

PRESS KIT JEAN CYR



MONTREAL JAZZ SERIES VOL.2

CAR TU EXISTES

The Montreal Jazz series continues with its Vol.2, led by the exceptional Jean Cyr. This album is a testament to the essence of acoustic jazz, a collection where dynamic, precise, and catchy rhythms meet singing melodies and well-crafted harmonies. They are creating a sound that feels both natural and deeply resonant.



Jean Cyr has gathered a remarkable ensemble of musicians, each bringing their own brilliance to the project. Roger Walls, a trumpeter with an impressive career both in Quebec and internationally, delivers powerful and expressive performances. André Leroux, one of the country's finest saxophonists, adds his extraordinary talent, elevating the music to new heights. The sound of Benoit Gagné's trombone adds depth to the group, while Gaétan Daigneault's mastery of the piano weaves complex harmonies and melodies throughout the album. Jean Cyr himself lays the solid foundations on double bass, anchoring each composition with depth and precision, while Alain Bourgeois on drums ensures the beat is perfect and musical.

This album offers a rich overview of Jean Cyr's musical tastes, from the vigorous energy of bebop to the soothing tones of ballads and the joyful bounce of shuffles. The result is a collection of jazz pieces that are not only technically brilliant but also full of life and emotion. With this second album, the Montreal Jazz series, continues to set the standard for excellence in jazz, making it a must-have for any jazzophile.

♪ Stream the album now ♪

<https://bfan.link/montreal-jazz-series-2>

"Power house Jazz in Québec, Montréal Jazz Series 1-2-3"

- Kerilie McDowall Broadcasting, Vancouver



André Leroux

Gagnant du JUNO meilleur album jazz (solo).

"Le saxophoniste André Leroux est un exemple parfait de musicien de classe mondiale."

- James Hale



- Downbeat Magazine



Jean Cyr

Écouté en streaming dans 86 pays.

"Un des 5 meilleurs albums jazz de l'année 2024."

- Christophe Rodriguez, Sortie Jazz Night



- Downbeat Magazine



Straight Ahead

"Quatre artilleurs de luxe qui maîtrisent parfaitement les standards sans oublier leurs compositions personnelles."

- Christophe Rodriguez, Sortie Jazz Night



- Downbeat Magazine



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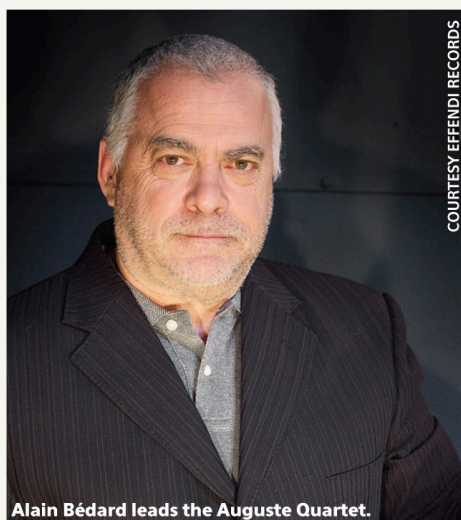
The French-Canadian Connection

Language, politics and economics have historically divided the province of Quebec from the rest of Canada. Quebecois jazz has been somewhat isolated as well, with few natives besides Oscar Peterson and Paul Bley breaking through to global audiences. That hasn't stopped several tranches of musicians from building and sustaining a strong community.

Saxophonist **André Leroux** is a prime example of a world-class musician who has developed a singular voice and maintained a busy career without becoming as well-known as American peers like Greg Osby. The 11 pieces on *Montreal Jazz Series Vol. 1: Échanges Synaptiques* (Disques BG; ★★★★★ 66:21) present Leroux with two distinct quartets — one with pianist Fred Henke, bassist Frédéric Alarie and drummer André White; the other with François Bourassa, Rémi-Jean Leblanc, and John Hollenbeck in the same positions — ably showcasing some of the best players in Quebec. Fluent in the language of Coltrane, Rollins and Shorter, 62-year-old Leroux leads both bands through a program that slides easily between the surging aggression of Steve Grossman's "Take The D Train" and Leblanc's "Up And Up," which is reminiscent of early Weather Report. The two quartets match up well, although the expressive work of Alarie gives an edge of electric urgency to the batch of performances he's on.

