

Biographies Artists

Alexander d'Alesio

Alexander D'Alesio is an incredibly dedicated singer and songwriter. Singing fluently in English, French, and Italian, Alexander can captivate audiences in multiple languages. He decided to launch his solo career after winning the Italian singing competition *Superfantastico* in 2016. His passion for music has continued to grow through lessons, songwriting, and practice. He has been greatly influenced by the mentorship of singer and songwriter Kevin Bazinet. Over the past six years, they've had countless collaborative performances, creating unforgettable moments on stage and in the studio. His debut album "XV" marks a key milestone in his musical career, and is available on all streaming platforms. Alexander is now committed to sharing his music on a global stage.

Brigitte Pace

Brigitte Pace is an Italian, Canadian, Montreal born and raised singer songwriter.

Once, fueled by passion and hardship Brigitte fuses her own personal experiences with the monstrous guitar driven and signature sounds of her co-writer, producer and life partner Albe.

Released in May of 2022, her latest single IGNITE (*It'll Be Okay*) is an upbeat, hooky song with a strong message of hope and healing. She sings about taking that giant "leap of faith" and delving into one's desires and happiness.

Last year, their indie label Ecap Production also released the single and video for *Sad Eyes*, an epic haunting song which is about self-awareness and awakening to one's own truth. The video was set in a dystopian background which captured and told a tale that camouflaged and morphed itself into the ghost town feels reminiscent of the global pandemic effects.

Grateful once again to participate and perform "live" at this year's heart of little Italy's Montreal, ItalfestMTL celebrations, Brigitte acknowledges the many accolades that she has received and continues to receive within the Italian community. She is humbled by the countless opportunities that are bestowed upon her and is excited to give back with a stunning performance that will resonate for years to come.

Carole-Anne Roussel

Carole-Anne Roussel is a soprano from Quebec, appreciated for the purity and suppleness of her voice and her natural stage presence. Winner of the prestigious Prix d'Europe 2021, she is currently artist-in-residence at the Chapelle musicale Reine Elisabeth in Belgium, and is mentored by Quebec soprano H el ene Guilmette. She holds a master's degree with distinction from the Conservatoire de musique de Qu ebec, where she studied with mezzo-soprano Sonia Racine, and vocal coach Martin Dub e.

In recent years, she has appeared in such roles as Leila in Bizet's *Les P echeurs de Perles* with Jeunesses Musicales Canada; Countess Ad ele in *Le Comte Ory* with *Temp etes et Passions*; *La Petite fille aux allumettes* in Jean-Fran ois Mailloux's *Trois Contes d'Andersen* with the Festival d'op era de Qu ebec;

Rachel in Kendra Harder's Book of Faces and Echo in Richard Strauss's Ariadne auf Naxos at Highlands Opera Studio; Helena in Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream at Opera NUOVA; Laurette in Bizet's Le Docteur Miracle at La Relève Musicale de Québec; and Lucy in Menotti's The Telephone and Annina in Menotti's The Saint of Bleecker Street at the Conservatoire de musique de Québec. Over the past 2 years, she has sung as soloist with the Orchestre symphonique de Québec in Mahler's 4th Symphony, with the Orchestre symphonique des jeunes de Montréal under Louis Lavigueur, with Appassionato in Barber's Knoxville, with Le Concert d'Anvers in Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dream, with the Vlaams Radiokoor in Dvořak's Stabat Mater and at the gala Les mots/maux d'amour at the Opéra de Québec under the baton of Jean-Marie Zeitouni. She has previously sung with the Orchestre de l'Estuaire, the Orchestre symphonique de Lévis in Haydn's Paukenmesse, and the Chœur des rhapsodes in Mozart's Requiem. She is also very active in several Quebec City organizations, including Tempêtes et Passions, La Relève Musicale de Québec and Ensemble Renouveau.

In the course of her career, she has also taken part in training courses and programs for young artists, such as Domaine Forget in Saint-Irénée, CSNY in June in New York, the Orford Arts Centre, the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute in Montreal, Highlands Opera Studio in Ontario, Opera NUOVA in Alberta, as well as workshops at La Monnaie opera house in Brussels and courses organized by Tempêtes et passions in Quebec City. During her training, she was taught by several great masters, including Marlena Malas, Margo Garrett, Wolfgang Holzmair, Kathryn LaBouffe, Joseph Rouleau, Richard Margison, José Van Dam and Sophie Koch. Carole-Anne is a recipient of grants from the Prix d'Europe, the Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec, the Hans-Jürgen Greif Foundation, the Sandra and Alain Bouchard Fund and the AIDA Fund of Jeunesses Musicales Canada. She is recognized for her perseverance, precision, attention to detail and authenticity.

