

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 24, 2016
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**CAL PERFORMANCES WELCOMES KENT NAGANO AND
THE MONTREAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FEATURING
PIANIST DANIIL TRIFONOV IN PROKOFIEV'S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 3
MARCH 26 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, February 24, 2016—Cal Performances presents the [Montreal Symphony Orchestra](#), directed by Kent Nagano, for one performance only of a program of early 20th-century works, including Debussy's *Jeux* and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, on Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Star pianist **Daniil Trifonov** returns after his highly successful Cal Performances debut with Gidon Kremer in the 2014–2015 season, this time joining the Montreal Symphony for Prokofiev's viscerally powerful Piano Concerto No. 3. As London's *The Guardian* recently remarked, "From agile thoroughbred to bucking bronco, gawky puppet to noble athlete, careworn sage to innocent child, Daniil Trifonov's playing has it all...he is, no other word, a phenomenon."

Conductor Kent Nagano, beloved former director of the Berkeley Symphony from 1978 to 2009, returns to Berkeley with two works composed within a year of each other for Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. *Jeux* (1912–1913) is Debussy's final work for orchestra, a vibrant, restless work with nearly 60 tempo changes over the course of its 17 minutes. It was originally composed to accompany a ballet for the Ballets Russes to choreography by Vaslav Nijinsky, but was soon eclipsed by Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* (1910–1913), which the company premiered less than two weeks later. Complementing these kinetic works for dance is Prokofiev's emotionally expansive Piano Concerto No. 3 (1921), which calls on the full expressive power of the orchestra to match that of the soloist, in passages that range from exuberant and extroverted to poetic and introspective. *The New York Times* has praised Trifonov's interpretation of this work: "he offered far more than mere virtuosity... Trifonov demonstrated an elegant touch and witty grace in more lighthearted moments and poetic insight in more introspective passages."

Since its founding in 1934, the **Montreal Symphony Orchestra** (OSM) has distinguished itself as a leader of the Canadian arts scene. The orchestra has earned an enviable reputation internationally through the quality of its many recordings and tours. The OSM carries on that rich tradition under the leadership of Kent Nagano, Music Director since 2006, while featuring innovative programming aimed at updating the orchestral repertoire and deepening the orchestra's connection with the community. The OSM has performed on more than 40 tours and some 30 national and international excursions. It has made more than 100 recordings for Decca, EMI, Philips, CBC Records, Analekta, ECM, and Sony, as well as on its own label, earning the orchestra 50 national and international awards. In September 2011, the OSM and Maestro Nagano inaugurated Maison symphonique de Montréal, the Orchestra's new home.

Russian pianist **Daniil Trifonov** has made a spectacular ascent to classical stardom since winning First Prize at both the Tchaikovsky and Rubinstein competitions in 2011 at the age of 20. In the 2012–13 season, he made debuts with many of the top American orchestras and with European ensembles, including Rome's Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and London's Royal Philharmonic. This season, he performs for the first time with the symphony orchestras of Dallas, Seattle, Toronto, and Vienna; tours Japan with the Mariinsky Orchestra; and travels the United States with violinist Gidon Kremer. The pianist's first recording on Deutsche Grammophon, *Trifonov: The Carnegie Recital*, was nominated for a Grammy award. Born in Russia in 1991, Trifonov studied at Moscow's Gnessin School of Music and at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has also studied composition and continues to write for piano, chamber ensemble, and orchestra.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Montreal Symphony Orchestra** on Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$42.00 to \$150.00 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at www.calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances' 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Chamber Music & Orchestra

Montreal Symphony Orchestra

Kent Nagano, conductor

Daniil Trifonov, piano

Program:

Debussy/*Jeux*

Prokofiev/Piano Concerto No. 3

Stravinsky/*The Rite of Spring*

Tickets: Prices range from \$42.00–\$150.00 and are subject to change. Available at calperformances.org, the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, and 510.642.9988

– Cal Performances –