



McGill



Schulich School of Music
École de musique Schulich

**Schulich School of Music of McGill University
Concerts and Publicity**

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

March 4th and 5th the McGill Symphony Orchestra will celebrate the 85th anniversary of Pierre Boulez

For immediate release

Montreal, February 26, 2011 – March 4th and 5th, 7:30 p.m. in Pollack Hall, the **McGill Symphony Orchestra**, conducted by **Alexis Hauser**, will perform five movements from Boulez' *Notations*, including the Canadian premier of movement VII in celebration of the 85th anniversary of Pierre Boulez. This work, whose movements can be played in any particular order, was originally composed for piano, and both the piano (performed by soloist **Gili Loftus**, winner of the 2010 McGill Classical Concerto Competition) and orchestral versions will be heard in concert.

Other works on the program include the premier of *Supposed Spaces*, by the 2010-2011 composer-in-residence **Brian Harman** and the Lowell Liebermann Flute *Concerto in G major, Op. 39*, featuring flutist **Edward Brescacin**, winner of the 2009-2010 McGill Concerto Competition.

Concert Dates: Friday, March 4, and Saturday, March 5, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Pollack Hall, 555 Sherbrooke Street West, metro McGill

Admission: \$12

Box Office: 514.398.4547

About Brian Harman:

Brian Harman, born in Montreal in 1981, is a composer, pianist, teacher and arts promoter. His works, written for a wide variety of media, explore the relationship between music and our physical or imaginary experience of the world, using carefully carved musical gestures and textures that contrast in temporal character. His music is frequently inspired by extra-musical elements such as architecture, dance and technology, and has been performed by such ensembles as the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal, VivaVoce Montréal, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

In 2011 he was selected as a winner in the Wiener Jeunesse Kammerchor Composition Competition, and will write a new work for this Austrian choral ensemble for performance in 2012. *Dialectics*, for wind ensemble, was selected a finalist in the 2009 Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra's Composition Competition. He also took part in a six-city Canadian tour with the Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal as part of its Génération 2008 program. In 2004 his orchestral work *The Prince* was a finalist in the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's New Creations competition. Current projects include works for Ensemble de flûtes Alizé, Code d'accès, Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra, a multidisciplinary work for pianist and dancer in collaboration with *Evolucidanse*, and a song cycle for soprano Carla Huhtanen in collaboration with writer David Brock. He is composer-in-residence with Montreal's *Portmantô* and the McGill Symphony Orchestra, and is completing his doctorate in music composition at McGill University with Prof. Denys Bouliane.

About **Alexis Hauser**:

Austrian conductor Alexis Hauser was born in Vienna and graduated with distinction from Hans Swarowsky's masterclass in 1970 (Vienna Musikuniversität) as well as from masterclasses with Franco Ferrara (Accademia Chigiana Siena in 1969) and Herbert von Karajan (Salzburg Sommerakademie 1970).

His first permanent position as music director came from Orchestra London Canada which was followed by his invitation to become principal guest conductor of the Budapest Philharmonic with whom he made several recordings and a video of Mahler's *Symphony No. 1* which was transmitted throughout Europe. In Tokyo he recorded Messiaen's "Turangalila" and Mahler's *Sixth Symphony*, in Moscow Bruckner's *Ninth Symphony*, and in Cracow, Poland, Dvořák's *Requiem*.

After his inaugural season in 2001/2 as Director of the McGill Symphony Orchestra in Montreal, he received invitations to appear at the International Festival of Lanaudière and also at Carnegie Hall in New York. In 2004, Hauser performed the Canadian premiere of the original version of Mahler's *Das klagende Lied*; in 2005 he revived, together with Stage Director François Racine, Harry Somer's opera *Louis Riel* in an Opera McGill production at Montreal's Place des Arts which was awarded the Prix Opus "Événement musical de l'année" by the Conseil québécois de la musique. Hauser's new CD album combining Messiaen's *L'Ascension* with Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony was released in November 2009. Although the OSM under Charles Dutoit premiered Pierre Boulez' *Notations pour orchestre I-IV* in 1983, this will be the Canadian premiere of *Notation VII*.

The Box office, located in the Pollack Hall lobby, is open from 12 noon to 6 pm Monday to Friday, and one hour before each performance. Tickets are also available by phone at 514.398.4547

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