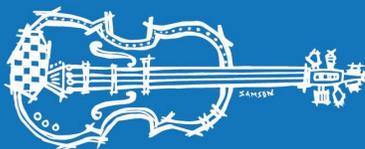


ORCHESTRE CLASSIQUE DE MONTRÉAL



BORIS BROTT
Directeur artistique
TARAS KULISH
Directeur général

HANDEL'S MESSIAH At Saint Joseph's Oratory on December 7! And available via webcast

Montreal, Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - The **Orchestre classique de Montréal (OCM)** is back with its long-awaited annual celebration: **Handel's Messiah!** The OCM's musicians, along with a chorus and an outstanding quartet of soloists, will spread the holiday cheer on **Tuesday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m.** at the basilica of **Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal**, where concertgoers will enjoy free parking. A webcast of the performance will also be available for viewing until December 21.

Conductor **Boris Brott** and the OCM will be joined by soprano **Jacqueline Woodley**, mezzo-soprano **Marie-Andrée Mathieu**, tenor **Antoine Bélanger** and baritone **Neil Craighead**. The professional vocal ensemble **Les Rugissants** will bring Handel's famous choruses to life, while conductor **Xavier Brossard-Ménard** will lead the first part of the concert.

Each concert of the OCM's 82nd season, entitled **Women of Distinction**, honours a great woman from outside the music world who has left her mark on the community. The evening will open with a tribute to **Suzanne Fortier**, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University.

Soprano **Jacqueline Woodley** holds a master's degree in Opera from McGill University and was a member of the Canadian Opera Company's Studio Ensemble from 2010 to 2012. Since then, her list of engagements has grown considerably. She frequently earns praise for her exceptional talent as an interpreter of contemporary music, having created the role of Milice in Ana Sokolovic's opera *Svadba*.

In 2016, mezzo-soprano **Marie-Andrée Mathieu** was named "Jeune espoir lyrique québécois" by the Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques. In addition to performing regularly across Canada, she is the lead singer of *La Virevolte* and a member of *La Chapelle de Québec* chamber choir.

Antoine Bélanger enjoys a well-established reputation as one of the country's leading tenors, having performed an impressive number of roles with most of Canada's major opera companies.

Baritone **Neil Craighead's** burgeoning career has taken him across Canada, from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland. Born in Cape Town, South Africa and raised in Calgary, he is currently studying at the University of British Columbia, where he is completing a Doctorate of Musical Arts.

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HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Tuesday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. (webcast available online until December 21)

Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal (Basilica)

Orchestre classique de Montréal

Jacqueline Woodley, soprano

Marie-Andrée Mathieu, mezzo-soprano

Antoine Bélanger, tenor

Neil Craighead, baritone

Les Rugissants vocal ensemble

Boris Brott, conductor

Xavier Brossard-Ménard, guest conductor

Tickets: in person \$49 to \$69 / webcast \$19

Online at orchestra.ca

About the OCM

The **Orchestre Classique de Montréal** (OCM) was founded in 1939 by violinist, conductor, and composer Alexander Brott and cellist and manager Lotte Brott. Previously named the McGill Chamber Orchestra, the OCM quickly became one of Canada's most established chamber orchestras, touring five continents, recording extensively, and appearing regularly on radio and television. Now led by **Boris Brott**, OC, OQ, the elder son of Alexander and one of Canada's most internationally renowned conductors, the OCM is a vibrant, innovative, and flexible ensemble consisting of the city's best professional musicians. The OCM presents concerts throughout the year and is now in residence at the Salle Pierre-Mercure. Fulfilling its mission of celebrating diversity and inclusivity, the OCM has created the program **Music for Everyone** which enables collaborations with numerous new immigrant communities and Montreal organizations in making OCM's performances accessible to all. The OCM proudly acknowledges **BMO Financial Group** as its 2021-22 Season Presenter.

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