



The Orchestre Métropolitain and Yannick Nézet-Séguin announce their fall programming

Montreal, August 25, 2020 – The **Orchestre Métropolitain** and its Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** are proud to announce the details of the fall 2020 programming. Entirely redesigned to comply with physical distancing measures, the fall programming offers audiences a chance to rediscover the power of music after an emotionally turbulent year.

“It will be an honour to step onto the podium as part of the first half of this season’s programming and share, along with the OM musicians and the public, all of the energy and comfort music provides! With compositions on the program that strike a personal chord, I hope the OM’s 40th season will remain etched in our memories for having experienced it together.” – Yannick Nézet-Séguin

The concerts will be shorter in length and will not include an intermission. The dates announced in March remain unchanged. Note that start times have shifted by 30 or 60 minutes, and one performance has been added to four of the five programs, bringing the total number to ten concerts.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin on the podium all fall

Originally slated to conduct just three of the five programs, Yannick Nézet-Séguin will now take the baton for all of them. He will kick off the Orchestre Métropolitain’s 40th season on Sunday, September 20 with Gustav Mahler’s *Le Chant de la terre* (transcription: Schoenberg, Riehn), the same composer who was to be honoured initially, accompanied by mezzo-soprano Michèle Losier and tenor Frédéric Antoun. The work of Canadian composer Vivian Fung, titled *Prayer* and commissioned by CBC Music, will make its stage debut after it was performed virtually by Yannick Nézet-Séguin and 36 musicians from 28 orchestras across the country in July.

Fauré’s *Requiem*, a sacred choral masterpiece, will honour the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic and their families, especially those whom Canada has lost. Soprano Suzanne Taffot and baritone Philippe Sly will perform. To signal the OM’s support of the Black Lives Matter movement, *The Chariot Jubilee* by Black Canadian-American composer Robert Nathaniel Dett will also be performed.

Stéphane Tétrault will remain the headliner of the season’s third program, performing Haydn’s *Cello Concerto No. 1*, beloved by audiences and cellists alike for its technical brilliance and scope of melody. *Symphony No. 2* by the Chevalier de Saint-Georges, the son of a slave from Guadeloupe and a rich Frenchman, is part of the purest musical tradition of 18th century Europe.

Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, which showcases all of his splendour in one composition, will be presented as part of the Montreal Bach Festival's closing performances. The first half of this exceptional season will end with the notes of the soloist in residence, violinist Blake Pouliot, performing Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*. The program also includes Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 5*, which invokes the spirits of Bach, Mozart and Beethoven, along with a composition by Canadian of Métis heritage Karen Sunabacka, whose music stands out for its charm and poetry.

Two collaborations with the TNM

The Théâtre du Nouveau Monde and the Orchestre Métropolitain will come together in October to present two legendary masterpieces that have marked childhoods worldwide, featuring music and theatre performances on the TNM stage: Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and *The Little Prince*, an adaptation by Éric Champagne based on the work of Saint-Exupéry and directed by Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Both productions will be recorded and made available online through the Orchestre Métropolitain and TNM websites (October 16 – 25 for *Peter and the Wolf* and October 30 – November 8 for *The Little Prince*). Tickets for online access to these events are now on sale.

Indoors and online

The 2020 concerts of the fall season presented by the Orchestre Métropolitain, including the two collaborations with the TNM, will be recorded and available in high definition on its website: www.orchestremetropolitain.com. Details on how to buy tickets and more information about the online offer, including access to pre-concert talks and program notes, will be available in September.

Please note that because it is impossible to comply with health standards at every performance venue, the nine concerts that were to be presented as part of the CAM Touring Program's fall 2020 program have been cancelled. Stay tuned for OM updates to learn more about the winter and spring 2021 program.

Touch hearts from a safe distance

The Orchestre Métropolitain will resume its activities in strict accordance with the rules as it welcomes both the public into the concert hall and the musicians onstage. There will be a dedicated area to manage lines and entry into the Maison symphonique. Tickets will be sent electronically or by mail, reducing in-person distribution as much as possible. Seats will be disinfected after each performance, and one-way corridors will promote the flow of foot traffic and create a linear path to limit contact between people who are coming and going. Spectators will be required to wear a mask when they enter Place des Arts until the concert begins. Posters and other visual communication will notify all guests of health safety measures in place.

