



ORCHESTRE
SYMPHONIQUE
DE MONTRÉAL

2016-2017
ANNUAL REPORT



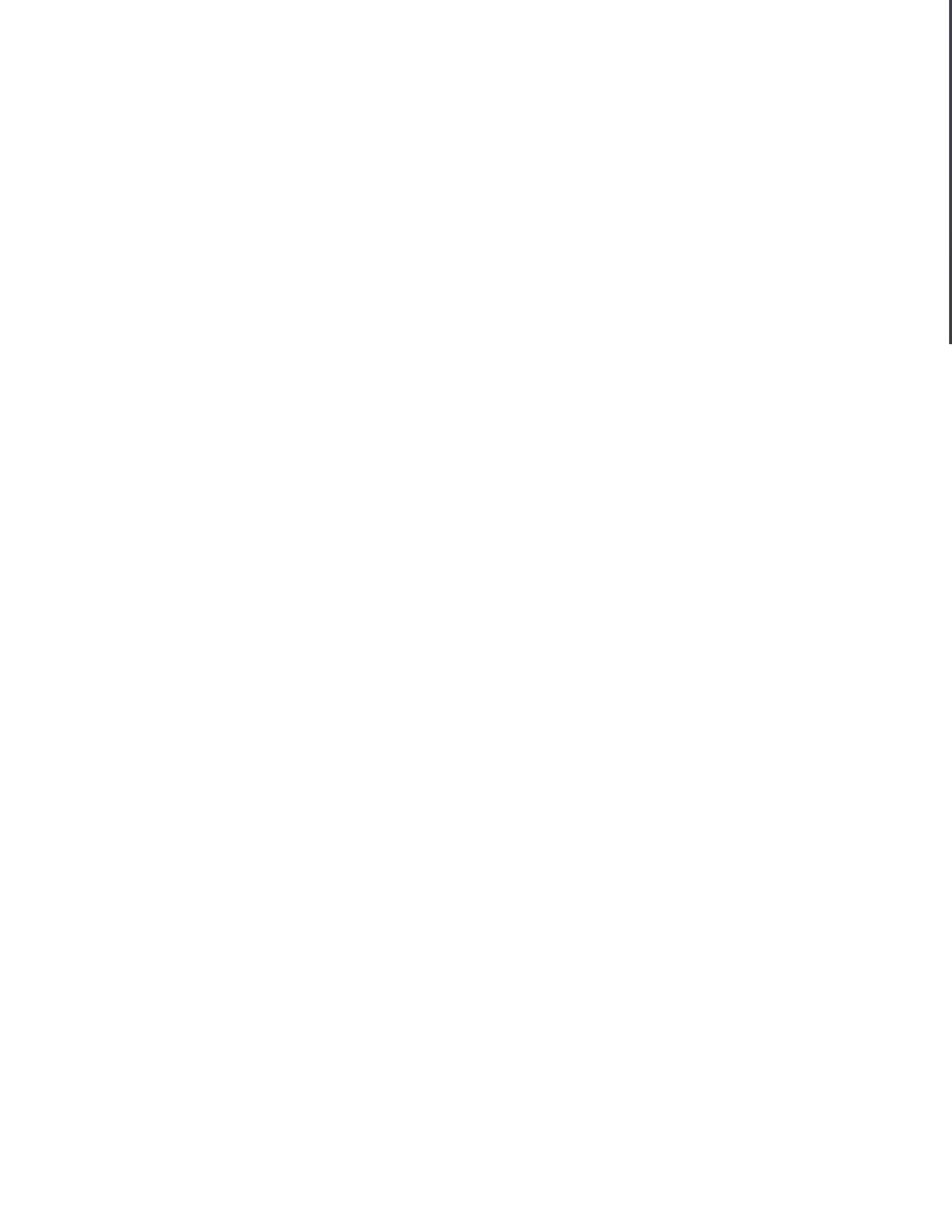


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A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mr. Lucien Bouchard

The 2016–2017 season was another memorable one for the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. The broad range of programming for this 83rd season – marked by important festivities that included the 375th anniversary of Montreal and the 50th anniversary of the city’s public transit metro system – stood out for its diversity and originality of vision. Our Orchestre innovates, inspires, and continues to reach out to an ever-widening audience.

This past season saw continuity as well as the advent of new projects firmly rooted in the community. In November 2016, the Orchestre launched *La musique aux enfants*, which aims to introduce preschoolers to music and provide them with musical instruction to foster their overall development. Conceived and developed over an extended period by Maestro Nagano, this initiative speaks to the very the heart of two key traditions that are dear to the Orchestre: the musical awakening of children and the democratizing of arts and music.

We owe our thanks to government agencies for their unwavering support, especially the Conseil des arts and des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, and the City of Montreal. Thank you also to our sponsors, partners, our generous donors, and to the members of the OSM Foundation who continue to believe in the Orchestre’s ability to surpass itself as a world-class orchestra. We also thank our subscribers and all our loyal patrons for

their discerning appreciation of musical excellence as it is unwaveringly produced by the musicians of the OSM and its tireless Music Director. I must also thank Maestro Kent Nagano for his innovative spirit, his long-term vision, and his deep commitment to the Orchestre and to Montrealers.

I also wish to express my gratitude to Madeleine Careau, OSM Chief Executive Officer, as well as to all administrative staff members for their dedication. In closing, I salute the members of the Board of Directors, the executive committee, and the various committees that ensure the smooth running of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. It is the orchestra of Montrealers, one of our city’s gems, and a source of great pride.

Be it on local, national, or international stages, the OSM will continue to spark the collective imagination for many years to come, through the strength of its enduring success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucien Bouchard', written in a cursive style.

Lucien Bouchard
The Chair of the Board of Directors

A WORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Ms. Madeleine Careau

With “An Urban Symphony” as its theme and a host of exceptional concerts, the 83rd season of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal was filled once again with exhilarating moments. Celebrations of Montreal’s 375th anniversary, the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of the city’s metro system, and the 50th anniversary of its World Fair were the inspiration for concerts, world premieres, and special events, to the public’s delight.

In addition to internationally renowned conductors, musicians, and ensembles, this year, thanks to the support of the Larry and Cookie Rossy Foundation, we had the privilege of welcoming and working with two very inspiring Canadian performers: pianist Louis Lortie and violinist James Ehnes, who served as OSM Artists-in-Residence. James Conlon, Sir Andrew Davis, and Vasily Petrenko made appearances as guest conductors. Many first-rate soloists performed throughout the season with the Orchestre: pianists Till Fellner, Yefim Bronfman, Marc-André Hamelin, Denis Matsuev; violinists Vadim Repin and Midori; cellists Truls Mørk and Matt Haimovitz, to name only a few.

During the season, we broadcast seven concerts, including *A Multicultural Christmas* narrated by Boucar Diouf, broadcast live on *ICI Musique* and then rebroadcast on *ICI Radio-Canada Première*, *ICI Radio-Canada Télé* and *ICI ARTV*. Thanks to these various dissemination platforms, the audience is estimated to have been at 900,000 viewers and listeners. These broadcasts of concerts on different media platforms must be welcomed with open arms, because they contribute to the Orchestre’s national and international presence and to people’s access to classical music, to its democratization.

The 6th edition of the OSM Classical Spree, which was designed in a spirit of diversity, proved to be a resounding success. In the space of a few days, 65,000 people of all ages and all walks of life, serious music lovers and curious newcomers alike, were treated to thirty highly affordable concerts and free family activities. Overall, the OSM’s series of summer activities drew more than 140 000 spectators to events such as OSM in the Parks concerts, the Festival de Lanaudière, the Just for Laughs Festival, as well as the large-scale Montréal symphonique, in celebration of the 375th anniversary of Montreal. The latter symphonic event, attended by thousands who were treated to a feast for eyes, ears, and soul, brought together on the same stage and for the first time ever, the combined forces of the OSM, Orchestre Métropolitain, and McGill Symphony Orchestra.

Education continues to be at the very heart of the OSM’s mission, opening up to young people the exciting prospect of discovering symphonic music. More than 20,000 young spectators attended the concerts *Alice in Wonderland*, *Discover the OSM*, *Music, Noise & Silence*, *Symphonic Crossing*, as well as a screening of the silent film *Battleship Potemkin* with orchestral accompaniment.

Maestro Nagano had held a dream close to his heart for the last ten years. Finally, this year, thanks to the generosity of patrons Roger and Huguette Dubois and the Canimex company, the OSM became the only orchestra in the world to acquire the mighty octobass. Eric Chappell, double bassist with the OSM, is the musician at the helm of this impressive instrument, which made its stage debut in October 2016 at the concert commemorating Montreal’s metro.

Thanks to our Music Director’s extraordinary gifts, the OSM’s reputation for excellence continues to exceed former boundaries. Montreal is an ever-growing presence on the international cultural map. Through the countless projects he conceives and carries out, the quality of programming that he builds, and the passion he invests in directing the Orchestre, Maestro Nagano is a source of inspiration for the members of the team, just as he is for Montrealers in general. We are truly grateful to him.

The OSM’s success is also reflected in the organization’s financial health, the result of sustained and rigorous work. The Orchestre has increased its revenues thanks to many collaborations formed in the context of Montreal’s 375th anniversary. Donations and sponsorship revenues are also up, due in part to the success of *Bal d’une nuit d’été*, which doubled its net contribution in comparison with the previous edition.

