

**YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN CONFERRED THE RANK OF
OFFICER OF THE ORDRE DES ARTS ET DES LETTRES OF FRANCE**



(Left to right) Michèle Boisvert, Delegate General of Quebec in Paris, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Orchestre Métropolitain, and Laurent Bayle, founder, and former Director of the Cité de la Musique-Philharmonie de Paris
Photo: Todd Rosenberg

Montreal, Friday, September 9, 2022 — The Orchestre Métropolitain is pleased to announce that its Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin has been conferred the rank of **Officer of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France** for his outstanding contribution to cultural vitality in France and throughout the world. This prestigious honorary decoration was presented to him on September 7 by **Laurent Bayle**, founder, and former Director of the **Cité de la Musique-Philharmonie de Paris** (2001–2021), on behalf of France’s Ministry of Culture. It is an honour for which we warmly congratulate Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and one that is shared by all of us at the OM who enjoy the privilege of knowing him and of having evolved with him for over 20 years.

The ceremony was attended by **Michèle Boisvert, Delegate General of Quebec in Paris** and numerous figures of Parisian musical life, following the second concert given by the [Philadelphia Orchestra](#) at the Philharmonie de Paris as part of its European tour. In a speech that chronicled Yannick’s exceptional career, Laurent Bayle underscored **his extraordinary artistry, his humanity, and the values, particularly of inclusion and diversity, that he embodies with all the orchestras he conducts.**

The Ordre des Arts et des Lettres

Established on May 2, 1957, the **Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** is an honorary decoration administered by the French government's Ministry of Culture, which recognizes individuals for their outstanding work in the fields of art and literature, as well as those who have contributed significantly to furthering the arts in France and throughout the world. The Ordre des Arts et des Lettres comprises three grades: Knight, Officer and Commander. Authorized by the Minister of Culture, 960 Ordre des Arts et des Lettres crosses are awarded each year.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin: many times decorated

Holding six honorary doctorates, Yannick Nézet-Séguin has been named a Companion of the Order of Canada (2012), Companion of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec (2015), Officer of the Ordre national du Québec (2015), Officer of the Order of Montreal (2017), Honorary Fellow of the Royal Conservatory of Music (2020), and now, Officer of the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (2022). Other honours include the Virginia Parker Prize, a nomination for Artist of the Year by the prestigious magazine *Musical America*, an award from the Royal Philharmonic Society (London), the National Arts Centre Award (Ottawa), the Prix Denise-Pelletier awarded by the government of Quebec, the Medal of Honour of the Quebec National Assembly, the Oskar Morawetz Award, the Betty Webster Award conferred by Orchestras Canada, as well as a Grammy Award (2022).

The Orchestre Métropolitain

One of Quebec's leading cultural ambassadors, the Orchestre Métropolitain (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. Driven by the constant desire to surpass itself, the OM is renowned for its daring, its authenticity, and its engagement with the community. For the past 20 years, the OM has evolved alongside its conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin, whose career continues to soar. On the strength of this extraordinary partnership, the OM announced in September 2019 the renewal for life of his contract as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, a rare occurrence in the history of music. The recipient of numerous national awards, the OM's discography comprises some 20 recordings, while it performs some 50 concerts annually at the Maison symphonique and throughout Montreal (Conseil des arts de Montréal on Tour). Bolstered by the triumph of its 2017 European tour, in November 2019 the OM embarked on its celebrated tour of the United States with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato.

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Conseil de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres

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