



André Leroux Quartet

A Breath of Excellence in the World of Jazz!

Presenting the brand-new show from saxophonist **André Leroux**, an iconic figure of Canadian jazz and winner of the **2025 JUNO Award for *Jazz Album of the Year (Solo)***. Internationally acclaimed for his fiery expressiveness and rare virtuosity, his latest release received an **impressive 4.5 out of 5 stars** from the prestigious American magazine **DownBeat**—a major recognition for this leading artist on today's jazz scene.

On stage, André Leroux delivers music that is both refined and passionate, backed by a high-caliber ensemble: **Fred Henke** on piano, former stage partner of the legendary Steve Grossman; **Frédéric Alarie** on double bass, a pillar of Canadian jazz; and **John Hollenbeck** on drums, a multi-time Grammy nominee and recipient of prestigious honors including the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Doris Duke Award.

The André Leroux Quartet offers a style of jazz that is rooted in tradition yet open, contemporary, deeply emotional, and marked by great creative freedom. This is a highly musical performance, accessible to both jazz purists and new audiences alike.

This project is aimed at venues seeking to present a top-tier jazz experience, led by seasoned musicians and a bandleader whose recognition now extends well beyond Canadian borders.





Saxophonist **André Leroux** was honored at the most recent JUNO Awards ceremony, winning the award for Jazz Album of the Year (Solo) with *Échanges Synaptiques* from the *Montreal Jazz Series*. This captivating performance, praised by critics, showcases exceptional musical virtuosity and an innovative approach to contemporary jazz. It offers a profound immersion that blends the rich heritage of jazz with today's bold, modern sounds.

On stage, André Leroux on tenor and soprano saxophone is joined by the dynamic John Hollenbeck on drums, Frédéric Alarie on double bass, and Fred Henke on piano. Together, they deliver a powerful tribute to jazz titans such as John Coltrane and Wayne Shorter. Their performance goes beyond a simple homage; it revitalizes the classics, breathing new life and renewed passion into these legendary works, captivating both jazz purists and new listeners alike.

John Hollenbeck is an American drummer, composer, and bandleader recognized for his unique approach to contemporary jazz. Trained at the Eastman School of Music, he has distinguished himself through a refined compositional voice that blends intricate rhythms with free improvisation. As the leader of the Claudia Quintet and the John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble, he explores new sonic textures and pushes the boundaries of the traditional big band format.

A multiple Grammy Award nominee and recipient of prestigious honors such as the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Doris Duke Award, Hollenbeck is also a highly regarded educator. As a professor at McGill University's Schulich School of Music, he shares his sense of innovation and deep listening with a new generation



Fred Henke is a jazz pianist and composer recognized for a style that is both deeply rooted in tradition and open to innovation. His playing combines swing, lyricism, and modernity, making him as sought after an accompanist as he is an inspired soloist. Trained in the great jazz standards, he has developed a distinctive musical signature through his refined touch, sharp sense of harmony, and remarkable ability to listen. Throughout his career, he has collaborated with numerous renowned musicians, including the legendary saxophonist Steve Grossman, solidifying his place alongside leading figures of the jazz scene. At the piano, Fred Henke stands out with an approach where technical rigor meets creative freedom. Whether reinterpreting classics or exploring original compositions, he conveys a sensitivity and elegance that appeal equally to purists and adventurous listeners.

Since his debut on the jazz scene in the late 1980s, **Frédéric Alarie** has built a solid career by joining some of the most prominent ensembles, including those of Bernard Primeau, Lorraine Desmarais, Jean-Pierre Zanella, and Yannick Rieu, among others. As an accompanist, he has performed with world-renowned artists such as Joe Lovano, Oliver Jones, Raneé Lee, Salvatore Adamo, Nathalie Dessay, Charles Aznavour, and Michel Legrand. He has also developed his own solo projects, leading ensembles in duo, trio, and quartet formats.

