

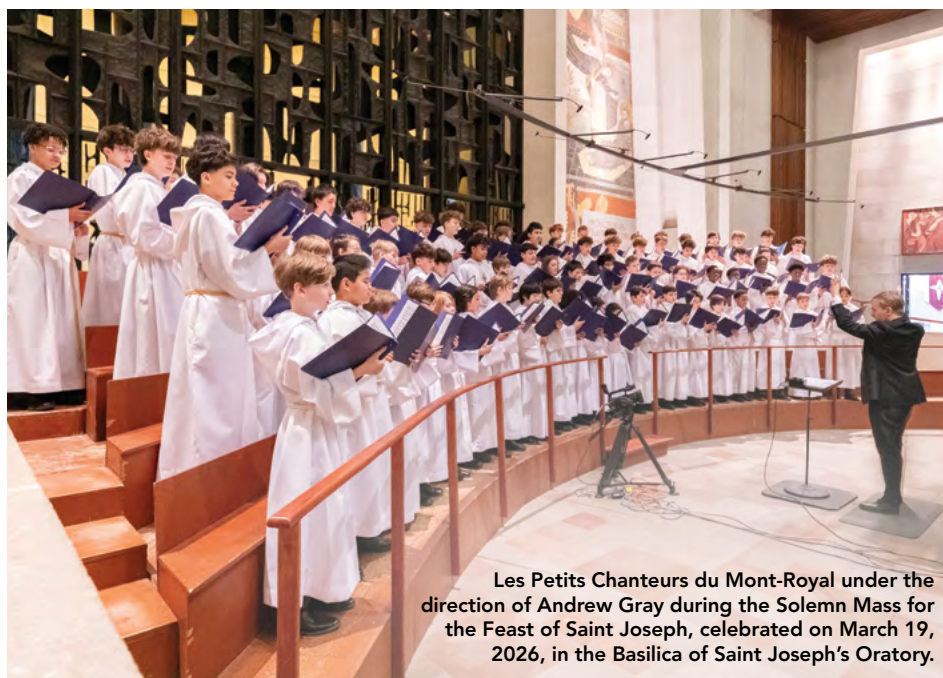
FALL 2026

# The Friend of Brother André



## CONTINUING A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

**This year, Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal Choir celebrates 70 years of musical training, excellence, and artistic achievement.**



Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal under the direction of Andrew Gray during the Solemn Mass for the Feast of Saint Joseph, celebrated on March 19, 2026, in the Basilica of Saint Joseph's Oratory.

Photo: Julien Perron-Gagné

The Choir marked this milestone during the *Viva Vivaldi* concert presented with the Montreal Classical Orchestra on May 30 at Maison symphonique. In the second half of the evening, the 150 young singers, under the direction of Andrew Gray, joined the orchestra to perform Vivaldi's *Gloria in D Major*, RV 589. This celebrated work, according to the program notes, "demonstrates Vivaldi's ability to unite spiritual fervour with musical vitality."

The same description could be applied to the Choir itself. From 1956 to the present day, this renowned ensemble has remained faithful to its primary mission: providing outstanding liturgical music for celebrations at Saint Joseph's Oratory

of Mount Royal. At the same time, its embrace of contemporary compositions and participation in operatic, theatrical, and cinematic productions attest to its remarkable musical and cultural vitality.

### SUSTAINED BY RENEWAL

Over the past decade, the story of Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal has continued to be written—and sung—through a spirit of renewal. The arrival of Andrew Gray as Artistic and Music Director in 2016, followed by Marie-Pierre Rolland as Executive Director in 2019, has ensured the continuation of the Choir's tradition of excellence established by Brault, Dupuis, Legault, Patenaude, Badeau, and Chantal, while opening new paths for the future.

For 70 years, whether in masses or on international tours, performing sacred music or popular repertoire, Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal have demonstrated their ability "to unite spiritual fervour with musical vitality". A true art form!