Leroux returns as one of six musicians on bassist **Jean Cyr's** *Montreal Jazz Series Vol. 2: Car tu existes* (Disques BG; ★★★★★ 39:47) but the musical setting couldn't be more different. The 67-year-old leader is best known for long stints with popular Quebecois musicians like the late Bob Walsh and Stephen Faulkner, but *Car tu existes* gives him an opportunity to assemble his own program. As experienced as these players are, the brief mixed bag of tunes doesn't give them many opportunities to shine. Consequently, the results sound like a very skilled band picking up some wedding gig money: a 1930s-style dance number, a tango showcase for trumpeter Benoit Gagné, a leader's showcase on "Georgia On My Mind" and a rousing, funky closer that echoes Blood, Sweat & Tears. It might make for a fun night on the dance floor; it's less engaging for dedicated listening.

While Jean Cyr's sextet sounds like a skilled band-for-hire — with a dash of breezy swing and a soupçon of late-career Miles Davis, the quartet **Straight Ahead** sounds like its members might be competing against a top-flight college music unit for DB's Student Music Awards. That's not a knock on the skills of trombonist Muhammad Abdul Al-Khabyr, pianist Luc Beaugrand, bassist Mathieu McConnell-Enright and drummer Martin Auguste, but *Montreal Jazz Series Vol. 3: Gentle Soul* (Disques BG; ★★★★★



Alain Bédard leads the Auguste Quartet.

84:20) covers so much territory, with so much facility, that the band sounds overly performative. Relentlessly upbeat, chestnuts like "Moon River," "All The Things You Are" and "What A Wonderful World" seem superfluous on an album this long and provide pretty arid soil for expressive improvisation.

Ordering info: disquesbg.com

On their seventh album, bassist **Alain Bédard's Auguste Quartet** rolls as confidently as Max Verstappen at the Montreal Grand Prix. With fellow veteran Michel Lambert on drums and younger players Marie Fatima Rudolf and Mario Allard on piano and reeds respectively, *Particules sonores* (Effendi; ★★★★★ 55:08) exhibits a broad range of approaches: lively interaction on "Compte-Rendu III," energetic outside blowing on "A Goose Story" and a more relaxed feel on "Il Cappello de mia Sorella." On each of these, Allard demonstrates his expansive vocabulary on several members of the reed family. If *Particules sonores* has an overarching weakness, it's the lack of unpredictable solo placement.

Ordering info: alainbedardauguste.com

A mashup of Canadian franco- and anglo-phones, Haitians, Africans and people of other ethnicities, Montreal's creative music scene has been a hot house for numerous pan-stylistic bands. Guitarist **Simon Angell**, a protégé of Marc Ribot, and drummer **Tommy Crane** have worked extensively in rock and jazz. Now, on *Angell & Crane (For The Living And The Dead)* (★★★★ 41:36) the two have distilled 40 hours of wide-ranging improvisation into a 40-minute swirl of socially oriented pieces. The work slides from the intense to the ethereal and back with seamless flow — even with extremes like the idyllic blend of Angell's acoustic guitar and Charlotte Greve's flute and the hardcore thrust of "Hesa Fredrik," with Sarah Rossy's out vocals. **DB**

Ordering info: angellandcrane.bandcamp.com



Joe Alterman/ Houston Person *Brisket For Breakfast*

JOE ALTERMAN MUSIC

★★★★½

"The Savannah Music Festival ... has become a magnet for those of us who like to have our listening borders stretched," one leading journal noted, and with the appearance of tenor saxophonist Houston Person and pianist Joe Alterman in the 2023 lineup, attendees had their borders stretched and their emotions lifted higher than a Georgia pine. Fortunately, Person and Alterman had their moments recorded and it was a combustive connection between them and an enthusiastic audience. The high point occurred on "Since I Fell for You," and Person's husky, robust horn seemed to summon those who knew the lyrics to sing along with him.

