



An Orchestre Métropolitain Season in All Its Splendour

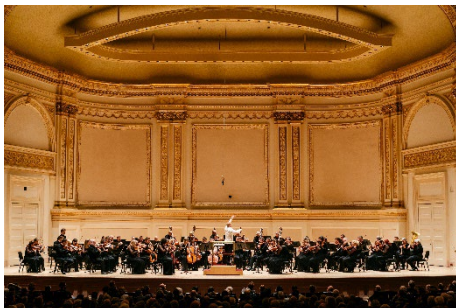
Montréal, Monday, March 20, 2023 — The 2023–2024 Orchestre Métropolitain season is sure to be just as explosive as it is dazzling! This season is bursting with the beauty of great works and the talent of our guest conductors and soloists. Audiences will be dazzled by bold programming, new treasures and encounters between classical music and different genres like modern dance, storytelling, visual arts and electronic music.

Informed by an open-minded, bold, inclusive and accessible approach, the **Orchestre Métropolitain and its Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin** are inviting people of all ages, backgrounds and budgets to this season's events.

“For me, music is above all a universal art form. It speaks to everyone. And I firmly believe that in return, everyone should be able to identify with it. By making room for those who were never offered a platform, not only are we laying the groundwork for a new chapter in classical music, but we’re making it possible to truly come together with our audience.”

- **Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor**

Whether at the Maison symphonique, the Basilique Notre-Dame, across the city's boroughs (for the Conseil des arts de Montréal's Touring Program) or at Bourgie Hall, each concert is an opportunity for the OM to reach its audience, and to present impactful works and artists that will come to life with the orchestra.



The 2023–2024 season also features an extraordinary opportunity: an invitation to perform at New York's prestigious **Carnegie Hall!**

For the second time, our conductor will have the opportunity to present his Montréal-based orchestra to American audiences. The OM's first US performance was in 2019. And in return, the **Philadelphia Orchestra** will also visit us at the Maison symphonique for a concert conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin, whose contract with the American orchestra has been extended until 2030.

“At the Orchestre Métropolitain, we have the incredible opportunity to have Yannick Nézet-Séguin as our conductor. Musicians and other artists all dream of working with him. Profoundly personable and passionate, he’s one of the most inspiring, open and attentive people: He brings out the universalism in music and puts it at the heart of the community. His ambitious programming is true to the vision of a harmonious society where we can all contribute. It’s a privilege for us to strive toward this ideal with him.”

- **Fabienne Voisin, President and CEO, Orchestre Métropolitain**

A season that brings us together

Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Orchestre Métropolitain are maintaining their commitment to open each season with an Indigenous piece. This year, composer **Cris Derksen** will get things started with a premiere that draws from her classical training, Cree roots and love of electronic music. This dialogue between cultures, traditions and Indigenous languages is also the basis of the *Youth Spirit: Tales from the Turtle* concert, a rare and special collaboration between Indigenous storytellers and the classical repertoire.



The values of inclusion and equity that drive the OM and Yannick Nézet-Séguin have also led us to showcase our musicians in this season’s programming. This season, the OM is taking an important step by welcoming its first woman as artistic partner, **Naomi Woo**. The team got to know her during her time with the Orchestral Conducting Academy, the OM’s mentorship program, and wanted to continue working with her. Four female guest conductors and five women soloists will also grace the stage during our regular season.

Priceless treasures and little-known gems

The season centres on a number of orchestral works that haven’t lost their lustre. In the fall’s first concert, the Orchestre Métropolitain is continuing its Sibelius cycle with Symphony No. 2. Yannick Nézet-Séguin will also conduct Shostakovich’s Leningrad Symphony, Handel’s *Messiah*, Poulenc’s *Gloria* and Mahler’s Sixth Symphony.

The season’s many guest conductors will take on symphonic poems, such as Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade* and Strauss’s *Don Juan*, and symphonies including Schumann’s Symphony No. 1, Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 5 and Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 4.

But beyond the more well-known works, the season will feature many hidden gems! Some works were written recently, like *Speaking Drums* by Peter Eötvös, *Aile du songe* by Kaija Saariaho and *Alap & Gat* by José Evangelista, and others were happily rediscovered, like Lūcija Garūta’s Piano Concerto and Lili Boulanger’s “Out of the Depths”—all precious jewels that we’re proud to perform.

One of these unearthed treasures, Johan Halvorsen’s Violin Concerto, will be the subject of an upcoming feature film entitled *Opus 28* by Toronto-based director Sofia Bohdanowicz. The film will tell the story of this 1909 work long thought to be lost forever, until the score was rediscovered a few years ago at the University of Toronto. The new international sensation **María Dueñas** will play herself and the November 18 concert conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin, immortalized by the film crew, will be a key moment of the film.



Guest soloists

Andreas Ottensamer, artist in residence for the 2023–2024 season, is doubtless the most sought-after clarinetist in the world. Principal clarinet with the Berlin Philharmonic, he began conducting the orchestra in 2020. For *From Soloist to Maestro* in October, he'll wear two hats: soloist for the Brahms Clarinet



Concerto No. 1 (arr. Berio), and conductor for the same composer's Tragic Overture, Schumann's Symphony No. 1 and Augusta Holmès's *La nuit et l'amour*. As artist in residence, he'll also perform in a chamber music concert at Bourgie Hall and give master classes.

