

Friends of the Kotschmar Organ
SEASON OPENING CONCERT
IMPRESSIONS

JEAN-WILLY KUNZ, Organist

FRÉDÉRIC ALARIE, Double bass, CAMIL BÉLISLE, Percussion
HÉLÈNE LEMAY, Trombone, ANDRÉ MOISAN, Clarinets/Saxophones

Wednesday, September 26, 2018 • 7:30 pm

Merrill Auditorium • Portland, Maine

Concert is presented with no intermission.

Grana od bora arr. Jean-Willy Kunz

Sharon aleichem Béla Kovács (b.1937)

Fly me to the moon Bart Howard (1915-2004)

Variations on a theme of Paganini Michael Garson (b.1945)
/ Eddie Daniels (b.1941)

In-Spirit / Impressions Frédéric Alarie (b.1969)
/ John Coltrane (1926-1967)

Pour mon ami Léon Daniel Mercure (b.1955)

Traci Nils Landgren (b.1956)

Guataca city Paquito D'Rivera (b.1948)

Petite fleur Sidney Bechet (1897-1959)

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“IMPRESSIONS” AN EVENING OF JAZZ

The organ is often associated with the church, with an austere and codified musical repertoire, and with an audience from another era. Over the course of centuries, from the Middle Ages to the present, it has sometimes been a simple bystander in the history of music, but at others a key agent developing musical style. Now, in today's era of cultural convergence and artistic crossbreeding, Impressions presents the organ in an atypical role as, accompanied by instruments with which it rarely associates, it embarks on a musical journey in search of original repertoire.

The musical kaleidoscope offered at this concert bears witness to the wide spectrum of the group's respective musical influences, from the traditional dance music of eastern Europe, via klezmer, to jazz. The organ becomes a versatile and unifying instrument, capable of unexpected sonorities. Its rich timbres provide an ideally textured background for improvisations on the clarinet, saxophone, and trombone. With its large range it can rival the double bass in the low registers, and join with the percussion to complete the rhythm section of this extraordinary quintet.

- Jean-Willy Kunz

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

JEAN-WILLY KUNZ is the first organist in residence of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal. In addition to playing both with the Orchestra and in recital, he sees to the development and showcasing of the OSM's Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique installed at Maison symphonique de Montréal.

Jean-Willy Kunz studied organ at the Lyon conservatory with Louis Robilliard, at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal with Mireille Lagacé and then at McGill University, where he earned a doctorate with John Grew. He has been a prize-winner at a number of organ competitions, including the Chartres International Competition and the Canadian International Organ Competition in Montreal, where in 2011 he won third prize and the Richard-Bradshaw Audience Prize.

His discography includes many recordings, which reflect the broad range of his musical influences: traditional music of the Balkans for saxophones and organ; two masses by Théodore Dubois for chorus and organ; 20th-century French music for harpsichord, flute and clarinet; Québec song with Pierre Lapointe; baroque music with Ensemble Caprice; Christmas music with Marie-Josée Lord; the original score for a number of short films. He has co-written a book on German organist Helmut Walcha (Do Bentzinger, 2004) as well as an article entitled "L'orgue et le regard de l'écoute" (Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 2014).

In September 2015, Jean-Willy Kunz was appointed organ professor at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal.

Since his debut in Montreal's jazz scene at the end of the 1980s, **FRÉDÉRIC ALARIE** has incessantly deepened and enriched the art of stand-up bass. Reputed as a great builder, he relishes in deconstructing jazz's conventional scaffolds in order to erect new ones. His play is fluid, sensitive and audacious indeed.

He has played with Bernard Primeau, Lorraine Desmarais, Jean-Pierre Zanella and Yannick Rieu, to name only a few. Invited to play from Canada to China, by way of France, Belgium, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Poland and the United States, he has left his indelible mark as a top-notch bassist. He has had the great fortune to play alongside notable artists such as Oliver Jones, Ranee Lee, Sheila Jordan, John Abercrombie, Joe Lovano, Renaud Garcia-Fons, George Benson, Salvator Adamo, Nathalie Dessay, Charles Aznavour and Michel Legrand. And he has formed his own ensembles such as Frédéric Alarie & Basse Section, or more recently the Frédéric Alarie Quartet, Trio and Duo.

