



**MONTREAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA /  
ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE de MONTRÉAL  
2018-19 SEASON**

**OSM PRESENTS OVER 100 CONCERTS CELEBRATING ITS HISTORY  
AND REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITIES NEAR AND FAR**

**Kent Nagano to Open the Season with *The Rite of Spring*, *Bolero*, and a  
Commission from Canadian composer Matthew Ricketts Based on a Cree Legend**

**OSM to Tour Nunavik / Far North of Quebec in Fall 2018**

**OSM to Visit European Musical Capitals in Spring 2019**

**OSM to Open 2018 Salzburg Festival with Krzysztof Penderecki's *Saint Luke Passion***

**Season to Culminate with Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* and *Lélio*  
Narrated by Lambert Wilson**

**Brahms and the Art of Film Week**

**Four Concerts in Four Days with the Complete Brahms Symphonies,  
Along with Premieres inspired by Four Silent Films –  
Additional Silent Film Presentations to Include *The Artist***

**A World of Discoveries for Young People with *Children's Corner***

***Encounters with Mozart* to Feature the *Requiem* and Other Works**

**Fifth Anniversary of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique to Feature Four Diverse Recitals,  
Including an Evening of Improvisation**

**Holiday Season Tradition at the OSM**

**The Return of Handel's *Messiah* and a Fourth Tale by Fred Pellerin**

**Guest Artists to Include Violinists Anne-Sophie Mutter, Julian Rachlin, and Blake  
Pouliot; Pianists Leif Ove Andsnes, Evgeny Kissin, Jean-Philippe Collard, Alain Lefèvre,**

**Alexandre Tharaud, André Laplante, Daniil Trifonov, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and Charles Richard-Hamelin; Singers Karina Gauvin, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, and Hélène Guilmette; Conductors Christoph Eschenbach, Bernard Labadie, David Robertson, Pablo Heras-Casado, and Michael Tilson Thomas**

**Great Works to Include: Bach's Mass in B Minor, Richard Strauss's *Alpine Symphony*, Mahler's Fourth Symphony, Vivier's *Siddhartha*, Holst's *The Planets***

**Montreal, March 22, 2018** – The year 1934 saw the birth of the *Société des concerts symphoniques de Montréal*, which in 1953 would become the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. Over the years the OSM has made a name for itself as Montreal's cultural ambassador of music. And today the Orchestra and Kent Nagano unveiled the programming for 2018-2019, marking the OSM's 85th season. At a glance, the season will offer more than 100 concerts, 60 or so programs, 112 artists and 2 tours.

*"The OSM's 85th season is a reflection of the strong Montreal tradition, a musical tradition which has always had a core. This is to say that in our tradition, a symphony is a picture or a metaphor for human life and human experiences. It is a gigantic palette of styles with special connections to the folklore of many countries and regions within. A symphony is "diversity in unity" and it is exactly that which makes up our special social life in both small and large scale. We invite you all to celebrate with us this rich musical tradition."* – **Kent Nagano**

#### **AN OPENING AND A CLOSING THAT SPEAK TO DIVERSITY**

The 85th season of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal will be a great celebration of the cultural wealth of our shared territory. The opening concert, conducted by **Maestro Kent Nagano**, will showcase that diversity with a captivating program. The Orchestra will be presenting **Ravel's *Bolero***, a landmark work that Montreal audiences have always enjoyed. It is incidentally thanks to that renowned piece that the OSM became the first Canadian orchestra to see one of its recordings pass the 100,000 copies sold mark, in 1984. ***The Rite of Spring***, a resolutely contemporary and scandal-tinted composition for ballet by **Stravinsky**, will follow ***The Bolero***. Joining the two works will be the world premiere of a chamber opera in Cree, commissioned from Canadian composer **Matthew Ricketts** and Cree-Canadian author **Tomson Highway: *Chaakapesh, The Trickster's Quest***, inspired by an Amerindian legend. The OSM will be taking this work with them when they revisit a Quebec Far Northern and Nunavik audience in September 2018.\*

The season will wind up with an evening devoted entirely to **Berlioz** (MAY 29, 31, AND JUNE 1), marking the 150th anniversary of the French composer's death. On the program, the ***Symphonie fantastique***, a major work in the Orchestra's repertoire, which it has recorded more than once. The piece will be preceded by ***Lélio***, a work incorporating music and spoken text that was written as a sequel to the symphony. Both of them autobiographical, these works are rarely presented on the same bill. The role of **Lélio** will be performed by the brilliant French actor **Lambert Wilson**.