The OSM is deeply grateful to its valued partners Hydro-Québec, its Presenting Sponsor, BMO Financial Group, its Season Partner, and to other sponsors. Thanks also to the three levels of government and in particular, to the Conseil des arts and des lettres du Québec, our main public contributor, all of our other public partners, the OSM Foundation, the members of the Board of Directors, and committee members who devote their talents and energy to supporting the Orchestre.

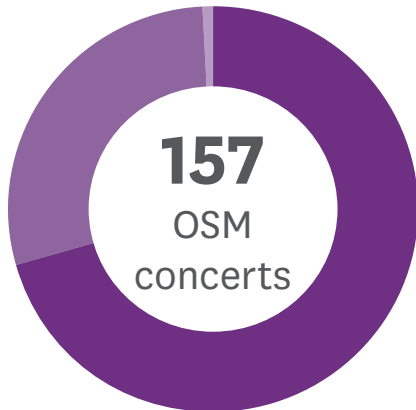
For the efficiency and the quality of their work, I would like to extend my personal thanks to all OSM employees as well as to our many volunteers, who have amply demonstrated their passion and dedication. Many sincere thanks also to the musicians of the Orchestre for an outstanding job this season.

Finally, I wish to extend a very warm word of gratitude to Montreal music lovers of all ages for their loyalty, their response, and the quality of their appreciation. It is they who are the source and the inspiration for all our actions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mcareau". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Madeleine Careau
Chief Executive Officer

THE OSM IN NUMBERS



45 SUMMER SEASON CONCERTS

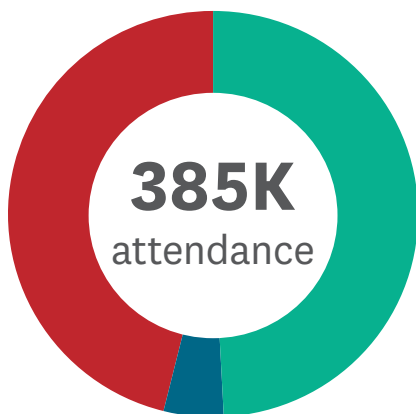
- 31 concerts during the OSM Classical Spree Festival (7 orchestral concerts and 24 chamber music concerts)
- 1 free concert at the Parc Olympique (Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*)
- 4 free concerts in the parks
- 3 OSM concerts at the Festival international de Lanaudière
- 4 OSM concerts at the Just for Laughs Festival ("OSM and the great comic songs" and "André Sauvé with the OSM")
- 1 concert in connection with Montreal's 375th anniversary festivities (Montréal symphonique, August 19)
- 1 free concert in Pierrefonds-Roxboro in support of those affected by the floods

111 REGULAR SEASON CONCERTS

- 52 regular series concerts*
- 5 off-series concerts (season-opening concert *Carmina Burana* by Orff—2 performances, closing concert *Symphonie montréalaise*, presented as part of Montreal's 375th Anniversary - 3 performances)
- 7 OSM Pop concerts (including one additional)
- 1 film screening of *Battleship Potemkin* with orchestral accompaniment
- 15 concerts for young audiences (3 Children's Corner concerts and 12 Youth Concerts)
- 3 off-series concerts for the Italian Festival
- 1 concert in collaboration with the Shaar Hashomayim Congregation synagogue
- 1 concert in collaboration with the Azrieli Foundation
- 1 OSM Chorus concert
- 1 guest orchestra (Boston Symphony Orchestra)
- 4 recitals in collaboration with Pro Musica
- 4 organ recitals
- 5 chamber music concerts at Bourgie Hall in collaboration with Arte Musica Foundation
- 2 chamber music concerts in different Montreal boroughs
- 1 chamber music concert in collaboration with the McCord Museum
- 1 chamber music concert in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Architecture
- 1 chamber music concert at C2 Montreal
- 1 concert Bal des enfants

1 CONCERT IN TORONTO (December 8, 2016)

* "Regular series" includes the Grand Concert Series: Tuesday, Wednesday 1, Wednesday 2, Thursday 1, Thursday 2, Saturday, and Sunday series, Symphonic Matinee series and Metro Concerto series.



BOX OFFICE:

- **OSM PRODUCTIONS : 189 595**
Including 47,424 subscription tickets
- **EXTERNAL PRODUCTIONS : 18 453**
- **FREE CONCERTS AND EVENTS : 176 952**
(Including Montréal symphonique)

In aqua : OSM production / in blue : external production / in red : free concerts

Excluding :

- 3 concerts in connection with the Concours Musical International de Montréal (finales and gala)
- 4 performances at the Opéra de Montréal of the opera *Dialogues des carmélites* by Poulenc.

SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK

Followers : 45,014
Increase : 9077 (25%)

TWITTER

Followers : 7 367
Increase : 980 (15%)

INSTAGRAM

Followers : 2 699
Increase : 1 138 (42%)

WEBSITE - OSM.CA

PAGE VISITS : 5 174 870 **

SINGLE VISITS : 2 450 259 ***

USERS : 562 346

** Page views : One page view corresponds to one page display as recorded by Google Analytics. The number of page views is equal, therefore, to the total number of page displays.

*** Single page views: A single page view corresponds to the sum of all page views generated by one individual web user in the course of one internet session. The number of single page views is, therefore, equal to the number of different internet sessions during which a given page was consulted one or more times.

10 OSM-commissioned works

- **Eric Champagne** (Canada), *N'importe où hors du monde* (*Anywhere out of This World*) for the 2017 OSM Manulife Competition strings semifinals
- **José Evangelista** (Canada), *Accelerando* to mark the 50th anniversary of the STM
- **Simon Leclerc** (Canada), Concerto for four bassoons, contrabassoon, string orchestra, and timpani, as part of the 2017 Classical Spree
- **Samy Moussa** (Canada), Symphony n^o. 1, "Concordia" to mark the 375th anniversary of Montreal,
- **Robert Normandeau** (Canada), *Tunnel azur* to mark the 50th anniversary of the STM
- **Matthew Ricketts** (Canada), *Highest Light* (for organ),
- 4 commissions from students at Montreal's institutions of higher learning, for a concert in connection with the Canadian Centre for Architecture

James Rubino (USA), *Obl[iterate]*

Nicolas Des Alliers (Canada), *Transmigrations*

Brice Gatinet (France), *...dés-astres*...

Simon Gregoric (France), *La machine à paysages*

9 Pre-Concert Talks

- Matthieu Dugal (host), José Evangelista and Robert Normandeau (composers) October 20, 22 and 23
- Georges Nicholson (host) and James Conlon (conductor) November 15, 17 and 18
- Georges Nicholson (host) and Kent Nagano (conductor) December 6 and 7
- Katerine Verebely (host) and Guy Marchand (musicologist) January 17, 18 and 19 (am and pm)
- Katerine Verebely (host) and Bernard Labadie (conductor) April 29 and 30
- Katerine Verebely (host), David Saint-Jacques (astronaut) and Matthew Ricketts (composer) May 6
- Kelly Rice (host), Guy Marchand and Marc Wieser (musicologists) May 17 and 18
- Georges Nicholson (host) and Jean-Pascal Hamelin (conductor) May 24 and 25
- Kelly Rice (host), Marie Belzil (multimedia director at Moment Factory) and Samy Moussa (composer) May 31, June 1 and 2

21 educational events (excluding concerts for young audiences)

- 2 OSM readings of works written by students in composition, conducted by Adam Johnson
(Schulich School of Music, McGill University, Université de Montréal)
- 10 open rehearsals for young conductors
- 10 master classes
James Ehnes, violin | Schulich School of Music of McGill University
Truls Mørk, cello | Schulich School of Music of McGill University
Vadim Repin, violin | Conservatoire de musique de Montréal
Cho-Liang Lin, violin | Université de Montréal
Michael Schade, tenor | Schulich School of Music of McGill University
Julian Prégardien, tenor | Université de Montréal
Vasily Petrenko, conductor | Conservatoire de musique de Montréal
Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano | Schulich School of Music of McGill University
Benedetto Lupo, piano | Conservatoire de musique de Montréal
Xavier de Maistre, harp | Université de Montréal and Schulich School of Music of McGill University

8 broadcasts

- *Kent Nagano Celebrates the Montreal Metro*—Broadcast on medici.tv and OSM.CA (October 20, 2016) - **24 211 views**
- *OSM Manulife Competition* (November 22 to 26, 2016)—Broadcast of the semifinals on OSM.CA - **5448 views**
- *A Multicultural Christmas as Told by Boucar Diouf* (December 2016)—Broadcast of the concert on various Radio-Canada platforms
Nearly **900 000 television viewers**
- *Kent Nagano Conducts Messiaen* (March 21, 2017)—Broadcast on medici.tv and OSM.CA- **12 634 views**
- *Organ and Space* (May 6, 2017)—Broadcast on OSM.CA - **2382 views**
- *Symphony for Montreal* (May 31, 2017)—Broadcast on medici.tv, OSM.CA and various Radio-Canada platforms
More than **28 048 views**
- *Kent Nagano and the Sorcerer's Apprentice* (August 11, 2017—Part of the OSM Classical Spree)—Broadcast on medici.tv and OSM.CA - **13 459 views**
- *The Sound of Jazz* (August 11, 2017—Part of the OSM Classical Spree)—Broadcast on medici.tv and OSM.CA - **10 253 views**

9 loyalty activities for subscribers and donors

- 2 appreciation concerts (1 orchestral concert and 1 concert of chamber music)
- 4 concerts for the Honour Circle
- 3 open rehearsals for donors

5 prizes

- **1 Diapason d'or de l'année 2016** - Opera recording: *L'Aiglon*
- **3 Opus Prizes**
 - Production of the Year for young audiences: *Le Bal des enfants - Don Quichotte's Spanish Adventure*
 - Album of the Year—Classical, Romantic, Post-Romantic, or Impressionist music: *Complete Violin Concertos of Saint-Saëns* with Andrew Wan
 - Album of the Year—modern or contemporary music: *L'Aiglon*
- **1 Juno Award** Classical Album of the Year—Vocal or Choral Performance: *L'Aiglon*

3 benefit events

(Bal des enfants, Bal d'une nuit d'été, Opening Night)

1 album release

Release of *Danse macabre* on the Decca label.

