



# PRESS RELEASE

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## On August 5, the Peace Bell Will Ring to Commemorate the Hiroshima Tragedy

A world première: the Molinari Quartet will play  
a piece by Japanese-born composer Reiko Yamada

**Montréal, July 20, 2011** – Montréal Mayor Gérald Tremblay and Charles-Mathieu Brunelle, Executive Director of the Space for Life, invite Montrealers to attend the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony at 7 p.m. on August 5, in the Japanese Garden at the Botanical Garden, a Space for Life. This commemorative event is a time to contemplate the Hiroshima tragedy, 66 years ago. The ceremony will also be attended by Hiroaki Isobe, Consul General of Japan in Montréal, and Claude Gagné, President of the Montréal Japanese Garden and Pavilion Foundation.

### Music in the spotlight

Mayor Tremblay was delighted by Mr. Isobe's idea of adding original music composed for the event, and invited young composer Reiko Yamada to create a piece for the occasion. Although she now lives in Montréal, she is in fact originally from Hiroshima. The piece, a world première, will be performed by the Molinari Quartet. It includes fragments of eyewitness accounts by five survivors of the bombing, speaking about the current world situation and the future.

### The bell, a symbol of eternal piece and friendship

Presented to the city of Montréal in 1998, the Peace Bell is also a symbol of the future and of hope. It will be sounded at 7:15 p.m. to recall the exact moment when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Only five other cities around the world have received peace bells as a token of friendship from the city of Hiroshima: Volgograd, Russia; Hanover, Germany; Honolulu, United States; Chongqing, People's Republic of China and Taegu, South Korea.

### An event for everyone

The Space for Life invites all Montrealers to take advantage of this opportunity for reflection and celebration of friendship between cultures, and appreciate the sentiments of peace and harmony. The ceremony will be held simultaneously with the one taking place in Hiroshima itself on the morning at August 6, given the time difference.

*The Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Garden and Planetarium are launching a daring, creative urban movement, urging everyone to rethink the bonds between humankind and nature. The **Space for Life** is also a place where people come together to create and to cultivate a new way of living, shaped by Montrealers and people from around the world.*

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### Information

Nadine Fortin  
Communications Co-ordinator  
514 868-3053  
nadine.fortin@ville.montreal.qc.ca

Anik Robichaud-Gauvin  
Marketing Representative  
514 868-3123  
anik.robichaud-gauvin@  
ville.montreal.qc.ca