Hearing the roar of the crowd for the quartet, including Kevin Smith on bass and drummer Justin Chesarek, suggests that several moments of the date were done outdoors, and that made a lot of sense given the room needed for the group's explosive sound. And in keeping with the album's title *Brisket for Breakfast*, there are some tasty licks from Chesarek on "Only Trust Your Heart."

Also, there is space where the four of them tone things down, expressing themselves intimately as they did on "Namely You," though here and elsewhere it is hard for Alterman to contain his spirited romps on the keyboard, particularly his way of getting behind Person and pushing his imaginative thunder. Invariably, listening to Person's tuneful iterations of memories of him with Etta Jones surface, and on "The Second Time Around," Alterman takes her place, answering Person's plea for another chance.

—Herb Boyd

Brisket For Breakfast: The Second Time Around; That's All; Only Trust Your Heart; Never Let Me Go; Namely You; Since I Fell for You; You Are My Sunshine. (53:30)

Personnel: Joe Alterman, piano; Houston Person, tenor saxophone; Kevin Smith, bass; Justin Chesarek, drums.

Ordering info: joelalterman.bandcamp.com

JAZZ QUÉBÉCOIS - BY JAMES HALE

The French-Canadian Connection



MONTREAL JAZZ SERIES

Available on all platforms

Vol. 1 - André Leroux
Vol. 2 - Jean Cyr
Vol. 3 - Straight Ahead



disquesbg.com

"Leroux returns as one of six musicians on bassist Jean Cyr's Montreal Jazz Series Vol. 2: Car tu existes (Disques BG; ***½ 39) but the musical setting couldn't be more different. The 67-year-old leader is best known for long stints with popular Quebecois musicians like the late Bob Walsh and Stephen Faulkner, but Car tu existes gives him an opportunity to assemble his own program.

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- James Hale, Downbeat



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MONTREAL JAZZ SERIES

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Vol. 1 - André Leroux
Vol. 2 - Jean Cyr
Vol. 3 - Straight Ahead



Anat Cohen, Oded Lev-Ari and the Anat Cohen Tentet from 2019.

The Power of the Duo

JAN. 24, 2025 — PUTTING THE WORD

"Fire!" on the cover of this issue may seem like an odd choice, given that the L.A. fires have caused so much despair on the West Coast — even within our jazz community, as writer Gary Fukushima documents on page 13.

Maybe subliminally, it was a way to take back the word for the good: a campfire, sitting by the fireplace on a cold winter's day. Or maybe it's just the best way to describe the work of clarinetist Anat Cohen, an artist who exudes joy, the best this music has to offer and a fiery performance style that is downright infectious.

It's been fun to watch her rise to the top of the jazz world, building a true community to make her art glow — from her brothers Avishai and Yuval, who with Anat constitute the amazing 3 Cohens; to the south-of-the-border leanings of Quartetinho; to the Anat Cohen Tentet, an ambitious, driving large ensemble.

With all of it, Cohen seems to form and develop with groups that are mini families, each with its own particular flavor, each feeding a different part of her artistic spirit. That, of course, is especially true when she's playing with her brothers in the 3 Cohens.

But then there's the wonderful bond she has with Oded Lev-Ari, one of the most talented arrangers and composers on the scene today.

In speaking with Ashley Kahn, who wrote this month's cover article on Anat (see page 26), I suggested that Lev-Ari is the Billy Strayhorn to Anat Cohen's Ellington. But he corrected me, suggesting it might be more like he's the Gil Evans to Anat's Miles.

Aside from the fact that both artists would likely brush aside comparisons to those historic jazz partnerships, there's no doubt that their

success comes in no small measure from the work that they've done together.

Last summer, this writer had an opportunity to see them at the International Society of Jazz Arrangers & Composers Symposium at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Speaking onstage, the two offered deep answers to interesting questions, joked, finished each other's sentences — the bond was undeniable.

And their connection goes beyond the music. When they formed Anzic Records 20 years ago to put out Anat's first record, *Place & Time*, it was Lev-Ari who first called DownBeat to figure out how the whole editorial and advertising world worked. At that time, we figured he was a business manager and had no idea he was such a gifted arranger and composer. He was the dude placing ads. We've come to recognize the entirety of his role in Anat's universe, and we hope to bring his name to an even wider audience.

.....