\*To learn more about the tour in the Far North and Nunavik, see the paragraph devoted to tours.

#### **BRAHMS AND THE ART OF FILM**

The OSM and Kent Nagano invite music lovers to four concerts in four days presenting the complete **Brahms symphonies** (FEB. 7-10). Creating an original programming, the four

symphonies will be built around the cycle of the seasons, thereby setting the tone for the projection of silent films during which four contemporary works will also be played.

### ENCOUNTERS WITH MOZART

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** left to posterity any number of sublime symphonic and vocal works. The OSM is presenting *Encounters with Mozart* from April 16 to 18, 2019. Under the direction of **Bernard Labadie** and **Hervé Niquet**, works on the bill include **Mozart's** unfinished masterwork, the famous *Requiem*, **Symphonies Nos. 36 and 39**, **Piano Concerto No. 21** featuring a French pianist much appreciated by Montreal audiences, **Alexandre Tharaud**, the overture to *Der Schauspieldirektor* (The Impresario), and **A Little Night Music**. Two chamber-music pre-concerts will be offered to ticket holders, completing an overview of the many musical genres Mozart turned his hand to.

### THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND ORGUE PIERRE-BÉIQUE

2019 will mark the 5th anniversary of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, offered to the OSM by the late Madame **Jacqueline Desmarais** and built by Casavant Frères. To power its 6,489 pipes, Maison symphonique will be hosting some great names of the organ: **Thierry Escaich**, for a start, who will set the instrument sounding to images from the movie classic *Nosferatu* for a Halloween evening (OCT. 30). Quebec's **Isabelle Demers**, meanwhile, will pay tribute to French composers with the recital *Symphonic France* (JAN. 31). **Olivier Latry**, the OSM's organist emeritus, will be joining a number of other organists for *The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique: Anniversary Concert* (MAY 19), a recital celebrating this majestic and versatile instrument. A fourth evening on the organ will delight everyone in the hall: **Improv and Organ** (FEB. 22), with master of ceremonies **François-Etienne Paré** and actors that include **Réal Bossé** and **Salomé Corbo**, who will improvise to the sound of the notes played by the evening's organists, among them **Jean-Willy Kunz**, organist in residence at the OSM.

### THE HOLIDAY TRADITION CONTINUES

The Christmas tradition launched by **Kent Nagano** and **Fred Pellerin** in 2011 will carry on this year to universal delight with a brand-new fourth tale – *Les jours de la semelle* (DEC. 12, 13, 15) – featuring the colorful characters of the now famous village of Saint-Élie-de-Caxton. The OSM is moreover reviving one of its most cherished traditions in presenting **Handel's Messiah** (DEC. 18), this time under the direction of **Paul McCreesh**, one of the great specialists in Baroque music. The oratorio has been performed here over 40 times since 1958 and remains one of the Orchestra's most played works. A classic not to be missed!

Radio-Canada, a loyal partner, will broadcast the premiere of the Fred Pellerin concert over ICI RADIO-CANADA TÉLÉ on December 23, 2018, at 8 p.m.

### MUSIC AND IMAGES

In addition to the silent movies presented as part of the Brahms week, the love story involving music and cinema continues. The Orchestra will be screening, among others, the sumptuous film *The Artist* – the silent movie that took the Oscar for Best Picture in 2012 – under the baton of **Dina Gilbert**, the 2017 Opus Awards “Discovery of the Year” (JAN. 8); *City Lights* by the great **Charlie Chaplin** (Nov. 6); and *Nosferatu* (OCT. 30), a masterpiece of German expressionism.

### FAMILY OUTINGS!

Since Wilfrid Pelletier, the OSM's first music director, education has been at the heart of the Orchestra's mission, making it possible for young people to be introduced to orchestral

music. **Children's Corner**, which blends theatre and music, offers 60-minute concerts for the whole family. Conducted by OSM conductor in residence **Adam Johnson**, these will charm both kids and grownups as **Puss in Boots** (Nov. 18), sparked by the acting of **Didier Lucien**; **Peter and the Wolf** (Jan. 27), narrated by **Patrice Bélanger** (also the OSM's young-audience ambassador); and **Pinocchio** (May 12), designed and narrated by **Lionel Rougerie**, successively take the stage. On the program for these three concerts, works by **Bartók, Poulenc, Prokofiev, Stravinsky, Bizet, Gounod** and **Kosma** that the young and the not so young are sure to enjoy.