1 recording

Recording of Bernstein's *A Quiet Place* in May 2017 for release on the Decca label in 2018, centenary year of the composer's birth

2 organ pre-concerts

1 private concert

(BMO Christmas concert)

2016 | 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

AN URBAN SYMPHONY: MUSICAL EVENTS THAT MADE THE CITY RESONATE

As Montreal celebrated its 375th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the metro system, the OSM and its musical director Kent Nagano invited the public to enjoy an 83rd season of diverse and unifying music that made the city resonate each week. The orchestra once more offered a programme consisting of musical pillars while giving pride of place to Canadian works and performers. It featured several illustrious guests who graced the stage throughout the year, in single recitals or in a number of performances.

The grand choral work *Carmina Burana* kicked off the season, which ended with a unique visual-symphonic experience: the world premiere of a

work by internationally celebrated young Montreal composer Samy Moussa and Moment Factory, a world-renowned multimedia studio. The roughly 100 regular-series concerts of the season consisted of themed events such as the Haydn & the Minimalists Festival, the Italian Festival, the OSM Pop Series, the Christmastime storytelling tradition, a performance of the opera *A Quiet Place* by Bernstein, and another of the *St. Matthew Passion*, Bach's monumental oratorio. The orchestra, once again, put music by Canadian composers at the forefront, performing works by Matthew Ricketts, Robert Normandeau, Eric Champagne, and Samy Moussa, to name just a few. The season also featured special concerts and music for young audiences that drew and captivated a diverse public. With this extraordinary and vibrant programming, the OSM reaffirmed its role as musical ambassador.



The cantata *Carmina Burana* evokes 12th-century Europe, associating Old German, Latin, and Old French with the language of modernity.

GRAND OPENING CONCERT *CARMINA BURANA*

SEPTEMBER 7, 8, 10 2016 (1 ADDITIONAL)

Kent Nagano launched the OSM's 83rd season in full force with an essential work from the 20th-century repertoire, *Carmina Burana*. This was the Orchestre's first time performing Carl Orff's masterpiece at the Maison symphonique de Montréal; the performance brought together soprano Aline Kutan, tenor Frédéric Antoun, baritone Russell Braun, the OSM Chorus and musicians, as well as a children's choir.



Octobassist Eric Chappell, OSM Chief Executive Officer Madeleine Careau, Maestro Kent Nagano, and benefactors Huguette and Roger Dubois.

KENT NAGANO CELEBRATES THE MONTREAL METRO

OCTOBER 20, 22, AND 23, 2016

The OSM celebrated 50 years of the metro by offering the STM and music lovers two world premieres of works commissioned from Canadian composers Robert Normandeau and José Evangelista. These innovative works were inspired by the connections that the subway weaves between the city's neighborhoods and among its communities. Under the direction of Kent Nagano, the Orchestre first performed *Accelerando*, José Evangelista's orchestral piece depicting the hectic pace of the city. Then, for the first time in its history, the OSM performed an electroacoustic work, *Tunnel Azur* by Robert Normandeau. This immersive experience took us into the city's underground. In addition to these two premieres, the Orchestre performed Richard Strauss' tone poem, *A Hero's Life*, which retraces the composer's personal experiences and contains a great many quotations from his previous scores. These three works featured the octobass, which was unveiled with that evening's concert.

A WORLD PREMIERE: THE OCTOBASS MADE ITS DEBUT WITH THE OSM

OCTOBER 20, 2016

Maestro Kent Nagano had dreamed for several years of adding an octobass to the OSM's roster of instruments. Thanks to the generosity of the Canimex company, operated by patrons Roger and Huguette Dubois, the Orchestre is proud and grateful to have in its ranks the most substantial and imposing string instrument of all time. This giant was unveiled in October 2016 at the *Kent Nagano Celebrates the Montreal Metro* concert and is now an integral part of the orchestra, as the repertoire requires. OSM bassist Eric Chappell is the musician at the helm of this impressive instrument. Of the three octobasses in existence, only the one housed at the Maison symphonique is fully functional.



Boucar Diouf, our "Gaspésien africain," presented his own unique view of Christmas in Quebec.

A MULTICULTURAL CHRISTMAS, WITH BOUCAR DIOUF

DECEMBER 21, 22, AND 23, 2016

Senegalese by birth, with Gaspé as his home, and a Quebecois at heart... In December, the OSM put the congenial and conversational Boucar Diouf in charge of the holiday spirit, with a storytelling tradition that started in 2011. The challenge was met hands-down by this storyteller-host and his guests, the ensemble *Le Vent du Nord* and singer Patrice Michaud, under the direction of Jean-François Rivest.

HAYDN & THE MINIMALISTS FESTIVAL

JANUARY 17, 18, AND 19, 2017

In January, the OSM, under the direction of Kent Nagano, presented 4 concerts over 3 days in which the musical motif developed by Franz Joseph Haydn and repeated among the minimalists became the focus of the works performed. The four concerts dedicated to the Viennese master Haydn included his last four London symphonies in conjunction with works by Reich, Glass, Pärt, and Adams. During each of the Festival's extraordinary concerts, a concerto was performed by pianist Marc-André Hamelin, trumpeter Paul Merkelo, or violinist Pinchas Zukerman.

ITALIAN FESTIVAL: A MUSICAL PANORAMA IN 3 CONCERTS

MARCH 14, 15, AND 16, 2017

In March, some gems and essential works were on the programme of three major concerts led by guest conductor Carlo Rizzi. This festival celebrated themes apparent in their titles: The Italian Violin: From Vivaldi to Paganini (with, notably, *The Four Seasons*); Verdi & the Great Operatic Choruses; and The Pines of Rome & Famous Italian Films. The third concert featured works by Respighi, Rota, and Morricone, musically reviving some great classics of the Seventh Art. Each of these concerts began with a first part devoted to works for organ, voice and piano, or for a small ensemble, followed by a second part that showcased the full force of the orchestra.



SYMPHONY FOR MONTREAL: A CO-CREATION BY SAMY MOUSSA AND MOMENT FACTORY ON STAGE WITH THE OSM, FOR THE 375TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONTREAL

MAY 31, JUNE 1 AND 2, 2017

To conclude the season, Kent Nagano invited audiences to enjoy a unique and immersive experience: a grand symphonic poem created for the 375th anniversary of Montreal. The result of a collaboration between Montreal composer Samy Moussa and the Moment Factory multimedia studio, this concert was sold out on all three nights and was broadcast on OSM.ca and on medici.tv. Projected on the walls of the Maison symphonique, the four living tableaux—Earth, Fire, Water, and Air—punctuated the four movements of this piece commissioned by the OSM.



Creative Director at Moment Factory Marie Belzil, composer Samy Moussa and Maestro Kent Nagano.





Live from the international space station, astronaut Thomas Pesquet exchanged with David Saint-Jacques. Mr. Pesquet also played the first notes of *Highest Light*, a work by Matthew Ricketts composed for this event.

THE ORGAN RECITALS SERIES GRAND ORGUE PIERRE-BÉIQUE

Whether under the expert touch of Jean-Willy Kunz, Organist-in-Residence of the OSM, or of guest soloists, the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique never ceases to impress. The series featured 4 diverse programmes, including the spectacular concert *Organ and Space: Gaze up to the Heavens*, presented in May in collaboration with the Canadian Space Agency. For the occasion, Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacques inspired many with his words on the thirst for discovery, while Jean-Willy Kunz passionately played several works, including *Highest Light*, commissioned from Canadian composer Matthew Ricketts. During the event, David Saint-Jacques contacted astronaut Thomas Pesquet live at the International Space Station, before a privileged and awe-filled audience. An example of how the OSM innovates beyond all borders!

The OSM Manulife Competition, devoted this year to strings, also opened a concurrent category for organ for the very first time in its history. The Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique was generously offered to the OSM by Mrs. Jacqueline Desmarais.