Other high-level soloists are expected for breathtaking performances. Among them, the Franco-Serbian violin sensation **Nemanja Radulović** and two Quebecers who brought home international awards, **Bruce Liu** and **Élisabeth Pion** on the piano. This will be the first time each of these four soloists will perform with the Orchestre Métropolitain.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin has also invited two of the most in-demand singers from the international opera scene, soprano **Janai Brugger** and mezzo-soprano **Karen**

Cargill for *From the Abyss to the Stars* on February 3, and an entirely Canadian line-up made up of Magali Simard-Galdès, Rose Naggar-Tremblay, Spencer Britten and Philippe Sly for Handel's *Messiah*.

Family concerts at the OM

Because everyone is welcome at the Orchestre Métropolitain, this year will feature a variety of concerts for the whole family. In December, little ones can see their favourite iconic characters Passe-Partout, Passe-Carreau and Passe-Montagne grace the stage with the OM for a symphonic concert featuring their favourite nursery rhymes, stories and riddles.

On February 11, First Nations stories from the *Tales from the Turtle*, published by Éditions Hannenorak, will be told and accompanied by works from the classical repertoire.

Then, in a series of concerts presented at Bourgie Hall, the lively drag queen Barbada de Barbades will tell the story of three friends travelling across the seasons in search of dewdrops whose music lifts people's spirits.

Breaking through borders

Art has no limits. This is even more true when different art forms join forces. There will be many encounters between styles and forms in the coming season, as the Orchestre Métropolitain is enthusiastic about multi-disciplinary approaches that feed creativity and give rise to new perspectives.

In *A Deal with the Sand*, the artist Kseniya Simonova, **sand art** pioneer, will create works illustrating the story of Zemlinsky's symphonic poem *The Mermaid*.

Poetry will also take centre stage during *Under Marciano's Sun*, which highlights the exceptional journey of young conductor Glass Marciano, who went from selling fruit in Venezuela to winning the Orchestra Prize at La Maestra de Paris. Her South American roots will be represented through works by composers Moncayo, Revueltas and Orrego-Salas performed alongside the reading of Latin American poetry.

There will also be fruitful musical encounters, when genres unexpectedly come together. After a foray into electronic music at the beginning of the season with Cris Derkson, jazz and classical music will intermingle for the second annual *Holiday Melodies* concert. This year, the concert will feature an incredible collaboration with the **Orchestre national de Jazz de Montréal** and four major guest soloists: **Laura Anglade**, **Ranee Lee**, **Kim Richardson** and **Dawn Tyler Watson**.



At last, the Orchestre Métropolitain will take part in a unique initiative from choreographer **Rhodnie Désir**, the large-scale *Symphony of Hearts*, a piece where symphonic music and dance encounter the heart, body,

object, video, light, Afro-contemporary rhythms and music composed by **Jorane**. This RD Créations production is presented in association with Danse Danse.

Multiplying opportunities

Making classical music accessible to Montrealers is central to the Orchestre Métropolitain's mission. That's why the OM is always trying to expand its audience, either by performing in Montréal's boroughs as part of the Conseil des Arts de Montréal Touring Program, or by increasing the range of its musical offering.

Chamber music is one of these initiatives, and with six concerts at Bourgie Hall for the 2023–2024 season, the orchestra is offering more small ensemble concerts.

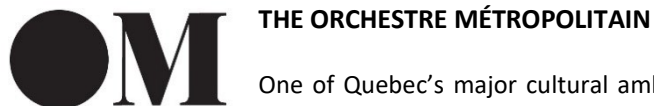
In addition to three family concerts with Barbada, the OM will present a concert showcasing its artist in residence, clarinetist Andreas Ottensamer, a double program marrying Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* and Poulenc's *Le Bal Masqué*, and a concert for a wind and piano quintet.

Quick highlights of the season:

- Strong female presence with four women guest conductors (Elim Chan, JoAnn Falletta, Ariane Matiakh, Glass Marcano) and five female soloists (Maria Dueñas, Élisabeth Pion, Janai Brugger, Karen Cargill, Juliette Hurel) in the regular season, and a first woman conductor in residence, Naomi Woo
- Increased presence of Indigenous culture with the premiere of a work by Cree composer Cris Derksen and a program showcasing First Nations storytelling
- Two family programs at the Maison symphonique and a series of three family concerts at Bourgie Hall.
- A total of six chamber music concerts at Bourgie Hall
- Invitation to Carnegie Hall and the Philadelphia Orchestra visiting Montréal
- Two Christmas concerts
- Original collaborations with Passe-Partout, RD Créations, Danse Danse and the Orchestre national de jazz de Montréal

For complete details on our 2023–2024 programming: www.orchestremetropolitain.com

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THE ORCHESTRE MÉTROPOLITAIN

One of Quebec's major cultural ambassadors, the Orchestre Métropolitain (OM) took a bold 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 rare commitment 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 each 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 many prestigious companies.

Join the discussion



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