Speaking of families, and circling back to the L.A. fires, everyone at DownBeat wishes to express our love and sympathy for those whose houses and studios perished during those horrific few weeks in January. As our article reports, John Clayton, Bennie Maupin, Hailey Niswanger and so many others lost their family homes, many more were displaced for days or weeks, and even more simply lived in a state of fear for their own livelihoods and well-being.

This note is being written from The NAMM Show, safely down the road in Anaheim, where the convention is thriving, but many attendees and exhibitors have those artists on their minds. The organization, which embodies the global musical products industry, is helping the relief effort. Go to namm.com to find out more. **DB**

JAZZ AROUND TOWN - BY SCOTT YANOW

The Montreal Jazz Series

"Jazz has been an international music ever since recordings became widely available in the early 1920s. Canada has long had a rich if underrated jazz scene. BG Records, in the first three releases in their Montreal Jazz Series (available as Lps), documents some of the many talents who are active in Montreal today.

Bassist Jean Cyr's *Car Tu Existes* is more traditional. He leads a sextet that also includes André Leroux on tenor, BG Records' president trombonist Benoit Gagné, trumpeter Roger Walls, pianist Gaétan Daigneault, and drummer Alain Bourgeois. Starting with the boppish original "Type Top," this set is a joy. Other highlights include a feature for Gagné on "Georgia On My Mind" (the only one of the eight songs not composed by the bassist), the goodtime party piece "Salut," a pretty ballad ("Les Jours Se Suivent"), and the happy funky piece "Par Monts Et Par Vaux." All six musicians get to solo on "Tout Va S'Arranger" and all are excellent players."

- Scott Yanow, LAJazzScene



Powerhouse Jazz in Quebec

In the Zen - BY KERILIE MCDOWALL

"A sample of the track, "Type Top," from leader bassist Jean Cyr, on the trilogy's Montreal Jazz Series Vol. 2, Car tu existes, is an upbeat, swinging jazz delve. From saucy Latin trumpet and saxophone festing with, "Moni," to Cyr's bass solo feature on, "Georgia on My Mind, Car tu existes is a relaxed exploration of happy moments."

- Kerilie McDowall, Kerilie.com



SortiesJAZZnights - BY CHRISTOPHE RODRIGUEZ

Jean Cyr - Car tu existes

“With this second album, available in both vinyl and digital formats and part of the Montreal Jazz Series trilogy, we find bassist Jean Cyr with Car tu existes. For the occasion, he has reunited his former Boppers bandmates, and we’re delighted to rediscover that swinging spirit, some might even say of a bygone era, that modern productions sometimes lack.

After two listens, one immediately thinks of bassist Andy Kirk with his Clouds of Joy, or of all those bands that kept Montreal’s nightlife alive from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. during the 1940s to 1960s.

Car tu existes — a gathering of friends around original compositions

Surrounded by his friendly ensemble, Cyr is joined by trumpeter Roger Walls, tenor saxophonist André Leroux, drummer Alain Bourgeois, pianist Gaétan Daigneault, and trombonist Benoit Gagné. It’s a meeting between friends around original compositions, except for Georgia on My Mind, on which Benoit Gagné’s trombone performance stands out, reminiscent of Vic Vogel.

Type Top — a fine nod to the legendary Lester Young

The opening track, Type Top, is a beautifully atmospheric swing piece highlighting André Leroux on tenor saxophone, offering a fine nod to the legendary Lester Young, followed by Roger Walls on plunger trumpet. Dynamic, never outdated, and oh! so enlightening! Pianist Gaétan Daigneault also deserves praise, a joyful blend of Oscar Peterson and Jess Stacy.”

SortiesJAZZnights - BY CHRISTOPHE RODRIGUEZ

Jean Cyr - Car tu existes

“Moni — a charming pastiche

With Moni, the mood shifts, immersing us in a tango and paso doble atmosphere. Roger Walls evokes the legendary Conrad Gozzo, Mannie Klein, and Harry James. It’s a charming pastiche that will bring back memories for your grandparents who once danced in grand ballrooms with big bands.

Les jours se suivent — a dialogue between bassist and pianist

After the swaying rhythms of the tango, we move to the lovely ballad Les jours se suivent. Entirely cinematic in spirit, this composition unfolds like a dialogue between the bassist and the pianist, full of charm and overflowing with tenderness.