**Saint Joseph's Oratory is proud to have supported the educational mission of Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal for seven decades. A tradition of excellence worth carrying forward!**

## The Choir's Song



"Whoever sings prays twice," said Saint Augustine. At Saint Joseph's Oratory, we are privileged to pray twice over—and in beauty—thanks to Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal, who lead us in praise every Sunday.

For 70 years, the Maîtrise of Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal has made an unparalleled contribution to the liturgy of our shrine's celebrations through the voices of its young choristers. We commend their discipline and perseverance in study, the seriousness of their commitment, and their strong sense of service.

If such a choir was able to come into being at this moment in our history, it is because the Oratory's Basilica had just opened its doors permanently in 1955. This grand temple called for worship celebrated in all its splendour, with a choir worthy of the great cathedrals of Europe.

Providence also ensured that the sanctuary grounds could be expanded at the beginning of 1956 through the purchase of nearby private lands and residences on the lower slope. This expansion made it possible for the Oratory to offer additional services: a school for the formation of a dedicated choir, as well as hospitality for the sick. Such was the vocation of the Jean XXIII Pavilion when it opened in 1965. Marking its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this past spring, it now offers accommodations services to pilgrims of the Oratory.

Over the years, the development of Saint Joseph's Oratory has been made possible thanks to all its benefactors—those of yesterday who believed in this emerging work, and those of today who contribute to its reputation and its lasting presence.

To you all, I offer a hymn of thanksgiving. Let us continue to carry this great work forward together.

*Bernard Antoine CSC*

Fr. Bernard Antoine, CSC  
Rector

## A Gift, a Project, a Legacy

For more than a century, Saint Joseph's Oratory has welcomed millions of pilgrims, visitors, and seekers. A place of faith, culture, and heritage, it stands as a treasured legacy whose preservation and continued vitality depend, in part, on the generosity of its benefactors.

Gifts made in support of the Oratory's general mission help sustain the upkeep of its buildings, the welcome extended to pilgrims, liturgical celebrations, pastoral activities, and the many services offered to the community.

### Where generosity meets the needs of the Oratory

Alongside this essential support, designated gifts directed to specific projects play a vital role. They make it possible to address particular needs, such as the restoration of heritage features, the conservation of works of art, and other initiatives that safeguard and enhance the Oratory's legacy. For many donors, connecting their generosity to a tangible project offers a meaningful way to see the direct impact of their contribution.



Photo: N. Dumas

Complementing support for the Oratory's overall mission, designated gifts provide a valuable source of funding that enables the Oratory to continue growing while preserving the spiritual and cultural heritage entrusted to us by Saint Brother André.

***Do you care deeply about Saint Joseph's Oratory and wish to support a specific project through your gift? We would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact us to learn more.***

*Questions, comments, requests  
for information, or address changes?*

PLEASE CONTACT US  
WE'RE HERE TO HELP!



#### Annual Campaign

514 733-8211, ext. 2851  
1 877 672-8647  
dons@osj.qc.ca

#### The Associates and Grand Associates

514-733-8211, ext. 2721  
associes@osj.qc.ca

#### Planned Giving Program

Ellen Morin  
514-733-8211, ext. 2523  
emorin@osj.qc.ca

[www.saint-joseph.org/  
en/online-donation/](http://www.saint-joseph.org/en/online-donation/)

# THE TAX ADVANTAGE THAT CHANGES THE GIVING GAME

You have spent a lifetime building, saving, giving, and caring for the people and causes that matter most to you.

Naturally, you keep a close watch over your assets. That is wise. No one wants to squander the fruits of a lifetime of hard work.

As you look ahead to your financial future, important questions may come to mind. Will my savings be enough to support me throughout retirement? Will I be able to leave a meaningful legacy to my loved ones? Can I continue supporting the charitable organizations that reflect my values? Will Saint Joseph's Oratory still be able to count on the gift I have faithfully made year after year for the past 10, 20, or even 40 years?

The answer is simple: yes. How? Through careful planning.

Many Canadians are surprised to learn that, without proper estate planning, taxes can significantly reduce the assets they intended to pass on to family members and charitable causes.

