



THE ORCHESTRE MÉTROPOLITAIN UNVEILS ITS 2013-2014 CONCERT SEASON BRINGING EMOTION TO YOU FOR A 33RD SEASON

Montreal, Thursday March 21st, 2013 — The Orchestre Métropolitain and Artistic Director-Principal Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin today unveiled the orchestra's 2013-2014 complete concert season programming. Assembled at the Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme at Place des Arts, guests at the event – conductors, soloists, musicians, sponsors, music-lovers, and members of the press – were treated to a sneak preview of performances by the soloists featured in many of this 33rd season's offerings.

Now headed into his 14th season at the helm of the Orchestre Métropolitain, Maestro Nézet-Séguin has designed a concert season of which he is very proud: "We can expect the absolute best in the upcoming season: profoundly moving performances, diverse and colourful programming, and musical moments that music-lovers simply cannot miss. I cherish the opportunity to welcome so many artists who are dear to my heart, and I am proud to conduct, for the first time, the *Youth Spirit* concert series that includes the supremely talented young pianist Daniel Clarke Bouchard. Furthermore, I am so pleased to be conducting nine concerts on tour to various Montreal area neighbourhoods, thus doing my share in carrying on the hallowed tradition of collaboration between the Orchestre Métropolitain and the Conseil des arts de Montréal's touring program. For me, this continuity is of the utmost importance."

A SEASON OF FIRSTS

The Orchestre Métropolitain's new season boasts an eagerly-awaited line-up of nine regular programs supplemented by generous off-season programming. It opens with a nod to Russian and French composers from the early twentieth century, including Stravinsky and his *Rite of Spring*; then, a program of works by Wagner and Mahler featuring, for the first time, the combined forces of Marie-Nicole Lemieux and Yannick Nézet-Séguin; Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra*, another first for the Orchestre Métropolitain; a program inspired by the Latin temperament of the music of Respighi and Milhaud; its continued re-visiting of masterpieces by Richard Strauss, in celebration of this German composer's 150th anniversary of birth; the highly colourful *Symphonic Dances* by Rachmaninov and two equally stirring excerpts from Berlioz's grandiose *Romeo and Juliet*; to mark Easter celebrations, Bach's *Matthew Passion*, with the added resources of the Orchestre Métropolitain Choir and six of the most highly-acclaimed Canadian singers on the international scene; its eighth program is made up entirely of Austrian works by composers from a range of eras, among them the *Concerto for Oboe* by Mozart; finally, to conclude its 33rd season in grand style, the Orchestre Métropolitain pursues its Bruckner cycle by presenting the latter's *Symphony No. 3*, as well as Brahms's *Piano Concerto No. 1* with the extraordinary Héléne Grimaud as soloist.

True to tradition, the Orchestre Métropolitain gives pride of place to soloists of renown: in two not-to-be-missed programs, Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts pianist Héléne Grimaud and soprano Marie-Nicole Lemieux; violinist Martin Beaver, and pianists Maxime Bernard and Beatrice Rana are also part of its celebrated roster of soloists, as are the orchestra's own Principal Oboe Lise Beauchamp, and Principal Horn Louis-Philippe Marsolais. In *Matthew Passion*, audiences will hear the sublime voices of Lawrence Wilford as the Evangelist and Alexander Dobson as Jesus, as well as Héléne Guilmette, Julie Boulianne, Isaiah Bell, and Philippe Sly.

GUEST CONDUCTORS AND COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Maestro Nézet-Séguin will conduct five out of nine regular season programs in the upcoming season, in addition to those in the *Youth Spirit* Series. For the first time, the Orchestre Métropolitain welcomes a Principal Guest Conductor, Julian Kuerti, whose interpretation of Bartók's *Miraculous Mandarin* in April 2012 earned immense critical and public acclaim. Kuerti will conduct two of the new season's programs. To quote Yannick Nézet-Séguin: "Given the orchestra's enthusiasm, he (Kuerti) was a natural candidate as guest conductor on a more regular basis". The Orchestre is also pleased to welcome the dynamic Christian Vásquez -- whose professional training follows in the footsteps of Gustavo Dudamel—in a program entitled *Latin Impressions*. And the scoop of the season is Tateo Nakajima, to whom we owe the exquisite acoustic design of the Maison symphonique de Montréal. He will conduct the program *Vienna the Magnificent*. Finally, for the second consecutive year, the Orchestre Métropolitain welcomes Composer-in-Residence Éric Champagne, who embarks on the career-defining commission of composing his very first symphony!

A VERY SPECIAL YOUTH PROGRAM

Next season, Maestro Nézet-Séguin himself will conduct the *Youth Spirit* series, designed for families and schools as part of the Orchestre Métropolitain's *Young Music-Lovers of the Future* program. This series features works that both the young and not-so-young will enjoy discovering (or re-discovering), such as *Peter and the Wolf*. Two very special guests will join the Orchestre for the occasion: actor Benoît Brière as narrator, and the 12 year-old virtuoso pianist Daniel Clarke Bouchard. The proud sponsor and presenter of this delightful series in *Young Music-Lovers of the Future* is Hydro-Québec.

THE ORCHESTRE MÉTROPOLITAIN TOURS THE ISLAND OF MONTREAL

Thanks to the support of the touring program *Conseil des arts de Montréal on Tour*, the Orchestre Métropolitain will perform on some twenty occasions in ten different Montreal boroughs, almost half of which feature Yannick Nézet-Séguin himself as conductor. Throughout the year, audiences can also hear the Orchestre perform in three Opera de Montréal productions and in the latter's gala event. The Orchestre Métropolitain will also take part in the Montreal Cancer Institute's annual concert. Last but not least, musicians from the Orchestre will perform in chamber music concerts at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Salle Bourgie.

While audiences wait for the new season to begin, the Orchestre Métropolitain invites them to follow its summer calendar of concerts around and outside Montreal: at the Festival International de Lanaudière (in Joliette), in the Concerts populaires de Montréal at Centre Pierre-Charbonneau, at the Théâtre de Verdure in Parc La Fontaine, and at Parc Vancouver in Île-des-Soeurs (Nun's Island). More detailed summer programming will be unveiled in May.

LAUNCHING OF SUBSCRIPTION AND SINGLE CONCERT TICKETS CAMPAIGN

The Orchestre Métropolitain invites regular season ticket subscribers to renew their subscriptions as of today, and new subscribers to fill and return the detachable form included in their 2013-2014 Season Brochure. Season subscribers can also subscribe online at <http://www.orchestremetropolitain.com/subscription> or directly by phone at 514 598-0870, extension 21. Single concert tickets for the Orchestre Métropolitain's 33rd season will be available for sale as of Thursday, August 1st, 2013.

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To view the complete 2013-2014 season programming: orchestremetropolitain.com

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