Par monts et par vaux — between New Orleans and the streets of Harlem

Finally, Par monts et par vaux reflects the everyday life of musicians. A strong funky spirit drives this ensemble, which clearly knows the classics of the 1970s. Between New Orleans and the streets of Harlem, there’s nothing better to inspire a little dance.

Car tu existes, a true and beautiful pre-Christmas gift.”

- Christophe Rodriguez, SortiesJAZZnights

[Click here to read the full review](#)



Christophe Rodriguez : rod.chris@hotmail.com

Under the elegant pen of our most devoted columnist, discover the best jazz albums and books from Quebec and around the world. Christophe also writes a jazz column for Ted Audio, a classical music column for ludwig.com, and is the author of the book Les grands noms du jazz (The Great Names of Jazz).

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"Haven't had that much fun at Dièse Onze on a Wednesday since... the Brooks era! Launch of the first three LPs in the Montreal Jazz Series by BG Records: ÉCHANGES SYNAPTIQUES by saxophonist André Leroux, CAR TU EXISTES by double bassist Jean Cyr, and GENTLE SOUL by the group Straight Ahead led by trombonist Muhammad Abdul Al-Khabyr. Hats off, and long life to this new record label!"

- Stanley Péan, QuandLeJazzEstLà

Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2024

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communications@disquesbg.com
Tél. 514-265-6803



MONTREAL JAZZ SERIES

LAUNCH-SHOW

OCTOBER 23rd 2024

AT DIESE ONZE JAZZ CLUB & RESTAURANT

Montreal, Tuesday, August 28th, 2024 – We are pleased to announce the launch of a series of exceptional albums highlighting the talent and originality of Montreal jazz musicians. The first trilogy feature the formations of **André Leroux**, **Jean Cyr** and the group **Straight Ahead**. We are delighted to introduce them to you through this exclusive collection.

Montreal, the vibrant cradle of Canadian jazz, has always played a crucial role in the evolution of this musical genre. Since the 1920s, the city has been home to countless talented musicians, contributing to the enrichment of jazz history. This series of albums pays homage to this tradition by presenting artists who, although widely respected by their peers, have not yet had the opportunity to shine on the international stage.

Each album in this series has been meticulously crafted to reflect the unique essence of these musicians, capturing their creativity and passion. You will discover original compositions and new interpretations, showcasing the ongoing innovation in Quebec jazz.

We invite you to dive into this musical adventure on **Wednesday, October 23rd, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. at Diese Onze** for a launch show where you can hear the three groups perform some pieces from their album.

You will find these albums on all digital platforms and on vinyl at the Diese Onze record store starting October 23rd, 2024. We hope you enjoy this exploration of Quebec jazz as much as we enjoyed putting it together.



Vol.1 André Leroux
Échanges Synaptiques
André Leroux
 Tenor and soprano sax

Face A
Fred Henke - piano
Frédéric Alarie - bass
André White - drums

Face B
François Bourassa - piano
Rémi-Jean Leblanc - bass
John Hollenbeck - drums



Vol.2 Jean Cyr
Car tu existes
Jean Cyr
 Bass

Roger Walls - trumpet
Benoît Gagné - trombone
André Leroux - tenor sax
Gaétan Daigneault - piano
Alain Bourgeois - drums



Vol.3 Straight Ahead
Gentle Soul
Muhammad Abdul Al Khabyr
 Trombone

Luc Beaugrand - piano
Mathieu McConnell - bass
Martin Auguste - drums

Broadcast source : DISQUES BG

Venue : Diese Onze, 4115 R. Saint-Denis, Montréal, QC H2W 2M7

Date : October 23rd 2024

Opening doors to the media: 18h00

Opening doors to the public: 19h00

Show : 20h00

♪ [Click here to listen **MJS1 André Leroux - Échanges Synaptiques**](#) ♪

♪ [Click here to listen **MJS2 Jean Cyr - Car tu existes**](#) ♪

♪ [Click here to listen **MJS3 Straight Ahead – Gentle Soul**](#) ♪

R.S.V.P.

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