### GREAT INVITEES FROM HERE AND ELSEWHERE

A number of outstanding soloists, musicians and conductors will be stepping onto the Maison symphonique stage: violinists **Julian Rachlin** (Oct. 18, 20) and **Anne-Sophie Mutter** in one of her all too rare Montreal appearances (March 15); conductors **James Feddeck** (Oct. 2, 3), **Christoph Eschenbach**, who was last here in 1989 (Oct. 18, 20), **Juraj Valčuha** (Oct. 24, 25), **François-Xavier Roth** (Oct 31, Nov 1), **Alain Altinoglu** (Nov. 13, 14), **Paul McCreech** (Dec. 18), **Dina Gilbert** (Jan. 8), **Nikolaj Znaider** (Jan. 12, 13), **David Robertson** (Jan. 16, 17), **Hervé Niquet** (Apr. 16, 18), **Bernard Labadie** (Apr. 17, 18), **Pablo Heras-Casado** (May 8, 9), **Karina Canellakis** (May 15, 16, 17), and the American **Michael Tilson Thomas**, who will be conducting for the very first time in Montreal (May 22, 23). Pianists **Charles Richard-Hamelin** (Oct. 11, 12, 14), **André Laplante** (Oct. 24, 25), **Till Fellner** (Nov. 13, 14), **Alain Lefèvre** (Jan. 12, 13), **Leif Ove Andsnes** (Jan. 26), **Alexandre Tharaud** (Apr. 17), **Jean-Philippe Collard**, OSM artist in residence\* (Apr. 30, May 1 and 5), **Daniil Trifonov** (May 15, 16, 17), **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** (March 5, 6), **Evgeny Kissin** (May 25). In addition, singers contralto **Marie-Nicole Lemieux** – who will take the stage on two occasions (Dec. 4, 5 and Feb. 24) – and sopranos **Karina Gauvin** (Jan. 16, 17) and **Hélène Guilmette** (Dec. 4, 5).

\*The OSM Artists in Residence program is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Larry & Cookie Rossy Family Foundation.

### GREAT WORKS

In December the OSM presents one of the most beautiful pieces of sacred music by **Johann Sebastian Bach**, the **Mass in B Minor** (Dec. 4, 5), as part of the **Bach Festival**. A very special moment to turn inward while contemplating the splendid voices of four great vocal artists (**Hélène Guilmette**, **Marie-Nicole Lemieux**, **Julian Prégardien** and **Peter Harvey**) and the OSM Chorus. **Kent Nagano** conducts **The Planets** (Apr. 30, May 5), that well-known work of Holst's that sometimes evokes war, sometimes peace, by way of the "jollity" of "Jupiter." Conductor **Juraj Valčula** will conduct **Strauss's Alpine Symphony** (Oct. 24, 25), a journey through the landscapes of the Bavarian Alps from daybreak to nightfall. **Mahler's Fourth Symphony** (Jan. 16, 17) will be led by American conductor **David Robertson** and feature the divine voice of **Karina Gauvin** in the final movement, "The Heavenly Life." Finally, the OSM will perform **Claude Vivier's Siddhartha**, inspired by the Herman Hesse novel describing the journey of a young man seeking spiritual illumination (Feb. 27, 28).

### THE OSM ON TOUR

Since its founding the OSM has undertaken no fewer than 40 or so international tours and some 30 national excursions, showcasing the talent and music from this part of the world in so many others.

### Northern Quebec\*

In 2008, **Maestro Nagano** and seven musicians traveled to Nunavik to perform Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* in Inuktitut; ten years later the Orchestra is at it again, returning to the Far North to visit six villages in three nations: Inuit, Innu and Cree.

The opera *Chaakapesh, The Trickster's Quest* by **Tomson Highway** and **Matthew Ricketts** was commissioned for the occasion. The idea of this tour is to share the OSM's classical music with all the peoples of Quebec and is intended as a meeting point between the different cultures by way of rich and respectful interaction through music.

Thus the project will consist of a musical journey from North to South, from Nunavik to the Côte-Nord, by way of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and northern Quebec in the fall of 2018.

