



MONTREAL JAZZ SERIES



Jean Cyr Sextet

Car tu existes – Where Mastery Meets Emotion

Dive into the vibrant world of Jean Cyr with *Car tu existes*, an acoustic jazz concert driven by exceptional musicians. Dynamic rhythms, captivating melodies, and refined harmonies intertwine to create a musical experience that is precise, alive, and deeply emotional. Surrounded by major figures of the jazz scene — Roger Walls, André Leroux, Benoît Gagné, Gaétan Daigneault, and Alain Bourgeois — Jean Cyr offers a sonic journey ranging from energetic bebop to introspective ballads. A true tribute to jazz in all its richness, *Car tu existes* will charm both connoisseurs and newcomers alike. A must-see addition to your program lineup!



Jean Cyr is a double bassist and bassist from Montreal, born on September 14, 1957. A respected figure in Quebec's jazz scene, he currently leads his own sextet, with which he performs original compositions from his most recent album, recorded in 2023 and released in 2024. An artist with a rich and prolific career, he has accompanied an impressive list of musicians and singers, including Bob Walsh, Stephen Faulkner, Guy Nadon, Vic Vogel, and La Pollution des Sons.

Known for his vast repertoire and keen sense of style, Jean Cyr shines both on stage and in the studio. A graduate of the Vincent-d'Indy School of Music and holder of a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Sherbrooke, he has successfully combined academic rigor with instinctive creativity.

Inspired by greats such as Ron Carter, Stanley Clarke, Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen, and Ray Brown, he carries on the tradition of master double bassists with a distinctly personal touch. With nearly 40 albums recorded over the course of his career, Jean Cyr continues to enrich Quebec's musical landscape.





Saxophonist André Leroux was honored at the most recent JUNO Awards ceremony, winning the award for *Jazz Album of the Year (Solo)*. André Leroux is one of the most respected Quebec musicians on the Canadian jazz scene. Renowned for his virtuosity, powerful tone, and expressiveness, he moves effortlessly between jazz, classical music, and contemporary improvisation. A multiple Opus Award winner, he has performed on major stages around the world alongside artists such as François Bourassa, Christine Jensen, Jean Derome, and Vic Vogel. A member of several renowned ensembles, he has also stood out as a soloist with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. His playing—both technically masterful and deeply inspired—embodies the depth and freedom of modern jazz.

Roger Walls is a trumpeter, composer, and arranger originally from the United States, who has been based in Montreal since the 1970s. Trained at Wichita State University and having studied with masters such as Jimmy Maxwell and Buddy DeFranco, he began his career in the U.S. with groups like Apostles and Rod Dopp Flippers before moving to Canada. He has performed and recorded with legendary figures such as Clark Terry, Pepper Adams, Diane Dufresne, Vic Vogel, Garou, and Michel Legrand. His career has taken him from international tours to major collaborations for television and film. A musician of rare versatility, he has worked across jazz, pop, and orchestral music with equal ease.



Benoit Gagné is a trombonist and multidisciplinary artist based in Montreal. Active on the music scene for over three decades, he has collaborated with major artists such as Les Colocs, Garou, and Mononc'Serge. A creative force on the rise, he has produced several albums, including *Les Boppers* and the *Montreal Jazz Series*. Founder of Disques BG, he has been working since 2007 as a trombonist, composer, specialized educator, producer, programmer, and event promoter. His rich career blends performance, arranging, and artistic direction with a steadfast commitment to the promotion of Quebec music.

Gaétan Daigneault is a pianist, keyboardist, organist, composer, and arranger known for his remarkable versatility. Active for over forty years across pop, jazz, blues, and world music scenes, he has performed with major artists—from Céline Dion to Cirque du Soleil—as well as the legendary drummer Guy Nadon. A passionate jazz musician, he has dedicated the past twenty years of his career to the genre, notably through his Oscar Peterson tribute trio, featured in numerous festivals. He is a member of several notable ensembles, including Bathyscaphe, the Richard Gagnon Quintet, and Trombones Actions, winner of an Opus Award. A prolific composer and arranger, he is also a regular contributor to the *Jazzfest des Jeunes du Québec*.



Alain Bourgeois is a jazz and popular music drummer based in Montreal. A graduate in jazz performance from McGill University, he has performed at some of the world's leading festivals, including the Montreal International Jazz Festival, Jazz à Vienne, and the Havana Jazz Festival. His playing - both energetic and nuanced - has earned him collaborations with artists such as Rachel Therrien, Benjamin Deschamps, Susie Arioli, Garou, and Diane Tell. He appears on over thirty albums, several of which have received awards. A two-time Opus Award winner for *Best Jazz Album*, he stands out as a leading figure on the Canadian jazz scene.