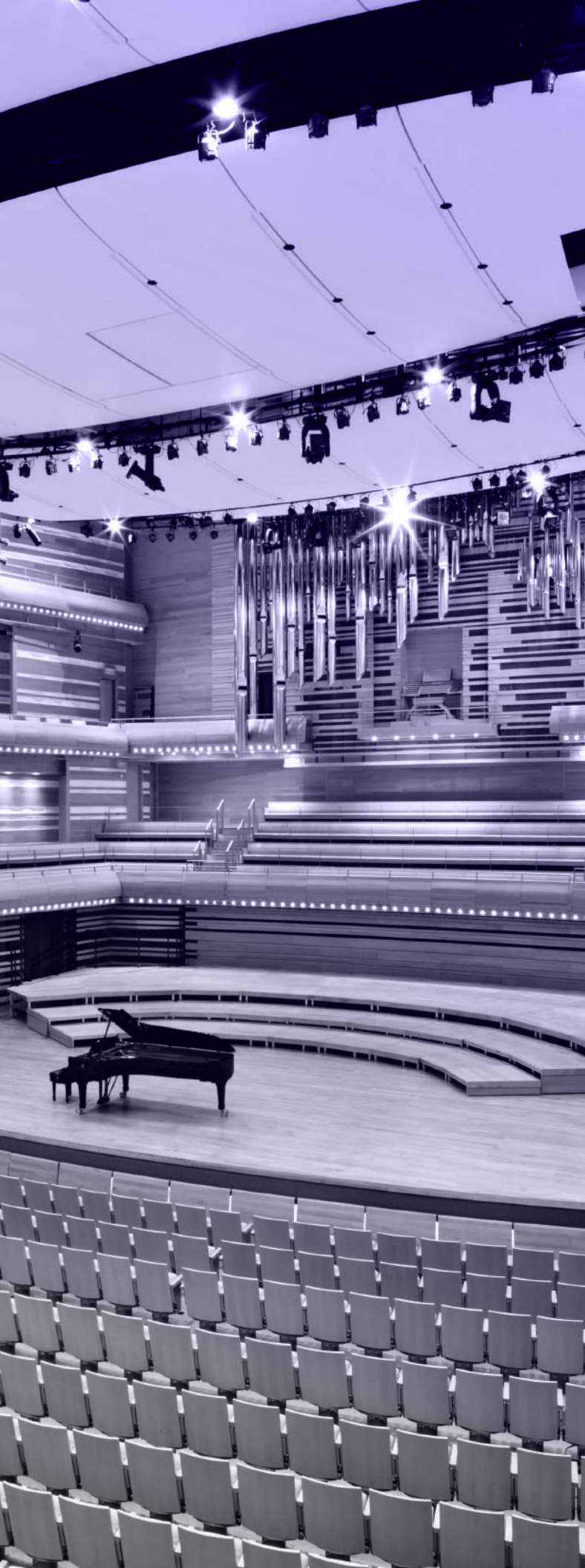
Simon Leclerc with Ariane Moffatt, Marie-Pierre Arthur and Alexandre Désilets.

OSM POP SERIES

Orchestrator and Associate Conductor of the OSM Pop Concerts series Simon Leclerc brilliantly combined popular song and symphonic music to produce new and original encounters. All three concerts in the series drew large audiences who came to rediscover the hits of Roch Voisine, the overflowing world of Ariane Moffatt, and masterpieces by the great Jacques Brel sung by Luc De Larochellière, Bruno Pelletier, Diane Tell, Catherine Major, and other performers.



Simon Leclerc with singer Roch Voisine.



THE RECITALS SERIES

In collaboration with Pro Musica

Enhanced by the impeccable acoustics of the Maison symphonique, this series enabled audiences to appreciate the finesse of renowned artists. Violinist James Ehnes and pianists Yefim Bronfman, András Schiff, and Louis Lortie delivered memorable performances featuring works from the classical repertoire including Beethoven's "Spring" Sonata, Chopin's Études and Preludes, and Debussy's *Suite bergamasque*.

CHAMBER MUSIC

In partnership with the Fondation Arte Musica

SALLE BOURGIE

Presented in the magnificent setting of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' Bourgie Hall, this past season's chamber music concerts showcased the prodigious talents of some of the orchestra's first-chair musicians and soloists. Nineteen of them, as well as pianists Philip Chiu, Jean Saulnier, and Louise Bessette took part in the five concerts of the series, including one presented as part of the Messiaen Day, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the death of the one of the greatest French composers of the 20th century.



THE OSM CHORUS

Made up of 50 professional singers and as many as 80 to 100 amateur choristers, the OSM Chorus was involved in ten concerts last season – including *Carmina Burana* at the opening of the season and *Verdi & the Great Operatic Chorus* during the Italian Festival – and with the Azrieli Music Project. One undeniably powerful concert of the season was Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*, directed by Kent Nagano. At the summit of the sacred music repertoire, this work for two orchestras, double choir, and six soloists, with stage direction by Alain Gauthier, was performed on three occasions at the beginning of December to conclude the Montreal Bach Festival. Under the direction of Andrew Megill and accompanied on the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique by François Zeitouni, the Chorus also shone in *The OSM Chorus Sings Mozart & Schubert* concert. **The chorus master chair is generously sponsored by Mrs. F. Ann Birks, in loving memory of Barrie Drummond Birks.**



Violinist James Ehnes



Pianist Louis Lortie

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

The generosity of the Larry and Cookie Rossy Family Foundation enabled the OSM to welcome violinist James Ehnes and pianist Louis Lortie as Artists-in-Residence. Ehnes – for whom this is his second residency with the OSM – performed works in recital by Beethoven, Franck, and Ravel, as well as the premiere of a commissioned piece by Brian Tovey. He also celebrated his 30-year career by playing Dvořák’s *Violin Concerto* under the direction of Juraj Valčuha. Lortie’s performances were a tour de force: the two complete sets of Frédéric Chopin’s *Études* in recital, and a performance of Chopin’s *Piano Concerto No. 1*, where he reunited with conductor Sir Andrew Davis.



Credit: Facebook / Boston Symphony Orchestra

THE OSM WELCOMES BOSTON

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4
MAISON SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL**

The world-renowned Boston Symphony Orchestra returned to Montreal after 30 years to perform, under the direction of its new conductor Andris Nelsons, Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique* and Mozart’s *Piano Concerto No. 22*. Montreal audiences were treated to the playing of pianist Emanuel Ax, a prominent figure in the world of classical music.



Concert at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, March 23, 2017.

ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

As an avid contributor to the cultural vitality of Montreal and Quebec, the OSM constantly seeks to expand collaborations with leading institutions and for major events throughout the province.

Directed by Jean-François Rivest, OSM musicians put their talents at the service of the **Opéra de Montréal**, in four performances of Poulenc's *Dialogues des carmélites*, on January 28, 31, and February 2 and 4.

The OSM accompanied the finalists of the **Concours musical international de Montréal**, devoted this year to the piano, on May 9, 10, and 12 at the Maison symphonique de Montréal. Under the direction of Claus Peter Flor, musicians of the Orchestre were committed again this year to supporting the young candidates. All rounds of the prestigious competition were broadcast on concoursmontreal.ca and medici.tv.

For its first-ever collaboration with the **Canadian Centre for Architecture**, Maestro Nagano and the OSM presented a concert event entitled *Musical Landscapes for the Present Day*. For the occasion, four works inspired by the theme of the environment were commissioned from young composers studying at some of Montreal's institutions of higher learning. They were invited to musically interpret and respond to the CCA co-publication and exhibition *It's All Happening So Fast: A Counter-History of Modern Canadian Environment*. To nurture these exchanges, architect Elizabeth Diller spoke at the event, creating a bridge between architecture, the environment, and music.

In an intimate concert at the **McCord Museum**, Andrew Wan (violin), Victor Fournelle-Blain (viola), Brian Manker (cello), and Philip Chiu (piano) showcased the exquisite sounds of their historical instruments, which are loaned to them by generous patrons. Luthier Tom Wilder demystified each of these rare instruments at this one-of-a-kind concert presentation.

As an official partner of the 10th edition of the **Montreal Bach Festival**, the OSM performed two concerts featured on the Festival programme: *From Bach to Bolero: 5 organs for 5 organists*, launching the OSM Manulife Competition, and the peerless *St. Matthew Passion*, to conclude the Festival.

In partnership with the **Fondation Arte Musica** and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the OSM performed a chamber music series at Bourgie Hall. This year, five concerts were presented in this historic venue on Sherbrooke Street.

Among other collaborations, the OSM presented three concerts at the **Festival de Lanaudière**, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year. The Orchestre also joined the 35th anniversary festivities of the **Just for Laughs Festival** this summer. Finally, the OSM was at the heart of large-scale festivities surrounding the **375th anniversary of Montreal**, with its *Symphony for Montreal* concert event presented at the season's conclusion, and took part in the popular *Montréal symphonique* production at the foot of Mont-Royal, in August. This concert brought together on the same stage and for the first time ever, the combined forces of the OSM, Orchestre Métropolitain, and McGill Symphony Orchestra.



To the left : Composer Samy Moussa.. In the middle : Composer Robert Normandeau addressed the audience with a few words before the premiere of his work *Tunnel azur* on October 20, 2016. To the right : Composer Matthew Ricketts in conversation with host Katerine Verebely during a pre-concert talk before the *Organ and Space* concert.

CANADIAN ARTISTS AND COMPOSERS

Since its foundation in 1934, the OSM has supported Canadian and Quebecois music by performing the works of our national composers and by commissioning new pieces. Thirteen works written over the past century – including compositions by Alexander Brott, Jean Papineau-Couture, Serge Garant, Denis Gougeon, and Raymond Daveluy – and ten new works commissioned by the OSM, were all part of the programming for this 83rd season. These concerts were unique opportunities to celebrate our national contemporary musical culture.

Among the new works this season is Samy Moussa’s *Symphony no. 1, “Concordia,”* which the Orchestre performed in celebration of Montreal’s 375th anniversary and as part of an extraordinary symphonic experience. The OSM also marked the 50th anniversary of the metro system with a performance of *Accelerando* by José Evangelista and *Tunnel Azur* by Robert Normandeau. *N’importe où hors du monde (Anywhere out of This World)* by Éric Champagne was commissioned for the semifinals of the OSM Manulife Competition, while Brian Current’s *The Seven Heavenly Halls* was commissioned by the Azrieli Music Project and premiered on October 15 by the OSM. Last, but certainly not least, the honour of connecting live with the International Space Station went to Matthew Ricketts’ *Highest Light*, concluding with Jean-Willy Kunz on the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique.