## Planning = Planned Giving = Tax Savings

A charitable gift included in your estate plan or will can reduce—and in some cases eliminate—the taxes payable upon death, while preserving the inheritance you wish to leave to your loved ones. A variety of tax incentives are available to encourage charitable giving.



Planned giving is integrated into a broader financial or estate-planning strategy and enables donors—regardless of age or wealth—to fulfill their philanthropic goals in a thoughtful and meaningful way.

To help you better understand these opportunities, Saint Joseph's Oratory will once again offer a free educational session this fall, presented by Jessica Tambasco and Heather Borrelli, specialists in estate planning and philanthropic strategies.

Through practical examples and clear explanations, you will learn:

- How to minimize—and in some cases significantly reduce—taxes on your estate.
- How to avoid unnecessary double taxation on retirement assets.
- How to bypass upfront capital gains taxes.
- How to transform assets into a lasting charitable legacy.

You will discover practical ways to protect your wealth, care for those closest to you, and extend your generosity to the organizations that have shaped your life and family history—perhaps including Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.

## One Hour Well Invested!

In response to the strong interest and positive feedback received from participants in previous estate-planning sessions, the Philanthropic Development team is pleased to offer this complimentary one-hour seminar once again this November. A special opportunity to learn how your estate can do more. Not to be missed!

*Every planned gift becomes a lasting expression of hope for the future.*

### In Person

→ **November 5, 2026**

a.m. in English  
p.m. in French

### Webinar

→ **November 19, 2026**

a.m. in French  
p.m. in English

### Register today!

Ellen Morin, *Planned Giving Program*  
514-733-8211, ext. 2523  
[emorin@osj.qc.ca](mailto:emorin@osj.qc.ca)



# 2013 FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL BACH MONTRÉAL

General admission: \$20 – Basilica, 3:30 p.m.  
 Tickets [\$]: festivalbachmontreal.com  
 or at the door, the day of the concert



## The Complete Organ Works of Bach

*Introduction & Recital 1*  
 Christian Schmitt  
 (Germany)

November 8



## An Imaginary Encounter: Bach and Vienne

Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal  
 Andrew Gray, conductor  
 Federico Andreoni, choir organ  
 Vincent Boucher, great organ

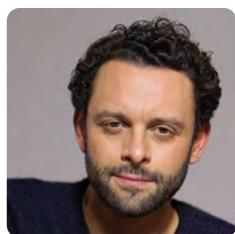
November 22



## The Complete Organ Works of Bach

*Recital 2*  
 Vincent Boucher,  
 Titular Organist of Saint Joseph's  
 Oratory of Mount Royal

November 15



## The Complete Organ Works of Bach

*Recital 3*  
 Benjamin Alard  
 (France)

November 29



Concours  
 international  
 d'orgue  
 du Canada

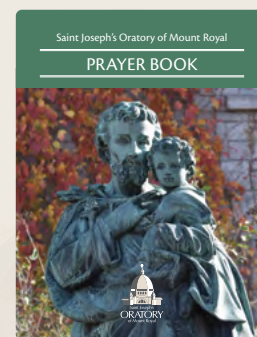
Canadian  
 International  
 Organ  
 Competition

## Canadian International Organ Competition

Johannes Skoog, organ (Sweden)  
 Alma Bettencourt, organ (France)  
 Mélodie Michel, organ (France)

October Saturday 24  
 Basilica, 7:30 p.m.  
 Tickets [\$]: ciocm.org

## New edition PRAYER BOOK



- Prayers and Novenas from the Oratory
- To Saint Joseph / To Saint Brother André
- Convenient format 5x7, Bilingual

On sale at the Gift Shop of the Oratory  
[www.saint-joseph.org](http://www.saint-joseph.org)



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 MONTRÉAL QC H3V 1H6  
 514-733-8211  
[WWW.SAINT-JOSEPH.ORG](http://WWW.SAINT-JOSEPH.ORG)

Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is a  
 ministry of the Congregation of Holy Cross



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