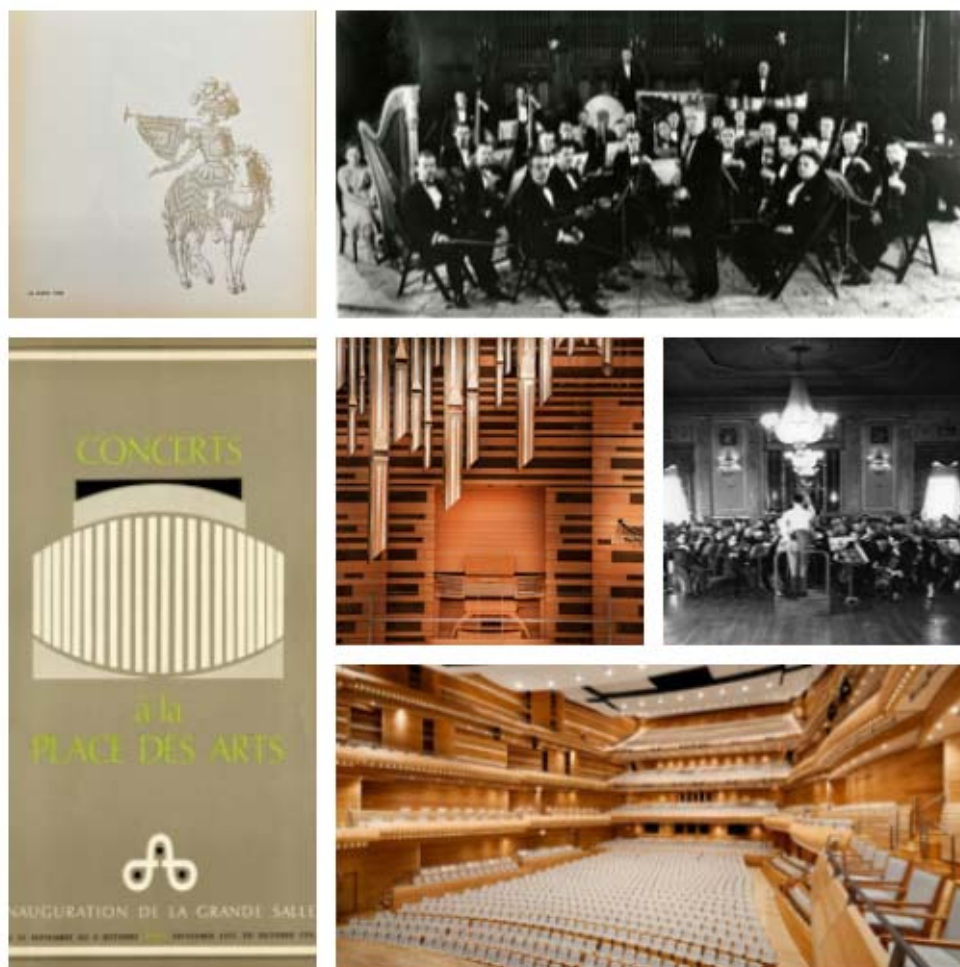




THE ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL CELEBRATES ITS 90th SEASON!

Montreal, January 16, 2024 – Since its foundation 90 years ago by **Antonia Nantel**, **Wilfrid Pelletier** and **Athanase David**, the **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM)** has seen generations of musicians and guest soloists brilliantly contribute to its renown and excellence since 1934. As the Montreal institution embarks on a major anniversary year, here's an overview of the highlights of its 90 seasons, and an invitation to discover its great history.

Tonight, before Rafael Payare conducts Mahler's Symphony No. 7, the OSM invites you into the foyers of the Maison symphonique to discover never-before-seen artifacts and archives, while an exhibition celebrating the 90-year history of the Orchestra is presented. A great opportunity for spectators to recall fond memories and learn more about their orchestra's defining moments. To keep the celebration going, 90 gifts have been hidden under the seats: season tickets, special tickets, discounts, OSM recordings, a tour of the organ and even a post-concert meet-and-greet with Rafael Payare. This anniversary evening, organized by the Orchestra to thank its audiences for their loyalty over the past nine decades, promises to be a memorable one!