Frédéric Alarie is one of the most sought-after stand-up bassists in Canada. He has recorded on 34 albums as an accompanist-soloist, and has played on about sixty other albums as a guest ; several of these albums have received awards, including the FELIX and JUNO AWARD. As a composer, Frédéric Alarie has nine albums under his belt, all of which have been greatly praised by critics. 1997's Vision album, along with the Basse Section ensemble, was nominated for best jazz album of the year at the ADISQ. That same year, Saison Jazz Montréal named him the Discovery of the Year. In 1998 he won the Trébas Jazz Award.

Frédéric Alarie amazes by the color, depth and audacity he puts forward in his work : as a musician, composer or soloist, he constantly pushes the limits of both his own expression and of jazz itself.

Renowned drummer **CAMIL BÉLISLE** has been a key figure on Montreal's music scene for more than three decades.

Trained by such greats as Peter Erskine, Alan Dawson and Jim Blackley, Camil Bélisle boasts an impressive track record. His countless tours have taken him to Africa, South America and Europe. He has also played coast to coast in Canada, as well as in Inuvik, the largest city north of the Arctic Circle.

A Montreal Jazz Festival regular, Camil can be heard on various recordings of Jazz sur le vif and Jazz beat from Radio-Canada.

A member of Trio Lorraine Desmarais, he has also worked with Kenny Wheeler, Peter Leitch, Michel Legrand and Oliver Jones, as well as with Yannick Rieu, Michel Cusson, Michel Donato, Dorothee Berryman, Frédéric Alarie and Sonia Johnson. Camil has cut some 20 albums with these musicians, five of which are prizewinners. Le trio Lorraine Desmarais received the Félix Award for the Year's Best Jazz Album four times, while Sonia Johnson's Le carré de nos amours snagged the Juno Award for the Best Vocal Jazz Album of 2011.

As a distinguished trombone player and an experienced businesswoman, **HÉLÈNE LEMAY** regularly performs with numerous popular Quebec artists from the jazz, pop and classical scene. As a producer of cultural events, she gained a solid reputation by offering performances with the greatest artists of the national and international scene.

She holds a bachelor degree in music from the University of Sherbrooke and she has many times won scholarships in the Council of Arts and Letters of Québec. In 2008, she founded TUXEDO SWING where she held the positions of artistic director and conductor. Her will to promote local artists led her to create la Série Culturelle de Warwick 2015, reflection of the eclecticism of her tastes.

In the past years, H  l  ne Lemay was offered continuous responsibilities in the famous artistic company "GEMU Grand Ensemble de Musiques Urbaines" mostly as conductor of orchestra, soloist, administrator and staff manager.

ANDRÉ MOISAN began to study the clarinet through his father Gilles, himself a clarinetist with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal from 1952 to 1998. André went on to study with Robert Crowley, also of the OSM, then in Chicago with Larry Combs, a soloist with the CSO, and finally in Berlin with Karl Leister, former principal clarinetist of the Berlin Philharmonic.

Well known for his consummate mastery of the instrument, his musicality and the clarity of his playing, he has made regular concert and radio appearances as a soloist and a chamber musician since 1977. His numerous concerts abroad, most notably at the Carnegie Hall, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and on Radio-Berlin, have established him as a leading soloist.

In the orchestral field, Mr. Moisan has worked under renowned conductors, mainly with the OSM. He first performed with the Orchestra in 1977, under Andrew Davis, and made his first solo appearance in 1997 with Charles Dutoit. Since May 1999, he has held the position of principal saxophone and bass clarinet with the OSM.

As well as teaching the clarinet at the University of Montreal since 1989, he has won numerous awards and was nominated four times for the Opus prize as a soloist, a chamber music player and a conductor.

A presenter, guest speaker and accomplished educator, he has conducted the OSM in its Youth Concerts series for ten years, and also led in the Children's Corner series. Many times a finalist, he won the "Family Concert" Opus Prize in 2003 for a performance in that particular series and was a finalist again in 2007 as a conductor with the OSM.

Additionally, André Moisan conducts a number of other orchestras, teaches and works as a soloist across Canada and abroad. He has recorded more than 50 cd's, including seven as a soloist for ATMA, all critically acclaimed worldwide. Two new cd's will be released in the spring of 2017 : *l'Orgue dans tous ses états* (with Jean-Willy Kunz) and the other dedicated to the Hebraic repertory and Klezmer with the Molinari Quartet.