



Press release
For immediate release

THE OSM UNVEILS ITS 2022–2023 SEASON RAFAEL PAYARE'S FIRST SEASON

Montreal, May 31, 2022 — The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is thrilled to announce its **89th-season** programming, marking the **first season under the OSM's new Music Director Rafael Payare**. The accent is on dynamic programming imbued with a spirit of togetherness and focused on OSM core values, which the Maestro fully embraces: the importance of **community**, the **mission of education** and the value of **artistic creation**. Highlights will include 4 world premieres, 17 concerts for young audiences, and a spotlight on choral singing to emphasize connectedness. In total, musicians will give over **100 concerts** at the Maison symphonique and at Bourgie Hall, joined by some 50 guest soloists and conductors.



"I am touched by the kindness and warmth I have received since I arrived and have great confidence in our shared future with the Orchestra. This season is especially meaningful, since we have built it to allow everyone to rekindle that lost enjoyment of concerts fully invested with a human presence, welcoming and gratifying for the senses."

— OSM Music Director Rafael Payare.



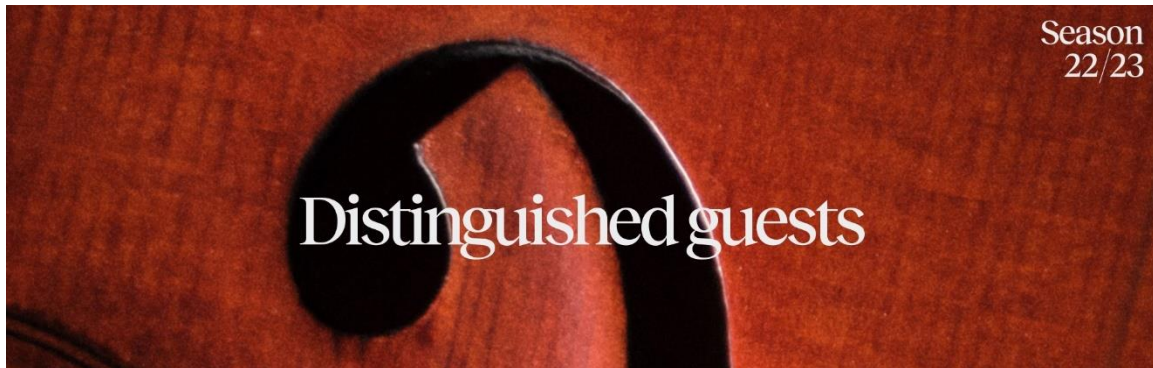
SYMPHONIC MASTERWORKS WITH RAFAEL PAYARE

Rafael Payare will conduct some twenty concerts at the Maison symphonique this season, including a full-scale season-opener featuring the world premiere of a work by **Thomas Larcher**, followed by Gustav Mahler's monumental Symphony no. 2, "Resurrection." This concert also kicks off the OSM's **Mahler cycle**, which extends over several seasons and will regale audiences with the composer's complete symphonies and major vocal works. The cycle continues in the spring with his Symphony no. 5, whose opening funeral march evokes life's fragility, and to close the season, his Symphony no. 3.

Maestro Payare will also conduct a concert where theatre with orchestral music blend, with Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* also featuring the **OSM Chorus**. Staged by Catherine Vidal, excerpts from Shakespeare's play will be performed by up-and-coming actors. Internationally renowned Canadian soprano **Barbara Hannigan** will make her OSM debut in a concert spotlighting Claude Vivier's *Lonely Child* and Berlioz's iconic *Symphonie fantastique*. Bulgarian soprano **Sonya Yoncheva** pays a visit to Montreal for an evening entirely devoted to Richard Strauss—an important composer for Payare—featuring the imposing *Four Last Songs* and the great symphonic poem *A Hero's Life*.

Keen to progressively integrate works of Latin American origin in the Orchestra's repertoire, Rafael Payare will conduct the *Cantata Criolla* by Venezuelan composer Antonio Estévez. Subtitled "The one who sang with the Devil," this work will be heard in a triple program that also includes Strauss' *Don Quixote* with cellist **Alisa Weilerstein** and the world premiere of *Melina* by OSM Composer-in-Residence **Ana Sokolović**.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



OSM Conductor Emeritus **Kent Nagano**, a figure dear to the hearts of Montreal music lovers, will be back at the Maison symphonique for a series of two concerts. In November, the Maestro will offer an evening of **Mozart** and **Schubert**, while in February, he will conduct Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto no. 2 with French pianist and gold medallist of the 2019 Tchaikovsky Competition **Alexandre Kantorow**, who makes his debut with OSM.

After her OSM debut in 2021, Finnish-Ukrainian conductor **Dalia Stasevska** returns to lead the Orchestra in Sibelius' Symphony no. 6, Sofia Gubaidulina's *The Light of the End* as well as Chopin's formidable Piano Concerto no. 2. Montrealer **Bruce Liu**, grand prize winner of the 18th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in 2021 and of the OSM Competition in 2012, is the guest soloist for these concerts.

British conductor **Ben Palmer** will conduct two evenings dedicated to the music of **John Williams**, for both film (*Harry Potter*, *Star Wars*, among others) and concert. This is a special opportunity to discover the many sides of Williams' abundant repertoire.

For the first time, the OSM welcomes to its stage several brilliant artists, including conductors **Laurence Equilbey**, **Tianyi Lu**, **Osmo Vanska**, **Leonardo García Alarcón**, and pianists **Alexandre Kantorow** and **Vikingur Olaffson**.

Finally, this season marks heartwarming reconnections with **Bernard Labadie**, **Kent Nagano**, **Dalia Stasevska**, **Daniil Trifonov**, **Yefim Bronfman**, **Angela Hewitt**, **Alisa Weilerstein**, **Bruce Liu**, and **Maxim Vengerov**.