Cinzia & The Eclipse

Much like influences Janis Joplin and Florence + the Machine, Toronto-based singer-songwriter Cinzia & the Eclipse creates an impact through diary-like lyricism and her raw, unforgettable vocal style. After picking up a guitar at the age of 12 and spending most of her youth penning song lyrics and poetry, Cinzia knew deep down she was meant to share her emotions and experiences with others in the spotlight.

She released her debut single in 2018 with the help of long-time friend/collaborator Luca Liberatore, and Cinzia quickly found her audience with the single “No Matter”, reaching over 6 million streams through editorial placements, before unveiling her debut EP Little Italy in 2020.

The last few years have been dedicated to loaning her craft, honing her skills as a songwriter and having her discography highlighted on editorial playlists and sync placements, including the Disney+ series Growing Up (2022). Starting the year off strong, Cinzia & The Eclipse performed at The Andy Kim Christmas Concert and opened for Jonathon Roy for a string of Quebec dates.

With more music on the way, the Montreal-born, Toronto-based musician is set to shine with the coming months as her momentous journey continues.

Claude Grenier

Bassist Claude Grenier not only possesses a wealth of musical experience, but his rare versatility has led him to tackle with ease virtually every style, era and facet of the classical music world for over forty years. He has excelled as a soloist, chorister, teacher, arranger, composer, copyist, section leader and vocal coach for amateur choirs. A former trainee at L'Atelier Lyrique de L'Opéra de Montréal for four years, it was mainly with the renowned Jacqueline Martel Cistellini that he studied opera. Also a fully trained musician, Mr. Grenier was awarded five prizes from the Conservatoire de Musique du Québec, including three in Harmony, Counterpoint and Fugue with the eminent teacher and composer Jacques Faubert.

His warm, full bass voice and acting talent have led him to sing for such prestigious organizations as Opéra de Montréal, where he has appeared in 142 productions to date, with 666 performances and some 30 roles, Opéra de Québec, Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, Edmonton Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, Florentine Opera of Milwaukee, Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal, Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra and Orford Festival.

His many roles include Sparafucile (Rigoletto), Colline (La Bohème), Doktor (Wozzeck), Kommissarius and Notar (Der Rosenkavalier), Simone (Gianni Schicchi), Basilio and Bartolo (Il Barbiere di Siviglia), Bartolo (Le Nozze di Figaro), Mr. Kofner (The Consul), Lodovico (Otello), Don Alfonso (Cosi fan Tutte), Commendatore (Don Giovanni), Zaretsky and Gremin (Eugene fan Tutte), Zaretsky and Gremin (Don Giovanni). Kofner (The Consul), Lodovico (Otello), Don Alfonso (Cosi fan Tutte), Commendatore (Don Giovanni), Zaretsky and Gremin (Eugene Onegin), Dottor Grenvil (La Traviata), Matthieu (Andrea Chenier) and Timothée Doucet (Les Feluettes).

Dana Nigrim

Dana Nigrim, from a Romanian family of artists, considered among the most talented musicians of her generation, completed her artistic training (debut with orchestra at age 10), Master's degree at the University of Music in Bucharest, Advanced course at the Conservatoire National Supérieur of Paris, Doctorate at UdM.

She worked in institutions such as Opéra de Brasov, Symphonic Orchestra de Brasov (soloist pianist), Opéra Bastille, Paris, OSM de Montréal, Opéra de Montréal and Opéra de Québec, École Normale de Paris, UdMI, UQAM, Univ. Concordia, lecturer at McGill University and invited as member of juries of piano competitions (Romanian National Music Competition, and singing (Orchestre de Trois Rivières, Quebec), has performed with conductors from Romania, France, Canada, Korea, Russia, Italy, Germany, Belgium, USA, and collaborated with many instrumentalists, singers and composers.

Founder of the Ensemble Lyrique de Montréal, she also collaborates for concerts and opera productions, with the Leonardo Da Vinci Cultural Center and Casa d'Italia.

As a musical advisor to LMOpéra Agency, she continues her artistic activities as a coach and solo pianist.

December Rose

December Rose is most recently known for her viral comedic videos about Italian Culture. She addresses difficult subjects through the lens of humor, and writes songs to give listeners and abuse survivors a voice and comfort. Her artistic signature, melancholic, reflective, and empowering is just the tip of the iceberg for the award winning Montrealer. While working on her music, she founded December Rose Studios, which aims to coach and mentor other singers and artists that wish to pursue a career in the music industry. She has combined her Music Degree and Naturopathy Certification to best advise and guide students for healthy singing and lifestyle choices, to best serve and preserve the voice. Her next EP, set to release Summer of 2023, is inspired by the likes of Disney, Enya, and Lisa Gerrard, with the hopes of encouraging listeners to truly live.