Already sold-out performances

On August 3, the Government of Quebec announced that indoor gatherings of up to 250 people can now take place. Since the subscription period for the 2020-2021 season coincided with the start of the pandemic and many loyal subscribers, as well as new faces, have already committed to attending concerts, seven of the ten indoor performances are sold out and few tickets remain available for the others.

Beginning at 10 a.m. today, subscribers for the 2019-2020 season will be able to purchase presale tickets for the few remaining seats for the fall concert series. Tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Due to physical distancing efforts, subscribers may not be placed in their usual seats. The OM's Box Office and Subscriber Service team will make every effort to move them as little as possible.

Seating priority will be maintained for all 2019-2020 subscribers, and seats given to new subscribers of the 2020-21 season are temporary. No final changes or seating allocation will be made until OM operations return to normal.

A very busy summer

Since the pandemic began, the Orchestre Métropolitain has stepped up initiatives online and over social media in order to nurture its relationship with the public and boost morale for anyone affected by the crisis. Notable among these initiatives is “The OM at home”, which offers free online programming each week; “Spread the music, not the virus”, which invited musicians to share their performances on social media; and a memorable performance of “Les gens de mon pays” in collaboration with the renowned poet and singer-songwriter Gilles Vigneault, a popular Quebec figure and one of the most respected artists of the French-speaking world. The OM worked with the Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur to produce the project “A Shared Solitude”. In addition, OM musicians teamed up with the Société des arts en milieux de santé (SAMS) to perform for people living in long-term care facilities across the greater Montreal area.

Under the direction of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the OM recorded Beethoven’s first eight symphonies at the Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal’s Bourgie Hall, now available on DG Stage, Deutsche Grammophon’s new streaming service.

Stay tuned as the Orchestre Métropolitain announces other projects to add to this exceptional season.

About the Orchestre Métropolitain

One of Quebec’s leading cultural ambassadors, the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal is celebrating its 40th anniversary this season. The OM was founded in 1981 on a bold gamble: that the best way to promote symphonic music is by creating strong ties with the public. For more than 20 years, the OM has grown under the direction of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, whose career continues to blossom. Their exceptional collaborative relationship has given rise to many ambitious musical projects, some of them quite daring, under the leadership of the Montreal conductor. In September 2019, the OM announced it would renew Nézet-Séguin’s contract for life. This prized relationship has led to popular recordings under labels ATMA Classique and Deutsche Grammophon, two award-winning international tours (Europe 2017, United States 2019) and memorable indoor, outdoor and online concerts.

Acknowledgments

The Orchestre Métropolitain would like to thank its official partner, Hydro-Québec.

The Orchestre Métropolitain salutes its public partners who contribute to the realization of its mission: the Government of Quebec, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal and the City of Montreal.

The Orchestre Métropolitain would like to thank its partners:

Grand Ambassador

Power Corporation du Canada

Hotel partner

Le Germain Hôtels

Concert presenters

Cogeco

Fasken

Groupe Canimex

Intact Assurance

Télé-Québec

Presenter of The OM at the foot of Mount Royal concert

Fonds de solidarité FTQ

Artistic partners

Danse Danse

Montreal Bach Festival

Théâtre du Nouveau Monde

Thank you to the Caisse de la Culture Desjardins and to the Fondation du Grand Montréal.

The Orchestre Métropolitain is delighted to work with several educational partners:

The OM for Schools

Le Centre de services scolaire de Montréal (CSSDM), le Centre de services scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys (CSSMB), l'École de musique Vincent d'Indy, l'École et les Arts, l'École de musique de Verdun et la Villa Sainte-Marcelline.

The OM for Young Talent

Le Conservatoire de musique de Montréal

La Coopérative des professeurs de musique de Montréal

For more 2020-2021 programming details: orchestremetropolitain.com

For more information about Yannick Nézet-Séguin: www.yannicknezetseguin.com

Follow us on [Facebook](#), Twitter [@LeMetropolitain](#), Instagram [@orchestre_metropolitain](#).

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Programming – Orchestre Métropolitain’s Fall Season

Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts *Le Chant de la terre*

From the intimate to the universal, Gustav Mahler’s *Le Chant de la terre* and Vivian Fung’s *Prayer* transcend suffering and struggle to give a voice to humanity. These emotive pieces invoke feelings of grief, fear, hope and wonder.

