

# World Symphony Orchestra musicians: a true United Nations

*Handel's 'Messiah' at Oscar Peterson Concert Hall*

> Toula Foscolos

**W**hile the newspapers are full of talk of reasonable accommodation and how best to integrate immigrants in Quebec, there are a number of organizations that have –quietly and solidly—been doing just that all along.

The Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra, based in Cote-des-Neiges and with a number of their musicians residing in the NDG/CDN borough, is the first orchestra of its kind and executive director, Lucy Ravinsky, is understandably proud of that distinction.

“Our mission is to enable talented musicians of all ethnic backgrounds, especially new immigrants to Canada to showcase their talents not only to their own communities but also to enrich the Montreal public with its varied musical tastes.” To date, 55 musicians from 20 different countries are part of the MWSO.

Conductor Joseph Milo, realizing that there were a large number of talented musicians from all over the world who, after immigrating to Canada, could not find orchestral playing opportunities despite their talent, decided to form a multicultural orchestra that would offer a platform on

which to help these musicians showcase their talents while integrating them into the Montreal musical community.

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*"The government keeps talking about what needs to be done to integrate immigrants into Quebec society, and here we are, a perfect example of how concrete measures can break immigrants' sense of isolation and provide them with a network, a way to perfect their skills and develop friendships and connections in a new land."*

- Lucy Ravinsky

connections in a new land,” explains Ms. Ravinsky. Now that’s music to any politician’s ears...

*On Saturday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. the Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Joseph Milo, will be performing Handel's Messiah with choir and soloists, at the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, at Concordia University. Tickets are \$30, \$25 for students and seniors. Call the*

*Box Office: 848-2424 or Admissions, at: 790-1245. For more info. you can log on to: [www.musiciansoftheworld.ca](http://www.musiciansoftheworld.ca).*



**Iranian-born Nirvana Nirvan performs at a recent concert.**