In keeping with its commitment to Canadian works, the OSM makes a point of involving conductors and performers from

across the country in its programming, and of encouraging the participation of local dancers, actors, stage directors, hosts, and singers in its concerts and events. As is also the case with Organist-in-Residence Jean-Willy Kunz, the OSM takes pride in encouraging Canadian talent with its new Assistant Conductor. Originally from Alberta, Adam Johnson holds the latter position since September 1, 2016.

10 OSM-commissioned works

- **Eric Champagne**, *N’importe où hors du monde (Anywhere out of This World)* for the semi-final round, Strings Category, of the 2017 OSM Manulife Competition.
- **José Evangelista**, *Accelerando*, marking the 50th anniversary of the STM.
- **Simon Leclerc**, Concerto for four bassoons, contrabassoon, string orchestra, and timpani as part of the 2017 Classical Spree.
- **Samy Moussa**, *Symphony No. 1, “Concordia”* celebrating the 375th anniversary of Montreal.
- **Robert Normandeau**, *Tunnel azur*, marking the 50th anniversary of the STM.
- **Matthew Ricketts**, *Highest Light* (for organ).
- 4 students at higher education institutions in Montreal were commissioned works for a concert in connection with an exhibition at the Canadian Center for Architecture
 - **James Rubino** (USA), *Obl[iterate]*
 - **Nicolas Des Alliers** (Canada), *Transmigrations*
 - **Brice Gatinet** (France), *...dés-astres*...
 - **Simon Gregorcic** (France), *La machine à paysages*

SUMMER AT THE OSM



In support of accessibility, the OSM invited families to take part in the OSM Classical Spree



Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* kicked off the Classical Spree at the Parc Olympique.



The Classical Spree was an opportunity to meet the artists.

THE OSM CLASSICAL SPREE: AN ESSENTIAL FESTIVAL

AUGUST 10 TO 13, 2017

This popular event continues to expand, and has become a staple of Montreal's summer calendar. Once again this year, the event was a huge success, with an **attendance rate of nearly 90%** and an **overall attendance of close to 65,000 people**. In a festive atmosphere, a diverse audience of seasoned music lovers and curious newcomers to music of all ages and from all backgrounds filled up on music, got a taste of some well-known works, and ventured into new territory, expanding their musical horizons. Whether at the Place des Arts, Complexe Desjardins, or out on Ste-Catherine St., young and old enjoyed concerts indoors, free animated activities, musical initiation workshops, outdoor movies, etc.

A grand-scale free concert featuring the classic songs of *Porgy and Bess* kicked off the festivities, drawing **30,000 spectators** to the Esplanade Financière Sun Life at Parc Olympique. Set in the mid-1930s in a Black community of South Carolina, Gershwin's work broke new ground with its subject matter as well as its masterful synthesis of classical music, popular music, and jazz. André Robitaille, Spokesperson for the 2017 edition, hosted the event starring Marie-Josée Lord (soprano), Gardy Fury (tenor), and Justin Welsh (baritone), with stage direction by Oriol Tomas. The 2017 programme of the Classical Spree paid tribute to the diversity of the World Festival of Art and Entertainment and Expo 67, where concerts of world music and electroacoustic, jazz, and classical music came together. This was a marathon within a marathon—Maestro Kent Nagano conducted no fewer than 10 concerts in just 4 days!



Free concert at Île-des-moulins in Terrebonne.

OSM IN THE PARKS

JULY 25 TO 28, 2017

This year, the OSM expanded its usual territory for a tour of free Concerts under the Stars. In addition to performing an outdoor evening concert on the Island of Montreal at **Parc Promenade Bellerive**, the Orchestre made stops in **Brossard**, **Blainville**, and **Terrebonne**. Under the direction of OSM Assistant Conductor Adam Johnson and with the participation of OSM Principal Clarinet Todd Cope, performances of great classical works and popular film music delighted close to **50 000 spectators** of all ages. The concerts were hosted by André Robitaille, Spokesperson for the OSM summer season.



André Robitaille, Spokesperson for the OSM summer season.

THE OSM AT THE FESTIVAL DE LANAUDIÈRE

JULY 1, AUGUST 4 AND 5, 2017
AMPHITHÉÂTRE FERNAND-LINDSAY

Kent Nagano and the OSM, along with Organist-in-Residence Jean-Willy Kunz, opened festivities for the 40th edition of the Festival de Lanaudière. Guest pianist Alain Lefèvre delivered a remarkable performance of Ravel's Concerto in G major. The August 4 concert featured Russian pianist Yulianna Avdeeva performing Tchaikovsky's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 1. The following day, after a performance of Mozart's Symphony No. 39, Fauré's Requiem featured the voices of soprano Sumi Jo, baritone Jean-François Lapointe, and the Festival's choral ensemble directed by Andrew Megill.



Adam Johnson, Assistant Conductor of the OSM, with comedian André Sauvé.

JUST FOR LAUGHS

**OSM and the
great comic
songs**

**JULY 19
PLACE DES FESTIVALS**

**André Sauvé with the
Orchestre Symphonique
de Montréal**

**JULY 21
AND 22 (2 performances)
MAISON SYMPHONIQUE
DE MONTRÉAL**

For its 35th anniversary, the Just for Laughs Festival called upon the OSM for a unique outdoor event featuring orchestrations of the best-known comic songs from Quebec, under the direction of Stéphane Laforest. Rock and Belles Oreilles (RBO), Claudine Mercier, François Pérusse, and several others took to the stage in turn. It was amply demonstrated that humour was, and often remains, at the heart of many great classics!

At the Maison symphonique, another daring blend of comedy and music showcased the zany world of comedian André Sauvé, in which classical works served to comment and illustrate Sauvé's unique and telling explorations of the absurd meanderings of the human soul. Led by OSM Assistant Conductor Adam Johnson, the show delighted critics and spectators alike: three additional performances are planned for March 2018.



MONTRÉAL SYMPHONIQUE

AUGUST 19, 2017 - AT THE FOOT OF MONT-ROYAL

For the 375th anniversary of Montreal, the OSM, along with Orchestre Métropolitain and the McGill Symphony Orchestra, came together in a major event at the foot of Mont-Royal. Directed by Simon Leclerc, Associate Conductor of the OSM, more than 400 musicians, popular singers, and choristers celebrated the city, its inhabitants, its history, and its personality. A crowd of 80,000 gathered at this outdoor location to attend what was a historic concert.

Broadcast live in 18 parks and on *ICI musique*, the concert was later broadcast on *ICI Radio-Canada Télé* as well.

The OSM's programme of summer activities drew over 140,000 spectators in all.

SPONSOR ACTIVITIES



More than 50 businesses partnered with the OSM in the 2016–2017 season, benefitting from the notoriety and reputation of our brand and thereby enabling us to meet our corporate income objectives.

Hydro-Québec, the OSM’s Presenting Sponsor, pursued its contribution to our organization, receiving high praise for its association with one of the country’s most renowned cultural entities.

BMO Financial Group, partnering for the first time with the OSM, broke new ground by developing the BMO immersive stations to discover the OSM through virtual reality. With headsets for viewing and listening, the public was able to experience the thrill of being at the heart of an OSM concert at the Maison symphonique conducted by Maestro Nagano.



During the 2017 OSM Classical Spree, the Air Canada team showcased its personalized on-board service and new wine selection curated by renowned sommelier Véronique Rivest, treating visitors at the Maison symphonique to a tasting of white and red wines selected from the best international vineyards.

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ARTISTS AND FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

OSM MANULIFE COMPETITION

2016 edition devoted to string instruments and, for the very first time in its history, organ

NOVEMBER 22 TO 26, 2016

Founded in 1940, the OSM Manulife Competition, Canada's largest nationwide music performance competition, is an opportunity to see and to hear brilliant young performers. Dedicated to strings, and for the first time, to the organ, the 2016 edition awarded winners more than \$100,000 in cash prizes, bursaries, and employment and recording contracts. Angèle Dubeau, winner of the event in 1976, served as ambassador this year. The competition rounds were free of charge and open to the public, and unfolded in two phases. First, the semi-finals took place at Tanna Schulich Hall at McGill University and at Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church from November 23 to 25. Then, in keeping with a new tradition, the finals and awards ceremony were held at the Maison symphonique.

These different stages of the competition were broadcast live on OSM.ca, garnering 3529 views from November 23 to 26.

Two Canadian works were chosen for the semifinals: *N'importe où hors du monde (Anywhere out of This World)* by Éric Champagne was the imposed piece for string instruments, while Raymond Daveluy's Epilogue on *Nun danket* and *Ballerma* was selected for organ competitors.



Lucien Bouchard, Chair of the OSM Board of Directors, Jean Paré, Pierre Goulet, President of the OSM Manulife Competition, Blake Pouliot, OSM Manulife Grand Prize Winner, Richard Payette, President and CEO, Manulife Quebec, R. Douglas Sheldon, Senior Vice President and Director, Columbia Artists Management Inc.

Top honours were awarded to 22-year-old Ontario violinist Blake Pouliot, who among other benefits earned a \$10,000 bursary, courtesy of Manulife, a recital at the Orford Arts Centre in 2017, a professional recording in a CBC studio, as well as an opportunity to perform as a soloist with the OSM on February 22, 2017, in a concert conducted by Vasily Petrenko. In the organ category, Rashaan Allwood won first place.