Fung

Prayer

Mahler

Das Lied von der Erde, *Le Chant de la terre* (transcription: Schoenberg, Riehn)

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor

Michèle Losier, mezzo-soprano

Frédéric Antoun, tenor

Sunday, September 20

1 p.m. (added performance)

4 p.m. (sold-out)

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Presented by Fasken

Fauré’s Requiem

Tenderness is invincible, as the saying goes. Fauré’s *Requiem*, arguably his most masterful work, comforts the bereaved and pays tribute to the victims of the pandemic. *The Chariot Jubilee*, composed by African American Nathaniel Dett, celebrates Black lives through music.

Dett

The Chariot Jubilee

Fauré

Requiem

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor

Tenor, TBD

Suzanne Taffot, soprano

Philippe Sly, baritone

Professional choir

Friday, October 16

5 p.m. (added performance)

8 p.m. (sold-out)

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Presented by Intact Assurance

Yannick Nézet-Séguin hosts Stéphane Tétreault

Haydn's eloquence, lyricism and spirit come to life under Stéphane Tétreault's bow. Both tragic and complex, Mozart's *Symphony No. 40* takes shape around a simple, poignant theme that leads us from turmoil into darkness, before exploding with transformative violence. Without a doubt one of his most tormented and celebrated pieces.

Chevalier de Saint-Georges

Symphony No. 2

Haydn

Cello Concerto No. 1

Mozart

Symphony No. 40

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor

Stéphane Tétreault, cello

Friday, November 6

5 p.m. (added performance)

8 p.m. (sold-out)

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Presented by Groupe Canimex

Bach's Mass in B Minor

All the splendour of Bach in one composition. Intended to be a finely chiselled portrait of Bach's style, the *Mass in B Minor* was written, polished and perfected over nearly 30 years. Popular for its poignancy, it is a universal gem.

J.S. Bach

Mass in B Minor

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor

Soloists TBD

Professional choir

Closing Concerts of the Montreal Bach Festival

Saturday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 6, 3 p.m.

Maison symphonique de Montréal

From Berlin to Buenos Aires

A masterful tribute to Martin Luther, Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 5* invokes the spirits of Bach, Mozart and Beethoven. With dazzling virtuosity, the soloist in residence, Blake Pouliot, brings to life the intoxicating rhythms of Piazzola's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*.

Sunabacka

Born by the River

Piazzolla

The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

Mendelssohn

Symphony No. 5 "Reformation"

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor

Blake Pouliot, violin (soloist in residence)

Sunday, December 20

1 p.m. (added performance)

4 p.m. (sold-out)

Maison symphonique de Montréal

Two collaborations with the TNM**Peter and the Wolf**

The nimble cat, the lively bird, the clumsy duck, the charismatic wolf and fearless Peter... Through the sounds of the clarinet, flute, oboe, horns and strings, we discover one boy's surprising courage in the face of danger.

Prokofiev

Peter and the Wolf

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor

Lorraine Pintal, staging

Benoît Brière, Peter

Jean-François Casabonne, the Wolf

Sophie Desmarais, the Bird

Fayolle Jean, the Grandfather

Benoît McGinnis, the Cat

Victor Andres Trelles Turgeon, the Duck

OM musicians:

Jocelyne Roy, flute

Mélanie Harel, oboe

Simon Aldrich, clarinet

Gabrièle Dostie-Poirier, bassoon

Simon Bourget, horn

Thursday, October 8, 8 p.m.

Théâtre du Nouveau Monde

Streaming online October 16 – 25, 2020

The Little Prince

“What is essential is invisible to the eye.” Set to music by the internationally renowned Montreal composer Éric Champagne and based on the work by Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince* is a musical treasure that will charm anyone still a kid at heart.

An original work by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

É. Champagne

The Little Prince*

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor

Sophie Cadieux, staging

Renaud Lacelle-Bourdon, the Little Prince

Fayolle Jean, the Pilot

Sophie Desmarais, the Rose and the Fox

Jean-François Casabonne, the King and the Businessman

Benoît Brière, the Vain Man and the Geographer

Victor Andres Trelles Turgeon, the Snake, the Drunkard and the Lamplighter

OM musicians:

Jocelyne Roy, flute

Mélanie Harel, oboe

Simon Aldrich, clarinet

Gabrièle Dostie-Poirier, bassoon

Simon Bourget, horn

* Éric Champagne’s arrangement was commissioned by Ensemble Zefirino for the stage adaptation of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince*.

Friday, October 23, 8 p.m.

Théâtre du Nouveau Monde

Streaming online October 30 – November 8, 2020