

## Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Orchestre Métropolitain mourn the passing of pianist Nicholas Angelich

**Montreal, Tuesday, April 19, 2022** — It is with immense sadness that Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Orchestre Métropolitain have learned that Franco-American pianist Nicholas Angelich has passed away after a long illness. He will be remembered as one of the greatest classical music performers of our time, whose musicality, sensitivity, precision, and delicacy of touch, combined with his characteristic breadth of melodic phrasing and dynamics, won the hearts of music lovers around the world. The extended OM family honours the memory of a dear friend and close collaborator and offers its most sincere condolences to his family and friends, as well as to all those who had the privilege of knowing this extraordinary artist. Departed much too soon, he was like a shooting star blazing across the sky.



Photo©François Goupil | Concert « Les visages de Rachmaninov », Maison symphonique de Montréal, octobre 2018  
Left: Yannick Nézet-Séguin, OM Artistic Director and Principal Conductor / Right: Nicholas Angelich, pianist

*“Nicholas Angelich was a special human being whose genius embraced the beyond. He was someone I had the immense privilege of calling a friend, a friend in music with whom I gave piano-four-hands recitals, who appeared several times with the Orchestre Métropolitain at the Festival de Lanaudière, someone with whom I toured all over the world, in New York, Philadelphia, France, and in Germany. I have lost one of my closest artistic collaborators. Nicholas adored Montreal, and I hope that he will always be remembered as a generous soul and a pianist like no other.”* —Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the OM

This season, the 51-year-old pianist was scheduled to join the Orchestra as Soloist-in-Residence. He was to appear first on Friday, April 29 in Beethoven’s Fifth Piano Concerto (“Emperor”). He was also slated to conclude the season alongside Yannick Nézet-Séguin, performing Rachmaninoff’s First and Second Piano Concertos in the context of two concerts that would complete the cycle of the Russian composer’s works in the genre, begun in the fall of 2018.

Tragically, though, illness prevailed. The Orchestre Métropolitain intends to dedicate its next concert on April 29 to this great artist, also marking the date Nicholas Angelich had chosen to perform Beethoven’s Emperor Concerto for the Montreal public. This great work will resound in a very special way under the fingers of pianist Paul Lewis.

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