The Festival de Lanaudière cancels its 43rd season and pays tribute to its artists and partners

Joliette, April 16, 2020 – Following guidelines issued by the government of Quebec ordering the cancellation of all festivals and cultural events planned for this summer, the Festival de Lanaudière announces the cancellation of its 2020 edition, which was to take place from July 3 to August 2 (see annex for details). The Festival is thus joining efforts in fighting the current pandemic, and shares the government’s priority of placing public health and safety above all else.

“The government’s decision had become inevitable. We are truly heartbroken, but we stand behind the government’s efforts and decisions. Sadly, we cannot simply postpone our festival. Two and a half years of work go into building a lineup that takes into account the schedules of artists and orchestras. Each edition is carefully planned and balanced, and moving our outdoor concerts to October is unfortunately not an option,” mentions François Bédard, General Manager.

Renaud Loranger, Artistic Director, chimes in, “We kept hope alive until the very last moment to be able to deliver the 2020 edition of the Festival as planned with our partners in Quebec and throughout the world. A festival is a unique, irreproducible constellation brought to life by the artists that come together to make it all happen. We are devastated to have to part ways with them. This year’s edition was to offer festivalgoers memorable, heartfelt moments, including a farewell to Kent Nagano, Aida and The Valkyrie, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin—a foretaste of the upcoming season of the Metropolitan Opera—as well as three concerts by the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, and let’s not forget the participation of William Christie and Les Arts Florissants in a program designed in partnership with European festivals—a first for Lanaudière. We will try, where possible, to carry forward some of this year’s concerts to the Festival’s next editions. We are focusing all of our energy on the future.”

We wish to extend our thanks to the various government officials who have supported us through this difficult time, as well as to our sponsors and donors, and our audience.
To Festival ticket holders
Festivalgoers who have already purchased their tickets for the 2020 edition will be contacted over the next few weeks.

About the Festival de Lanaudière
The Festival de Lanaudière is the most important classical music festival in Canada and member of the Regroupement des événements majeurs internationaux. Every year, over 50,000 participants take part in its various activities. Its accessible program is made up of world-renowned, internationally acclaimed artists. The Festival’s main stage is the Amphithéâtre Fernand-Lindsay, with 2,000 covered seats and space for 5,000 spectators on the lawn.

For more information:
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ANNEX
Festival de Lanaudière 2020

Orchestre symphonique de Montréal
Conducted by Kent Nagano
The Paradies and the Peri by Schumann
Daphnis et Chloé by Ravel, Berg’s Violin Concerto with Christian Tetzlaff

Conducted by Thomas Søndergård
Opening concert with pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard (Beethoven, Scriabin)

Conducted by Tomáš Netopil
Russian and Czech program with pianist Denis Kozhukhin

Orchestre Métropolitain and Yannick Nézet-Séguin
Act 1 of Wagner’s The Valkyrie
Complete Piano Concertos of Beethoven with Marc-André Hamelin
Concert version of Verdi’s Aida

Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin
Symphonies of Beethoven and his precursors
**Les Violons du Roy and Mathieu Lussier**  
Anniversary concert of the Amphithéâtre Fernand-Lindsay

**Les Arts Florissants and William Christie**  
Baroque opera excerpts with mezzo-soprano Léa Desandre and countertenor Jakub Jósef Orliński

Concert produced in collaboration with the Festival de Pâques d’Aix-en-Provence, the Festival international d’opéra baroque de Beaune and the Festival Dans les jardins de William Christie (Thiré – Vendée)

**Canadian Brass**

**Accordionist Richard Galliano and the Molinari Quartet**

**Recitals and chamber music**

Charles Richard-Hamelin, piano  
Inon Barnatan, piano  
Alisa Weilerstein, cello  
Schumann Quartet  
Théotime Langlois de Swarte, violin  
William Christie, harpsichord  
Denis Kozhukhin, piano  
Emmanuel Ceysson, harp

**In alphabetical order**

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<th>Elchin Azizov, baritone</th>
<th>Marie-Sophie Pollak, soprano</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dmitry Belosselskiy, bass</td>
<td>Julian Prégardien, tenor</td>
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<td>Gordon Bintner, bass-baritone</td>
<td>John Relyea, bass</td>
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<td>Karen Cargill, mezzo-soprano</td>
<td>Rocco Rupolo, tenor</td>
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<td>Christine Goerke, soprano</td>
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<td>Brian Jagde, tenor</td>
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<td>Brandon Jovanovich, tenor</td>
<td>Ryan Speedo Green, bass</td>
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<td>Latonia Moore, soprano</td>
<td>Sarah Wegener, soprano</td>
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