FROM WILFRID PELLETIER TO RAFAEL PAYARE

To date, the OSM has been led by nine Music Directors, from cofounder **Wilfrid Pelletier** to the present day's **Rafael Payare**. Six Chief Executive Officers have been at the helm of the Orchestra since its inception, including **Madeleine Careau**, who currently heads a predominantly female management team. Three maestros have been named Conductors Emeriti: **Wilfrid Pelletier**, **Zubin Mehta**, and **Kent Nagano**, while **Olivier Latry** is Organist Emeritus and **Pierre Béique**, General Manager Emeritus.

A FEW KEY DATES IN THE OSM'S OUTSTANDING HISTORY...

1935 / Launch of the "Matinées symphoniques pour la jeunesse," youth concerts reflecting the importance of education at the heart of the OSM's mission from the beginning;

1938 / A long tradition is born: free concerts at the Chalet atop Mount Royal;

1940 / Inauguration of the Prix Archambault, the OSM Competition's direct forerunner whose 84th edition took place in November 2023;

1954 / The Concerts symphoniques de Montréal is renamed Orchestre symphonique de Montréal;

1962 / First international tour under Zubin Mehta;

1963 / Inauguration de la Grande salle de la Place des arts;

1980 / First OSM recording conducted by Charles Dutoit;

2011 / Inauguration of the Maison symphonique de Montréal, the OSM's home concert hall;

2014 / Inauguration of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique thanks to Jacqueline Desmarais who assumed all costs for the instrument;

2016 / Launch of the program *La musique aux enfants*, an initiative of Kent Nagano;

2022-2023 / The OSM embarks on three international tours to South Korea, major European capitals, and the USA, including the Orchestra's 45th appearance at the prestigious Carnegie Hall.

SOME OSM STATISTICS

Today, this Orchestra of 92 accomplished musicians performs more than one hundred concerts per year, has produced 141 recordings earning more than 118 national and international awards, embarked on 58 international tours, and played in many of the most distinguished halls throughout Europe, North America, South America, Asia, not to mention Nunavik and Quebec's Far North.

MORE THAN EVER, THE OSM...

A mainstay of the Montreal, Quebec, and Canadian cultural scene, the OSM is dedicated to sharing as widely as possible, in Quebec and throughout the world, the universal message music brings. It has upheld its ideals over 90 seasons and acts as a medium of peaceful convergence between cultures and identities. With music as its life-giving force, the OSM remains sustainably rooted in its community and is more committed than ever to investing in projects that bring people together. "Music is essential to the heart and mind, and its role in bringing about wellness is fundamental. I believe in music's ability to transform, both the individual and the collective. Thank you to our loyal public!" **Rafael Payare**, OSM Music Director.

THE OSM THANKS 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 of the support of loyal partners and thanks Hydro-Québec, Presenting Sponsor of the OSM as well as BMO Financial Group, Season Presenting

Sponsor. The OSM also extends its gratitude to Power Corporation of Canada, Fondation J.A. DeSève, IG Wealth Management, Air Canada, Canada Life, National Bank, Cogeco, Spinelli, BFL Canada, Bivouac, Clarins, Volvo, Solotech, Iris, Boréale Beer, Charton Hobbs, Distillerie de Montréal, Symphony, Radio-Canada, medici.tv, La Presse PWC, and McKinsey&Company.

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PRESS RELATION :

Pascale Ouimet, Head of Public and Media Relations - 514-840-7436 - pouimet@osm.ca

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Orchestre symphonique de Montréal
1600, rue St-Urbain
Montréal, Québec H2X 0S1
Canada

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