The prestigious international jury was presided by R. Douglas Sheldon, Senior Vice-President and Director of Columbia Artists Management LLC. Members of the jury included Jeanne Lamon (Music Director *Emerita* of the Toronto ensemble Tafelmusik), Matthias Naske (Intendant of the Konzerthausgesellschaft in Vienna), and Barbara Smith (Artistic and Executive Director of National Youth Orchestra Canada).

We would like to thank our donors, sponsors, and partners, as well as the OSM Volunteer Association for their invaluable contribution to the success of this event.



Patrice Bélanger, Youth Ambassador, at a *Discover the OSM* concert on April 23



The well-known story of *Alice in Wonderland* was recreated in a concert event combining various performing arts, including circus, singing, theatre, puppetry and dance.

CONCERTS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Youth Concerts and Children's Corner

Since the very beginning, the OSM has placed education at the heart of its mission, providing young people with opportunities to discover symphonic music. Once more this year, a rich youth programme charmed a wide and enthusiastic audience. Patrice Bélanger began his first year as the OSM's Youth Concerts ambassador.

OSM Youth Concerts drew 20,432 listeners, offering elementary school children four performances each of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Discover the OSM* hosted by Patrice Bélanger. High school students were given the opportunity to discover *Battleship Potemkin* and were also treated to three performances of *Symphonic Crossing*. In total, students from 221 schools—193 French and 28 English—attended performances by the OSM.

Three productions for children aged 5 to 12 were presented during the season, as part of the series Children's Corner. A total of 4572 people attended performances of *Music, Noise & Silence* (October 2), *Alice in Wonderland* (November 13), and *Discover the OSM* (April 23).

As one of the OSM's philanthropic activities, Sojceci II Ltd reallocated 50 tickets to Youth Concerts events to organizations supported by the Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation.

Steinberg Project

This year, 467 schoolchildren from underprivileged neighbourhoods benefitted from these projects to promote access to classical music. This involved two visits to each class by a facilitator, concert tickets to *Discover the OSM*, and an exhibition of graphic scores drawn by students, in the foyers of the Maison symphonique during the Youth Concerts series.

In association with this project, the OSM produced 4 video clips featuring some of the unseen elements of symphonic music, starring OSM Youth Concerts ambassador Patrice Bélanger, along with 4 OSM musicians. Not only did these video clips beautifully enhance the OSM's digital platform, they also served as a pedagogical tool for teachers, in anticipation of field trips to the Maison symphonique.

Thanks to Ruth and David Steinberg for their annual support.

TRANSMITTING KNOWLEDGE

Master Classes

Over the course of the last year, the OSM offered 11 master classes in different music institutions of higher learning in Montreal: The Faculty of Music of the Université de Montréal, the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, and the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. Classes were given by members of the international jury of the OSM Manulife Competition, including organist Olivier Latry and violinist Cho-Liang Lin. Members of the public were invited to attend these masterclasses, free of charge.

Young conductors

Adam Johnson, Assistant Conductor of the OSM since September 1, 2016, oversaw all activities for young conductors during the 2016–2017 season. Sixteen talented emerging artists had the opportunity to attend ten open rehearsals and benefit from the guidance of this accomplished instructor, who has taught at the Université du Québec à Montréal and the McGill Conservatory, in addition to managing a private studio.

Other education initiatives

The OSM's educational mission was also reflected in other events. Students attending high schools with music programs performed in the foyers of the Maison symphonique prior to concerts in the Children's Corner series.

The Orchestre visited McGill University's Pollack Hall for a public score reading of pieces by three Composition students, while four students from the Université de Montréal had the same opportunity. In all, some 1000 people enjoyed this rare visit on campus by the OSM. Finally, seven groups of students were given a guided tour of the Maison symphonique concert hall.

OSM IN THE COMMUNITY



The learning spaces, designed by architects LEMAYMICHAU, are located in the basement area of the École Saint-Rémi annex in Montreal North.



The slats of cherry wood recall the ones at the Maison symphonique.



Tateo Nakajima, acoustician at the Maison symphonique, collaborated on the project. The premises and acoustics are now of professional calibre.



Drawing given to Kent Nagano by children participating in the La musique aux enfants programme.



Trombonist Pierre Beaudry is a mentor for La musique aux enfants programme.

LA MUSIQUE AUX ENFANTS : A NEW OSM INITIATIVE

“I myself had the chance to learn music at a very young age. It did not make me so much the conductor that I am today as a person free to choose his destiny. To offer music to children is to inspire hope and the feeling that everything is possible.”

- KENT NAGANO

Designed by maestro Nagano and implemented by the OSM in partnership with the Université de Montréal and the Commission scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île, La musique aux enfants introduces preschoolers to intensive music education, supporting them in their overall development and thus contributing to their long-term academic success. The programme was inaugurated in November 2016 at École St-Rémi, a public school located in the borough of Montréal-Nord, in the form of a three-year pilot project. The school's 180 students take at least one weekly rhythm and choir class and participate in activities that place them in contact with the music and musicians of the OSM. A group of

16 students receives an hour and fifteen minutes of musical training each day (piano, choir, and rhythm), while another group of 16 children receives daily intensive three-hour music training, including a private piano lesson, a violin lesson, and a choral and rhythmic singing class. A three-year scientific study led by a team of researchers at the Université de Montréal will assess the positive impact of music education on the overall development of children.

The pilot project was inaugurated thanks to the support of many private partners for the recruitment of educators, acquisition of instruments, and fitting of the premises, and it was immediately showered with praise. Collaterally, the project offers new employment opportunities to qualified musicians and contributes to the advancement of knowledge in music education.

La musique aux enfants is structured as not-for-profit organization separately from the OSM and funded solely by donors. The OSM wishes to extend its gratitude most specially to Ms. Satoko Shibata, Mr. Richard Ingram, and the Marcelle and Jean Coutu Foundation, who all contributed major donations. The OSM also acknowledges the generosity of partners LEMAYMICHAUD, BBA, Pomerleau, and Arup for adapting classrooms, of Yamaha Canada Music for loaning instruments to the project, of the Fondation du Grand Montréal, Evenko Foundation, and many other partners who have come together to make this project possible.



Soprano Marie-Josée Lord and tenor Gardy Fury performing Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* at the Olympic Park's Esplanade.



Andrew Wan, OSM concertmaster, performed *Meeting with a Friend* by Georgs Pelécis, in a special concert for flood victims

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The OSM instigated a major cultural diversity project whose vision statement reads: "While remaining faithful to its primary mission – to share the symphonic repertoire with the widest possible audience – the OSM will continue to be an artistically and socially relevant actor, developing its commitment to various socio-cultural groups with a view to accessibility and inclusion."

From the Italian Festival to the South American Journey concert, from the Azrieli Project to many of our Classical Spree concerts, several events in the 2016–2017 season focused on music from around the world. The Black community was involved at the heart of a production of *Porgy and Bess*, which opened the Classical Spree festivities. The OSM also hosted visits from the Sourp Hagop Armenian School, the Leonardo da Vinci Academy, and the Hebrew Foundation School.

A SYMPHONY SUNDAY

APRIL 9, 2017

This very special concert brought young musicians together at the Maison symphonique, from Collège Durocher, Saint-Lambert's Orchestre Arthémuse, the Collège Regina Assumpta Orchestra, and the Fondation du Dr. Julien's Orchestre des enfants, along with young participants in the latter's famous Garage à musique. With percussion, strings, brass, and woodwinds, supported by a choir of 200 voices, these budding artists shared the stage with some renowned professional artists.

Before embarking on the experience, these young people attended workshops with musicians from the OSM, thanks to a partnership between the OSM and the Fondation du Dr. Julien.

THE OSM IN PIERREFONDS

Concert for flood victims

JUNE 29, 2017

After witnessing the extent of water damage in certain boroughs of Montreal in the aftermath of the May 2017 floods, Maestro Nagano was compelled to do something for victims of this disaster. Presented in collaboration with the City of Montreal, the OSM gave a free concert in Pierrefonds-Roxboro, offering some respite and perhaps some levity to those affected throughout the various boroughs, in particular Pierrefonds-Roxboro, which generally sustained the most severe damage. Singer Bruno Pelletier joined the musicians who came together and mobilized their efforts in support of this cause.

OSM VISIT TO THE MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

DECEMBER 16, 2016

Kent Nagano, along with some of the Orchestre's musicians, visited the hospital's young patients in the days leading up to the holiday season. To help bring them some light and joy, they played excerpts from that musical fairytale par excellence, Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*.

FUNDRAISING



To the left : Kent Nagano, Denis Coderre, Samy Moussa, Marie Belzil, Lucien Bouchard with presidents of honour of the Bal d'une nuit d'été Tom Little (President, Bell Business Markets), Eric Martel (President and Chief Executive Officer, Hydro-Québec) and Darryl White (Chief Executive Officer, BMO Financial Group). To the right : First edition of Bal d'une nuit éclaté.



BENEFIT EVENTS

To celebrate the launch of the season, more than 200 music lovers and members of the extended OSM family attended a gala dinner after the season-opening concert on September 7, 2016, in the company of Kent Nagano and musicians of the OSM. It was a memorable evening for our donors, and served as a fundraiser in support of the Orchestre's mission and activities.

Opening night

To celebrate the launch of the season, more than 200 music lovers and members of the extended OSM family attended a gala dinner after the season-opening concert on September 7, 2016, in the company of Kent Nagano and musicians of the OSM. It was a memorable evening for our donors, and served as a fundraiser in support of the Orchestre's mission and activities.

