



OCM RAISES OVER \$400 000 At Its Benefit Gala Honouring Sharon Azrieli

Montreal, June 23rd, 2021 – The **Orchestre Classique de Montréal** (OCM) presented a final event of the season, a fundraising gala on Tuesday, June 22 at the Sofitel Hotel. Honouring Sharon Azrieli, renowned Canadian singer, philanthropist and President Emeritus of the orchestra's board of directors, the event **raised a record sum of over \$400,000!**

100% of the proceeds from the gala will go to the OCM Foundation, a fund established by Sharon Azrieli. When she was Chair of the Board, she oversaw the creation of the foundation to ensure the long-term success of the organization.

The evening, presented by [Richter](#), was hosted by **Sonia Benezra**, a well-known Quebec television personality and featured musical performances by Sharon Azrieli, [Julie Nesrallah](#), [Marc Djokic](#) and [Michel-Alexandre Broekaert](#). Guests were treated to a cocktail reception prepared by chef **Olivier Perret** in compliance with social distancing measures. For online participants, a gourmet box and a bottle of wine from Restaurant Renoir were delivered to their homes.

A very successful online auction was open to the public and offered several interesting prizes.

“What a phenomenal way to end our 81st season, an unprecedented season for all of us. The record amount raised will be eligible for matching funds from the Federal and Provincial governments which will further ensure strong financial sustainability for our organization!” underlines OCM's Director General Taras Kulish.

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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