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SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE NEXT MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE MONTREAL SYMPHONY FORMED

MONTREAL, September 26, 2017 – Following the announcement (June 29) of the culmination of **Kent Nagano's** mandate as music director of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) / Montreal Symphony, in 2020, the Orchestra announced today that the search process for its next music director is under way and that a prestigious search committee has been formed. The group met for the first time, in Montreal, on September 21. The search committee will make its recommendations to the Orchestra's executive committee. No deadline has been set for determining the choice of the next music director.

The committee is chaired by **Suzanne Fortier**, principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University; and has as its senior advisor **Zarin Mehta**, senior music executive who served as managing director of the Montreal Symphony from 1981 to 1990, executive director of the Ravinia Festival from 1990-2000, and as president of the New York Philharmonic until 2012. Additional committee members hold key positions in the local, Canadian and international music world: **Laurent Bayle**, executive director, Cité de la musique-Philharmonie (Paris); **Madeleine Careau**, chief executive officer of the Montreal Symphony; **Pierre Goulet**, former president of Jeunesses Musicales Internationales, current chairman of the board of the Festival d'Opéra de Québec and member of the OSM board of directors; **Ara Guzelimian**, dean and provost of the Juilliard School (New York); **Richard Lupien**, president of the Jeunesses Musicales Canada Foundation and president of Pro Musica; **Alexander Neef**, general director of the Canadian Opera Company (Toronto); **Isabelle Panneton**, dean, Faculty of Music, Université de Montréal; **Nancy Rosenfeld**, president of the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation and member of the OSM board; **Andrew Wan**, OSM concertmaster, along with two musicians of the Orchestra appointed by the musicians' committee: **Ali Yazdanfar**, principal double bass, and **Todd Cope**, principal clarinet. Their recommendations will be made with an eye to the future, but bearing in mind the importance of continuity.

The excellence and vision of the OSM have been shaped over the years by its eight music directors: **Wilfrid Pelletier**, a Montrealer by birth and the Orchestra's first artistic director; **Désiré Defauw**, **Igor Markevitch**, **Zubin Mehta**, under whose direction the Orchestra gave its first concerts in Europe; **Franz-Paul Decker**; **Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos**; **Charles Dutoit**, whose collaboration

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with the Orchestra lasted close to 25 years; and, since 2006, **Kent Nagano**, whose engagement and innovative ideas have helped make music more accessible. The future music director will build on the achievements of his or her predecessors, who have contributed to a democratization of the face of music and to making Montréal an incontestable cultural metropolis.

About the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

Since its founding in 1934, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) has distinguished itself as a leader in the orchestral life of Canada and Québec. A cultural ambassador of the highest order, the Orchestra has acquired an enviable reputation internationally through the quality of its many recordings and tours. The OSM carries on that rich tradition under the leadership of its current music director, Kent Nagano, featuring innovative programming aimed at updating the orchestral repertoire and strengthening the Orchestra's connection with the community. Over the years, the OSM has undertaken over 40 tours and roughly 30 national and international excursions. The Orchestra has made more than 100 recordings, on the Decca, EMI, Philips, CBC Records, Analekta, ECM and Sony labels, as well as on its own label, which have earned it over 50 national and international awards.

Support for the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

The contribution of the Orchestra's public partners being indispensable to its operations, the OSM thanks its principal partner, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, along with the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal and Ville de Montréal.

The OSM is proud to be able to rely on its loyal sponsors, and wishes to thank Hydro-Québec, title presenter of the OSM, as well as BMO Financial Group, season partner.

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