4th edition of the Bal des enfants

With its theme, *What is Maestro Puss-in-Boots up to?* the 4th edition of the OSM's Bal des enfants was a great success once again this year. Co-chaired by Patricia Châteauneuf, Director, National Multiplatform Sales and Customer Innovation at CBC & Radio-Canada Media Solutions, and Sandy Vassiadis, Vice President, Corporate Communications at Saputo Inc, the Bal des enfants clearly delighted children, parents, and grandparents who attended the magnificent special concert designed specifically for young audiences. Close to 1000 children, many of whom were experiencing their very first contact with a symphony orchestra, were entertained at the event hosted by Patron of Honour and OSM Youth Ambassador, actor Patrice Bélanger.

This year, the OSM welcomed some 538 guests from 24 different organizations devoted to children at this event. Without a doubt, the young people in attendance experienced an adventure that made lasting impression on them. All our thanks go to the many donors, the public, and our partners!

19th edition of the Bal d'une nuit d'été

As part of the 375th anniversary celebrations of Montreal, the OSM held its 19th annual *Bal d'une nuit d'été* on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at the Maison symphonique.

The *Bal d'une nuit d'été* stands as the OSM's largest annual benefit event. This year, more than 700 guests from the Greater Montreal business and arts and culture communities attended this memorable evening. Among the guests were nearly 250 young philanthropists who took part in the "Éclaté" component of the Ball that featured a premiere presented by the Orchestre. In addition to attending the evening's main cocktail and concert, these young professionals completed the evening in a marquee adjacent to the Maison symphonique with a festive cocktail dinner and a lively dance floor.

DONATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC— FRIENDS OF THE OSM

Friends of the OSM is made up of close to 5000 donors who pledge an annual gift of between \$1 and \$1999. In 2016-2017, these donations were used to support education, excellence, and accessibility. During the OSM Classical Spree, Friends of the OSM were a key factor in the implementation of the second Spotlight on Youth day, which featured more than 200 young musicians.

Concerts recognizing the Friends of the OSM

On September 25, 2016, all donors from the past two years were invited to a concert in recognition of their generous support. The event was a great success: nearly 1200 people were in attendance.

On May 1, 2017, the Prelude concert to the 2017-2018 season, an event destined to recognize donors who gave \$200 or more to the Orchestre, took place. Guests were given an exclusive preview of some key works on the following season's program, and the concert was roundly praised. Through this initiative and with an audience of 1600 people, the amount of about \$150,000 was raised.

HONOUR CIRCLE DONATIONS

The Honour Circle is made up of more than 200 members who pledge an annual gift of over \$2000 in support of the Orchestre

Exclusive events for patrons

During the 2016-17 season, donors had the privilege of attending exclusive events in recognition of their generous support. Private



A concert was given for the OSM's main donors.

chamber music concerts, convivial preconcert chats, guided tours, and encounters with the Orchestre's musicians enabled these donors to really discover all the different facets of the OSM. The first edition of an intimate concert for donors at the Maison symphonique proved to be an outright success!

- 3 exclusive chamber music concerts, featuring musicians from the orchestra, held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel and Mount Royal Club
- 1 chamber music concert in Florida
(made possible thanks to the financial support of Ms. Susan Brown and the hospitality of Ms. Barbara Bronfman)
- 1 concert for patrons conducted by Kent Nagano
- 1 exclusive event for the unveiling of the octobass
- 3 public rehearsals
- 5 master classes
- Several guided tours of the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, OSM archives, and OSM music library

Sponsoring Chairs

Like many major orchestras today, the OSM has deployed a structured annual chair sponsorship program that gives donors ongoing visibility while providing the Orchestre with valuable financial support. At this point in time, Andrew Megill's Chorus Master chair is generously sponsored by Ms. F. Ann Birks in memory of her father, Mr. Barrie Drummond Birks, while Mary Ann Fujino, second violin, is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Satoko Ingram on behalf of their grandson, Kenzo Ingram Dingemans. Since a commitment to the sponsorship programme is made on a three to five-year basis, the OSM has developed a Privileges programme to ensure that donors obtain full recognition for their contributions.

PLANNED GIVING

The Wilfrid-Pelletier Club honours generous music lovers who have opted to include the OSM in their will or to donate to the Orchestre through a deferred gift. It thus recognizes individuals who have made donations in their wills, life insurance policies, or in the form of shares, which are "planned" and designed to have a concrete and long-term impact. Planned giving endows the OSM with the necessary funds to



Certain donors were invited to an exclusive event for the unveiling of the octobass.

ensure sustainability and carry on its mission in the Montreal community. We thank these donors for their gesture of fellowship and trust.

In recognition of the loyal support of these donors, the OSM organized an exclusive concert with ten musicians conducted by Maestro Kent Nagano. Many donors attended the event, with several among them participating on stage at the concert!

THE OSM FOUNDATION

The mission of the OSM Foundation is to safeguard continuity and stay connected with the community while developing the OSM's international presence.

Free concert in the borough of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve

Thanks to the OSM Foundation's "Branché sur la COMMUNITY" Fund, the Orchestre performed for the first time at Parc Promenade-Bellerive in Montreal's borough of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, as part of the "OSM in the Parks" concert series. The chosen park for this concert enabled us to reach out to less privileged segments of Montreal's population. This aligns with the stated values of the OSM Foundation and its partners for this concert, the Nussia and André Aisenstadt Foundation, the Fondation Mirella and Lino Saputo, and BMO Financial Group. The music was as diverse as the 5,000 people from various backgrounds who attended the event, a truly special moment in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve.

Multimedia

A recording last May of *A Quiet Place* on the DECCA label was also made possible by the OSM Foundation. The album, featuring the opera classic by American composer Leonard Bernstein, performed by OSM musicians conducted by Maestro Kent Nagano, will be launched in 2018 to mark the composer's birth centenary. This version of *A Quiet Place* was recorded live at the Maison symphonique on May 17 and 18, 2017, and calls for a chamber orchestra formation in an innovative artistic approach by the OSM's musical director. OSM performances can also be enjoyed at home via audio and video webcasts of four concerts on the international medici.tv broadcast platform for 90 days following each of the concerts. This web presence is funded by the OSM Foundation in fulfillment of the Orchestre's mandate of outreach and accessibility.

INFLUENCE

RECORDINGS

The past year was an especially productive one for the OSM in terms of influence and recognition. The OSM was the recipient of no fewer than five prestigious awards.

The Orchestre is very proud to have been awarded the Diapason d'or 2016 for Best Opera Recording, for *L'Aiglon* (Decca). The Diapason d'or is one of the most prestigious musical awards in France. The same recording garnered a Juno Award for Best Classical Album, Vocal or Choir Performance, and an Opus Prize for Album of the Year, Modern and Contemporary Music. In July 2016, the Orchestre won the Echo Klassik Prize, the most prestigious classical music award in Germany, in the category Opera Recording, 20th-/21st-Century Music, once again for its recording of Honegger and Ibert's lyrical drama. The latter award was presented at a ceremony in October 2016, in Berlin.

“Sometimes miracles happen. Kent Nagano convinced Decca to produce this first recording of L'Aiglon, a drama in five acts [...] Miracles also sometimes come in pairs, as the conductor has a French-speaking platform, attentive to the heroic surges in the libretto and in the score.”

- DIAPASON, MARCH 3, 2016

BROADCASTS OF CONCERTS

Over the course of its 2016 – 2017 season, several OSM concerts were broadcast on the web and on television, broadening the Orchestre's reputation for excellence and reaching appreciative audiences around the world.

Kent Nagano Celebrates the Montreal Metro

Broadcast on medici.tv and OSM.CA

OCTOBER 20, 2016
24 211 VIEWS

A Multicultural Christmas as Told by Boucar Diouf

The OSM's holiday concert, *A Multicultural Christmas as Told by Boucar Diouf*, was broadcast live on *ICI Musique* and on the *ICIMusique.ca* website on December 22. The show was rebroadcast on *ICI Radio-Canada Première* on December 24, and on *ICI Musique* on December 25. It was broadcast again on the television networks *ICI Radio-Canada Télé* on December 30 and *ICI ARTV* on January 7.

DECEMBER 2016
NEARLY 900,000 VIEWERS

Kent Nagano Conducts Messiaen

Broadcast on medici.tv and OSM.CA

MARCH 21, 2017
12 634 VIEWS



The Conseil québécois de la musique awarded the OSM two additional Opus Prizes for *Le Bal des enfants – L'aventure espagnole de Don Quichotte* (Production of the Year for Young Audiences) and the *Complete Violin Concertos of Saint-Saëns* (Album of the year, Classical, Romantic, Post-Romantic Music).

The OSM released a second recording on Decca in the fall of 2016: *Danse macabre*, conducted by Kent Nagano. This recording conquered newcomers to music and seasoned listeners alike.

In May, the OSM recorded the three-act opera *A Quiet Place* by Leonard Bernstein, scheduled for release in 2018, in time for Bernstein's birth centenary.

The OSM wishes to thank the City of Montreal for its generous support.

Organ and Space

Broadcast on OSM.CA

MAY 6, 2017
2382 VIEWS

Symphony for Montreal

Broadcast on medici.tv, OSM.CA and on various Radio-Canada platforms. Additionally, 700K unique visitors viewed excerpts from the concert (total of 1M impressions)

MAY 31, 2017
28 048 VIEWS

Kent Nagano and the Sorcerer's Apprentice

During the OSM Classical Spree— Broadcast on medici.tv and OSM.CA

AUGUST 11, 2017
13 459 VIEWS

Un air de jazz

During the OSM Classical Spree— Broadcast on medici.tv and OSM.CA

AUGUST 11, 2017
10 253 VIEWS

The broadcasts were available free of charge for 90 days on the medici.tv platform and at osm.ca. The medici.tv platform reaches some visitors in over 170 countries

THE OSM GOES TO TORONTO: A CONTINUING TRADITION

The OSM and Maestro Nagano performed at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall on 8 November 2016. The programme featured Ravel's La Valse, Dutilleux's Symphonie no 2, and Beethoven's Piano Concerto no. 4 with soloist Till Fellner. This concert was made possible thanks to the support of the City of Montreal.



