



A NEW ALBUM FOR THE OSM AND RAFAEL PAYARE SCHOENBERG'S *PELLEAS UND MELISANDE* AND *VERKLÄRTE NACHT*

TO CELEBRATE THE COMPOSER'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH
ALBUM RELEASE ON OCTOBER 11

Montreal, September 10, 2024 — On the eve of their 91st season-opening concert featuring Arnold Schoenberg's monumental *Gurre-Lieder*, the **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal** and Music Director **Rafael Payare** announce a new addition to their **PENTATONE** discography: **Schoenberg's *Pelleas und Melisande* and *Verklärte Nacht* [Transfigured Night]**. With this most recent recording, Rafael Payare and the OSM offer a vivid and powerful account of two seminal works of the composer's late Romantic period. The album's release next **October 11** brings the number of **OSM albums to 137**. Recorded at the Maison symphonique de Montréal in April 2024, it adds to the Orchestra's rich recording tradition.

"This album represents the latest chapter of an artistic project I have undertaken with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal: the pursuit and development of an aural and expressive aesthetic inherent in the Germanic post-Romantic repertoire. After recordings of Mahler and Richard Strauss, I am especially delighted to be continuing in this vein with Schoenberg's *Pelleas und Melisande* and *Verklärte Nacht*. We warmly invite you to discover these two remarkably sumptuous works, recorded in the exceptional acoustics of the Maison symphonique de Montréal." — **Rafael Payare, OSM Music Director**



SCHOENBERG'S LATE ROMANTIC MASTERWORKS

After acclaimed PENTATONE recordings of Mahler's Fifth Symphony (2023) and of this composer's *Rückert-Lieder* paired with Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben* (2024), Rafael Payare and the OSM continue their exploration of the late Romantic repertoire. The potent lyricism and propulsive dramatic tension of Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht*'s echo the richly suggestive ambiguities of Richard Dehmel's eponymous poem. As for the extraordinary narrative fervour of *Pelleas und Melisande*, it reflects the psychological subtleties of Maeterlinck's celebrated Symbolist drama. In his constant quest for new modes of expression, Schoenberg found a rich source of inspiration in these two literary models to depict human emotion and explore the depths of the unconscious.

MARKING ARNOLD SCHOENBERG'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

With this recording, the OSM celebrates Schoenberg's 150th anniversary of birth in conjunction with the Orchestra's 91st-season **inaugural concert on September 11**, showcasing the composer's *Gurre-Lieder*. In this monumental work, Schoenberg tells the medieval love saga of the ill-fated King Waldemar at the Gurre Castle. It will be an event not to be missed, as the OSM's performance

offers a **rare opportunity** for the Montreal public to engage with a musical work of matchless ambition, calling for 155 musicians, 6 vocal soloists and 120 choristers on stage! To mark this important anniversary, The Arnold Schoenberg Center in Vienna, which manages the immense legacy of the founder of twelve-tone music, has formed the **Artistic Honorary Committee** made up of **world-renowned members including Rafael Payare**.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP WITH MEZZO

To celebrate 10 years of partnership with the OSM, Mezzo will broadcast 10 OSM concerts this month as well as in October. In September, five OSM concerts will be featured including a **LIVE broadcast of its opening season concert**, the powerful *Gurre-Lieder* from Schoenberg on September 13th, the exact day of the birthday of the composer. Thanks to this valuable collaboration, OSM concerts have transcended borders, spreading the richness and excellence of the Orchestra throughout the world.

“Following on their remarkable Mahler and Strauss albums, it is extraordinary to witness this further survey of turn-of-the-century masterpieces by the OSM and Rafael Payare, this time with two seminal works by Arnold Schoenberg. These performances are the antithesis of empty virtuosity: they carry the depth and gravitas that so befit these pieces, speaking to us in their essence today about a world in turmoil, not far remote from ours.” — **Renaud Loranger, Vice-President, Artists and Repertoire, PENTATONE**



THE OSM WISHES TO THANK ITS PARTNERS, ALL SUBSCRIBERS, DONORS AND ITS PUBLIC

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.

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

– 30 –

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