added the committee chair.

"This complicated matters, but today we are very pleased to have completed the recruitment process and, above all, to have been able to identify a candidate of the highest quality, Rafael Payare, who has been unanimously recommended to the OSM's Board of Directors," concluded Ms. Fortier.



## MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO SELECT THE OSM'S NEXT MUSIC DIRECTOR

### Chair

Suzanne Fortier  
Principal and Vice-chancellor, McGill University

### Special advisor

Zarin Mehta  
Managing director of the OSM, 1981 to 1990

### Members

Madeleine Careau  
Chief Executive Officer, OSM

Pierre Goulet  
Member of the Board of Directors, OSM

Richard Lupien  
Chair, Fondation Jeunesses Musicales Canada

Alexander Neef  
General Director, Canadian Opera Company

Isabelle Panneton  
Former dean, Faculty of Music, Université de Montréal

Nancy Rosenfeld  
Member of the Board of Directors, OSM

Andrew Wan  
Concertmaster, OSM

Ali Yazdanfar  
Principal double bass, OSM

Todd Cope  
Principal clarinet, OSM