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MUSIC



Four new works will receive world premieres this upcoming season: three OSM commissions to Canadian composers including *Ainsi chantait Simorgh* by Quebec composer **Katia Mkdissi-Warren**, *Melina* by Composer-in-Residence **Ana Sokolović**, as well as Montrealer **Tim Brady's** Violin Concerto no. 2. Austrian composer **Thomas Larcher** contributes to the roster of new works with a co-commission by the OSM, San Diego Symphony, NDR Radiophilharmonie, Tonkünstler-Orchester and Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra. The 2022–2023 season will also offer opportunities to hear compositions by Unsuk Chin, Kaija Saarlaha, Sofia Gubaidulina, Arvo Pärt, and Dorothy Chang, among others.

AN ABUNDANCE OF CHORAL WORKS

Especially during the holidays!



The entire season will be interspersed with choral works: in addition to Mahler, Mendelssohn and Estévez, Bernard Labadie will return to conduct Haydn's *The Creation*. The month of December will mark continuity with the Orchestra's holiday tradition of celebrating togetherness with large-scale concerts. First, **Rafael Payare** will conduct the grand-scale but heartwarming family event during which the audience can join their voices to the **OSM Chorus** and the **Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal** in holiday classics. At the end of December, **Leonardo García Alarcón** pays his visit to the Maison symphonique to conduct an evening dedicated to Bach, with a program of excerpts from the *Christmas Oratorio* and the Cantata BWV 29 (*Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir*), with soprano **Marie-Sophie Pollak** and the **OSM Chorus**.

OSM POP SERIES

Each year, pop artists from near and far share the stage with OSM musicians for some truly distinctive and memorable concerts. Some of these artists have forged special connections with the Orchestra, and the public has asked for more performances by them. They include **Les Cowboys Fringants**, back at the Maison symphonique for a third time under the direction of Simon Leclerc, whose symphonic adaptations are also a highlight of these events! In addition, hear **Dominique Fils-Aimé** and, joining the Orchestra for the first time as a guest artist, **Elisapie**, performing an unprecedented concert conducted by **Dina Gilbert**. Singing arrangements by **Blair Thomson**, choristers from the program *Y'a du monde à messe* will also mount the stage for an emotion-filled evening.

ORGAN SERIES

The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique resounds anew in captivating events inspired by film, contemporary music, and theatre. Back in the limelight is **Organ & Improv, Opus 2**, in which actors and musicians face off, right on stage, in an improvisation match. For our Music and Film evening, the silent film **The General (1926)** by **Buster Keaton** will be paired with live improvisation at the organ by **James Kennerley**. The Organ series also receives **Iveta Apkalna** in a recital of music by Bach and Glass.

TOUR OF THE UNITES STATES

After touring Korea and Europe, this season the Orchestra will embark on its **58th tour in the spring of 2023**, heading to the **United States**, with stops in Washington and New York City. The OSM had been slated to perform at the prestigious **Carnegie Hall** in March 2020 and is, therefore, excited to take the stage of this legendary venue for its **45th concert** there on March 8, 2023, after an appearance at the **Kennedy Center in Washington** (March 6), presented by the Washington Performing Arts. Led by **Rafael Payare**, the Orchestra will perform Dorothy Chang's *Precipice*, Bartók's Piano Concerto no. 2, BB 101, and Mahler's Symphony no. 5. Virtuoso pianist **Yefim Bronfman** will join the Orchestra on this tour.

THE OSM CONTINUES ITS EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Rafael Payare wholeheartedly pursues the OSM dearly held mission of accessibility to music by young people. This season will offer a total of **17 concerts for young audiences**: 12 school matinees, 3 family concerts as well as the final round of the **OSM Competition** (piano edition) in November, when for the first time, finalists will be accompanied by the Orchestra.

On International Children's Day, November 20, 2022, conductor **Thomas Le Duc Moreau** will direct the **OSMose** family concert. Hosted by **Charles Lafortune** and staged by **Michel Maxime Legault**, this event was designed as an inclusive symphonic experience offering listening and reception conditions adapted to special needs.

In the *Children's Corner* series, families can discover **The Mathematics of Music** in a concert staged by **Martin Gougeon**. Who isn't familiar with the famous story of *Pinocchio*? The Orchestra, led by **Adam Johnson** flanked by actors **Lionel Rougerie** and **Samoel Verbecelte** relate the wooden puppet's adventures in this concert where sticks and bows will grow to the sound of music by Bizet, Debussy, Gounod and Kosma.

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Tickets prices from \$35 up
Subscriptions -- 3 concerts or more -- 20% rebate

“The OSM is launching its 89th season! Our pride in this long-standing partnership continues to grow. At BMO, we’re always excited to discover a new season’s programming. The renowned excellence the OSM delivers season after season means its 2022-2023 programming promises to live up to its well-deserved reputation. And we’re especially thrilled to officially welcome its new music director: Rafael Payare,” said Claude Gagnon, President, BMO Financial Group, Québec.

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, as well as its Season Presenter, BMO Financial Group.

It also expresses its gratitude to Power Corporation of Canada, Fondation J. A. DeSève, Canada Life, Cogeco, BBA, Spinelli, Le Groupe Maurice, Sélection Retraite, Ritz-Carlton Montreal, IRIS, PricewaterhouseCoopers, McKinsey & Company, Volvo, Solotech, Clarins, Bivouac, National Bank, Radio-Canada and Symphony.

The OSM is likewise grateful to its other partners and donors, as well as to its subscribers and audiences, who in many different ways provide essential support to its activities.

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