Maestro Nagano took the metro to get to the Bell Stadium. This photo attracted over 38 000 views on Facebook.



SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

During the 2016–2017 season, the OSM's social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) saw a substantial increase in the number of their followers. In August 2017, the OSM had 45,014 followers on Facebook, which is 9077 more than it had on the same day in August 2016 (a 25% increase). On October 18, 2016, at the season-opening Montreal Canadiens home game, a brass ensemble from the OSM conducted by Kent Nagano performed the national anthems. The Marketing-Communications team livestreamed the performance on Facebook from behind the scenes and up until the musicians' exit out onto the rink at the Bell Centre. **This livestream reached more than 100,000 people!**

The arrival of the octobass was a noticeably popular event on the OSM's social media platforms. Indeed, over 86,000 people connected with us online thanks to this photo of the impressive instrument.

With a 42% increase in followers, the OSM's Instagram account was particularly busy. This platform's "stories" feature (posting videos and slideshows with texts, deleted after 24 hours) encourages information-sharing about events in a relaxed way and increases rates of engagement

Statistics for 2016–2017:



FACEBOOK

Followers: 45 014

Increase: 9077 (25%)

Average rate of engagement: 2.85%



TWITTER

Followers: 7 367

Increase: 980 (15%)

Average rate of engagement: 3.5%



INSTAGRAM

Followers: 2 699

Increase: 1 138 (42%)

Average rate of engagement: 3%

AUDIENCE LOYALTY AND DEVELOPMENT

Since its foundation, the OSM's audience has consisted of a diverse clientele of all ages, including many young people. If the OSM is to develop new audiences, it is essential that it continue to devise outreach strategies that attract the public's interest and curiosity for symphonic music.



Host Katerine Verebely and astronaut David Saint-Jacques during a preconcert talk.

PRECONCERT TALKS

A fine way for audience members to enrich their experience of the OSM is by attending preconcert talks. One hour before the performances, Matthieu Dugal, Georges Nicholson, Kelly Rice, and Katerine Verebely took turns welcoming a conductor, guest soloist, OSM musician, or musicologist to discuss the works programmed on the concert. This year, nine different talks were held before 21 different OSM performances. These events continue to gain in popularity, year after year.



An OSM Youth Ambassadors Club networking event, in collaboration with the Jeune chambre de commerce, was held on March 22, 2017, at the Maison symphonique.

MAKING ROOM FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

Since the beginning, the OSM has placed education at the heart of its mission, offering young people the chance to discover symphonic music. Since developing new audiences depends very much on connecting with young people, the OSM undertakes many initiatives in support of this objective.

In accordance with the educational elements of its mission, the OSM holds a series of concerts specifically designed for elementary and high school curricula and for family audiences. The OSM Classical Spree also offers a range of programming for young audiences, such as *The Fun-Loving Fanfare* and *Peter and the Wolf* concerts, musical initiation (awakening) workshops, etc.

Increasingly active and now uniting all subscribers aged 34 and under, the OSM Young Ambassador's Club has the mission to create and grow an interest in classical music among young people, while at the same time developing a new generation of music lovers and philanthropists. In addition to offering preferential rates, the Club holds special events such as the OSM+ benefit event, welcoming young philanthropists to support a cause close to their hearts, as well as four networking evenings. Members can also attend open rehearsals and meet the musicians of the Orchestre.

In addition, the OSM offers reduced rates for students, and special rates for audience members aged 17 and under.



BROADCASTS

As ideal tools for the democratization of the arts, several media platforms (Medici.tv, OSM.CA, ICI Radio-Canada) broadcast seven OSM concerts, as well as the OSM Manulife Competition, strengthening the Orchestre's presence and prominence throughout Canada and around the world. Through these channels, a vast audience from near and far was given free access to the OSM's unique sound and personality.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 2017

\$31,253 million in revenues, representing an increase of \$816,000

Net profit of \$495,000

Box-office revenue increased slightly by \$85,000 during the 2016-17 season, representing 32% of total revenue, while average revenue per concert went up by 4% reaching nearly \$102K per concert. Allocations from collaborations more than doubled, due in part to the many celebrations of the 375th anniversary of Montreal. The collaboration fees more than doubled thanks to the collaboration of the Azrieli Foundation, the Just For Laughs festival (2 events), the Shaar Hashomayim Congregation concert, as well the 375th Montreal anniversary celebrations. All events greatly contributed to the 2016-17 season's success.

Grants, which account for just over 36% of revenues, were equal to those of the previous fiscal year.

Donations revenues saw an increase of 11% thanks to the success of the Bal d'une nuit d'été, which doubled its net contribution compared to the previous edition.

The OSM Foundation generated proceeds of \$2.280M. Of this amount, \$1.266M is accounted for under Donations and Sponsorship while the balance is allocated to deferred revenue for future rounds.

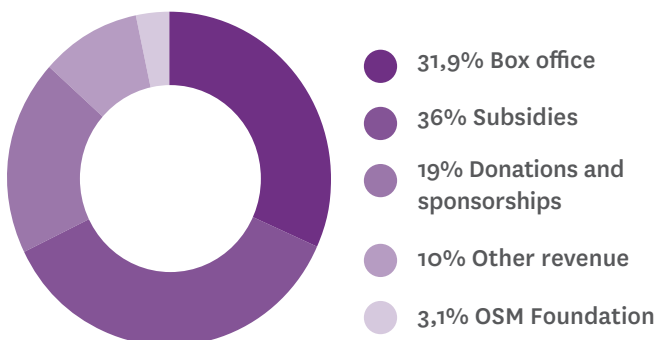
Production costs, which accounted for nearly 81% of the Orchestre's expenses, showed a slight increase of 1.4%, mainly owing to a remuneration increase for musicians in accordance with the collective agreement, as well as an indexing of production and communications costs. Finally, administrative expenses saw an exceptional increase of 23%, in connection with one-time projects as well as the addition of a new rental space.

Statement of financial position

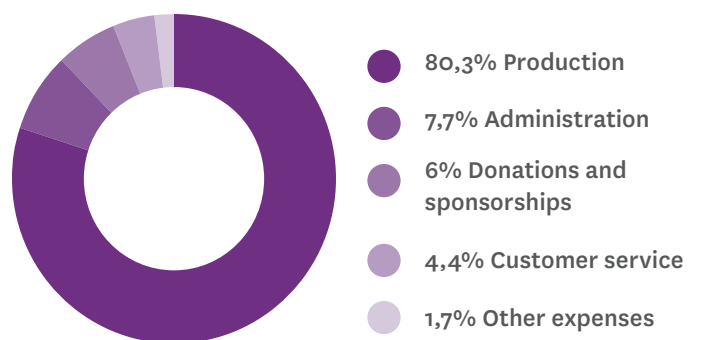
The Orchestre has investments of \$4,586 million consisting of an endowment, a bequest, funds reserved to support the Orchestre's international profile, and a provision for departure fees for outgoing musicians.

At the end of this year, net assets in deficit were thus reduced by nearly 50% or \$ 495K.

REVENUE



EXPENSES



THE OSM VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

The OSM is fortunate to have the support of an association of 140 committed volunteers who give of their time and expertise to benefit the OSM in various ways.

In 2016–2017, their contributions to the OSM accounted for more than 11,500 hours devoted to a broad range of activities: the OSM Manulife Competition, school visits, hosting artists, assistance during the Classical Spree and the Bal des enfants, or support for administrative personnel.

It should be noted that for another period of four years, the Volunteer Association will continue its collaboration with Une école montréalaise pour tous, an assistance programme for disadvantaged students. A total of 1879 children connected to the programme enjoyed the opportunity to attend a Youth Matinee concert. The OSM wishes to thank these dedicated volunteers who help the Orchestra live up to its reputation for excellence.

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AUGUST 2017

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The chorus master chair is generously sponsored by Mrs. F. Ann Birks, in loving memory of Barrie Drummond Birks

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OLIVIER LATRY, organist emeritus

JEAN-WILLY KUNZ, organist-in-residence

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¹Andrew Wan's 1744 Bergonzi violin is generously loaned by philanthropist David B. Sela.

²Marianne Dugal's 1737 Domenico Montagnana violin and Sartory bow, Olivier Thouin's 1754 Michele Deconet violin, Marie-André Chevrette's 1700 Carlo Tononi violin as well as Brian Manker's c. 1728-30 Pietro Guarneri cello and François Peccatte bow are generously loaned by Canimex.

³Marie Lacasse's 1771 Andreas Ferdinandus Mayr violin is generously loaned by philanthropist Miroslav Wicha

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AUGUST 2017

The OSM Foundation's mandate is to safeguard the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal's success over the long term by supporting its international presence and developing its involvement in the local community.

Under the presidency of Madame H el ene Desmarais, the OSM Foundation was publicly launched at the Bell Centre on April 2, 2009. The initial goal was to raise a sustainability fund of 60 million dollars, a goal that was surpassed! The OSM is grateful Madame Desmarais for her exceptional involvement, to all volunteers who work alongside her, and to all donors who give to the OSM Foundation.

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AUGUST 2017

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