\*This is one of the 200 exceptional projects funded through the Canada Council for the Arts' New Chapter initiative. With this \$35M initiative, the Council supports the creation and sharing of the arts in communities across Canada.

### Great European Capitals

A twelfth European tour is on the agenda for March 2019 (MARCH 11 TO 23), when the Orchestra will be visiting some of the most highly esteemed concert halls of the great capitals of Europe: **Dusseldorf** (*Tonhalle*), **Hamburg** (*Elbphilharmonie*), **Essen** (*Philharmonie*), **Vienna** (*Konzerthaus*), **Paris** (*Philharmonie*), **Brussels** (*Palais des Beaux-Arts*), **Munich** (*Philharmonie Im Gasteig*), **Regensburg** (*University Audimax*) and **Berlin**, at the prestigious *Philharmonie*.

Works and guest soloists: pianist **Rafał Blechacz** will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major; **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** will play the Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 5, "Egyptian"; while Quebec contralto **Marie-Nicole Lemieux** will join the Orchestra for Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*. Also on the program for this tour, Debussy's *Jeux*, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* and *Petrushka* (1947), and three excerpts from Berlioz's *Damnation of Faust*: Hungarian March, Ballet des sylphs and Menuet des follets.

### Salzburg and Cracow

Before participating in the opening concert at the prestigious **Salzburg Festival** on July 20, 2018, the Orchestra will be making a stop in Cracow on July 18, for the very first time in its history. The OSM under **Kent Nagano** will perform **Krzysztof Penderecki's** imposing *Saint Luke Passion*, a work for orchestra, choruses and soloists, in celebration of the Polish composer's 85th birthday.

### COME SEE THE MUSIC

If our eyes could perceive music, what would they see? In exploring a form of synesthesia associating music and colors, the OSM wanted to provide an answer to that question and visually transpose the depth of its musical reflections. In addition to its moments of innovation and premieres, the 85th OSM season is characterized by a rich programming retracing with fresh eyes the great moments that have united the Orchestra and its Montreal audience. In order to represent that artistic vision brought by **Maestro Kent Nagano**, the OSM called on the services of people living with the neurological phenomenon of synesthesia to translate music into colors in an unprecedented way, with the help of an algorithm created for the occasion. Hence, the visuals for the season's marketing campaign will be a reflection of their visual interpretation of great works of the repertoire, as they see the music.

## TICKETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE RIGHT NOW

### **Be part of the great subscriber family for the OSM'S 85th season!**

Being an OSM subscriber means enjoying the ultimate experience: seeing your favorite concerts, besides benefiting from exclusives, savings, and above all, flexibility.

#### **By series**

The OSM this season is again presenting concerts on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays (evenings and mornings), Saturdays and Sundays (afternoons), for the most part in the framework of eight major series of six concerts each, in addition to the Express series (75- to 90-minute concerts without intermission at 7 p.m.).

#### **À la carte**

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## COMMITTED PARTNERS

*"Montreal is privileged to have one of the best orchestras in the world. Led by the incomparable Kent Nagano, the OSM features an incredible group of musicians performing in a room of exceptional acoustic quality. It is therefore a tremendous honour for BMO to continue its long-standing season partnership with the OSM," says Claude Gagnon, Managing Director, Operations, BMO Financial Group, Quebec. "The OSM, with its diversified team of international talent, is able to renew and reinvent itself, year after year, with all of its trademark creativity and cultural innovation. The fact that it is celebrating its 85th anniversary speaks to the place it holds in music lovers' hearts."*

## THE OSM THANKS ITS PARTNERS, ITS SUBSCRIBERS AND ITS AUDIENCE

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 would like to especially thank the Quebec government for its financial support announced on March 15, which will allow the Orchestra to continue its mission.

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

We also wish to express our gratitude to Power Corporation of Canada, Manulife, Fondation J. A. DeSève, Investors Group, TD Bank Group, Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, Cogeco, Estiatorio Milos, BBA, Spinelli Lexus, IRIS, Eska, Le Groupe Maurice, Alfid, Ritz-Carlton Montreal, Hyatt-Regency Montreal, IRIS, PricewaterhouseCoopers, GDI, McKinsey & Company, Charton-Hobbs and Stingray Music.

The OSM also salutes all its other partners and donors, as well as the subscribers and audience who provide, at different levels, essential support for its activities.

Tickets also on sale at [placedesarts.com](http://placedesarts.com)