

ORCHESTRE CLASSIQUE DE MONTRÉAL



BORIS BROTT
Directeur artistique
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TO MARK NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

THE ORCHESTRE CLASSIQUE DE MONTRÉAL PAYS TRIBUTE TO TARA-LOUISE MONTOUR

Montreal, June 3, 2021 – To mark *National Indigenous Peoples Day* on **June 21**, the Orchestre classique de Montréal (OCM) is shining the spotlight on our exceptional violinist, **Tara-Louise Montour**. Originally from **Kahnawake**, Quebec, Tara-Louise is **considered North America's foremost Indigenous classical violinist**. She first appeared as a soloist with the OCM in 2018 before joining the orchestra as a permanent member in 2019.

The OCM is committed to presenting music by Indigenous composers each year. Earlier this season, the orchestra presented works by **Barbara Croall** (an Odawa First Nation composer) and **Tomson Highway** (a Cree playwright, writer, composer and pianist). In 2018, thanks to a major "New Chapter" grant from the Canada Council for the Arts, the OCM presented a multimedia work by Croall on the life of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha to audiences in Montreal and Kahnawake, which featured Tara-Louise as guest soloist. The OCM is delighted to have such a talented musician among its ranks.

In addition to her fifteen-year tenure with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Tara-Louise has appeared as guest soloist with the Orchestre Métropolitain under Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Hamilton Philharmonic, Symphony New Brunswick, the Thunder Bay Symphony and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, to name a few. A former winner of the OSM Strings Competition, Tara-Louise holds a Bachelor of Music degree from McGill University's Schulich School of Music and a Master of Music degree in Performance from Northern Illinois University.

In 2005, she commissioned and recorded Regent Levasseur's *Farewell to the Warriors* with the Thunder Bay Symphony, which earned a Juno nomination. In 2010, Tara-Louise commissioned Malcolm Forsyth's *Trickster Coyote, Lightning Elk*, a work inspired by Native American themes.

"You often have to take fate into your own hands," says Tara-Louise. *"Seeing as there was no Indigenous music for the violin, I decided to commission it. I hope I can inspire Indigenous youths to pick up an instrument and fall in love with classical music, like I did. My advice to young musicians is to get all the groundwork and training done young, then you can decide where you want to go and how you will get there,"* she says.

About the OCM

The **Orchestre Classique de Montréal** (OCM), previously known as the McGill Chamber Orchestra, was founded in 1939 by violinist, conductor, and composer Alexander Brott and his wife Lotte Brott. The OCM quickly became one of Canada's most established chamber orchestras, touring to

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 Bank of Montreal** as its 2020-21 Season Presenter.

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