



World-class Canadian violinist Kerson Leong returns to perform with the Orchestre Métropolitain

Montreal, Tuesday, April 25, 2023 – After his great success as soloist in residence during the 2018-2019 season, **Kerson Leong** is returning to the Orchestre Métropolitain for a major concert featuring the violinist in **Tchaikovsky’s** famous ***Violin Concerto***.

In recent years, the young violinist has skillfully transitioned from child prodigy to celebrated artist, in the process gaining the depth and maturity required to be considered a world-class soloist.



Winner of the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin International Competition at age 13 and, in 2014, of the Canadian Stepping Stone Competition, Kerson Leong has never stopped growing as a performer and has carved an enviable place for himself, performing with orchestras and in venues that are among the world’s most famous.

He is fortunate to play an instrument of exceptional quality built by Guarneri del Gesù, a rival luthier to Antonio Stradivari, the father of Stradivarius. Endowed with a warm timbre close to that of a human voice, the violin affords him ample opportunity to express a wide range of emotions and make the instrument sing.

This ability of instruments to imitate the human voice is also heard in another famous work on the program, the **Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*** (*The Knight of the Rose*). Based on extracts from the Richard Strauss opera of the same name, the many waltzes, love duets and passion-filled arias are here performed by the various instruments of the orchestra.

To the memory of those who have left us

When she composed *My Name Is Amanda Todd*, Jocelyn Morlock wanted to tell in music the story of the young teen and cyberbullying victim who took her life in 2012 and whose suicide prompted a wave of sympathy and legislative changes aimed at better protecting victims of online harassment. Morlock has brought young Amanda's courage to life across the country through the work, which has been performed by many Canadian orchestras and crowned with a Juno award.

This deeply moving work will take on a new dimension at the Elegance with Kerson Leong concert, as Jocelyn Morlock died on March 27 of this year, leaving the entire Canadian music community in mourning. For conductor Alexander Shelley, a friend of the composer, the concert will be the first time he has performed her music since her passing. It was he who had commissioned the work from Morlock for performance by the National Arts Centre Orchestra, whose musical director he is.

The Orchestre Métropolitain dedicates this concert to the memory of Jocelyn Morlock.

The concert is presented by **Canimex Group**.

Elegance with Kerson Leong

April 26 to 29, 2023

MAISON SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 7:30 P.M.

PROGRAM

Jocelyn MORLOCK
Piotr Ilitch Tchaikovsky
Richard STRAUSS

[Tickets and information](#)

My Name Is Amanda Todd
Violin Concerto
Der Rosenkavalier, suite

Conducted by **Alexander Shelley**

Soloist: **Kerson Leong** (violon)

ALSO PERFORMED AS PART OF CAM ON TOUR

Verdun, Wednesday, **April 26**, 7:30 p.m., Église Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs
Rivière-des-Prairies – Pointe-aux-Trembles, Thursday, **April 27**, 7:30 p.m., Salle Désilets
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Saturday, **April 29**, 7:30 p.m., Église du Très-Saint-Nom-de-Jésus

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OM THE ORCHESTRE MÉTROPOLITAIN

One of Quebec's major cultural ambassadors, the Orchestre Métropolitain (OM) took a daring step when it was founded in 1981, by creating a unique relationship with its community. Driven by a desire to excel, the OM is known as a bold, authentic and community-oriented ensemble. For over 20 years, the orchestra has grown alongside its conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin, whose career has taken off at home and internationally. In September 2019, based on this special relationship, the OM announced the lifetime renewal of his contract as artistic director and principal conductor, a commitment rare in musical history.

Recipient of many national awards and having produced over 20 recordings with the Canadian label ATMA Classique, the OM performs around 50 concerts a year at the Maison symphonique and across the city through the Conseil des Arts de Montréal Touring Program.

The orchestra also offers free open-air concerts during the summer, including the much-anticipated annual concert at the foot of Mount Royal. Proud to work with musicians and performers from all backgrounds, the orchestra has taken two international tours: Europe (2017) and the US (2019). The OM also works closely with several prestigious companies, including the Opéra de Montréal.

The Orchestre Métropolitain thanks its valued partners:

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