Doug MacNauhton

Doug MacNaughton began his career with the Edmonton Opera in 1982. Since then, his career has taken him across Canada, Europe and the United States. In 2023, he sings the role of Antonio in *The Marriage of Figaro* with the Canadian Opera Company, and the role of François-René de Chateaubriand in *Memories Beyond the Grave* for Upstream Music Association; in 2022, he sang the role of Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville* for ItalFestMontréal 2022, interpreted the role of Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night* for the Saint Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, sang Leporello in *Don Giovanni* for Opéra de Québec, and played guitar and euphonium while singing the roles of *The Governor* and *The Innkeeper* in an actor/musician production of *Man of La Mancha* for Magnus Theatre/Garner Theatre Productions. The previous year, he was Maestro Spinelloccio in *Gianni Schicchi* for the Canadian Opera Company and Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville* for Opéra de Québec. He is also known for the Live from The Back Seat concert series, where he sang, acted and read poetry from his car. Also look out for *Old Enough to Know Better*, a recording of eight of his original songs coming in 2023.

Élodie Sanna

A recent graduate of l'École de Cirque de Québec, Élodie Sanna began her journey at the circus at the age of 5 in the south of France and discovered a true passion. She entered the circus high school in Châlons-en-Champagne, where she specialized in Chinese Pole duo Highly ambitious, she decided to go abroad and enter l'École de Cirque de Québec.

She then specialized in German wheels, acrobatic bikes and hula-hoops, developing her versatility. After her professional training, she worked with companies such as *Flip Fabrique* performing on all styles of stage, from street to cabaret. Sharing her passion, being on stage and doing circus – that's what defines her as an artist!

Enrico Capuano e la Tammurriatarock

With more than 100 concerts every year around the World, including major European, American and Canadian music festivals, acclaimed award-winning rock-folk-swing band Enrico Capuano e la Tammurriatarock (more often referred to as T-Rock) is ready to start a new tour. T-Rock's wild rhythms combine Gypsy (Roma) jazz of the Django Reinhardt-Stephane Grappelli class with rock a la Jethro Tull, Celtic melodies, and Italian tarantella folk roots. It's an intoxicating and fresh combination of sounds as the band incorporates minor-key accordion and a special violin with distortion and guitar effects. In a

typical concert, T-Rock dishes out irresistible dance rhythms from such Italian roots as Saltarello, Pizzica, and Tarantella in addition to ska, Celtic, and Latin influences, all performed with aplomb.

Francesco Il Mercante

Having made his debut in the backstreets of Milan, he began traveling Europe with his one-man band show in 2010. Always close to popular and traditional music, he composes and covers songs, mainly with guitar, voice and harmonica, in folk, country and blues styles, in Italian, French and English.

The “saltimbanque” experience, the theater and the circus have given a very distinctive character to this one-man show, which does not limit itself to using songs to tell its stories.

With his theatrical concert “L’art de se débrouiller”, he travels with his instruments and self-made puppets, and takes part in festivals all over the world.

Thanks to the originality of his project and his determination, he has been able to perform at numerous events such as the Festival des Arts des Ruelles in Montreal, the Venice Carnival and the Festival du Chant de Marin in Brittany, where in 2023 he will take part with headliners such as Angelo Branduardi. Today, he continues to travel the world and tell his stories through his latest album, “L’emi-ingrat” (the ungrateful immigrant), which deals with the theme of emigration and dreams in a self-ironic tone.

Frank Moyo

Fiercely rooted in the classics, Frank Moyo is an Italian Canadian singer-songwriter and guitarist who serenades like a modern day storyteller and romancer of the 21st century. His latest releases “Insieme” and “L’autobus #2” have already garnered a reputation in his hometown of Toronto. Describing the singer as dark and smooth with a sultry voice is an understatement as there are a multitude of rich deep layers that define him as a performer.

Discussing feelings, the artist is candid. “I want people to imagine they are on a beach in Italy listening to my music or driving down a dirt road in a classic pickup truck dreaming about love and life.”

Growing up in Toronto, Moyo first learned chords on guitar as a small child. He has since tapped into his Italian upbringing, incorporating Italian into his music and lyrics. Opening for Diodato (Sanremo 2020 Winner) and Umberto Tozzi have been some of his career highlights so far. Moyo is passionate about exploring his southern Italian roots and plans to continue exploring Italian culture through his music.

With a taste that zig zags and curves from Johnny Cash and Coldplay, to Italian icons like Lucio Dalla and Toto Cutugno, Moyo’s sound is hard to pin down but undeniably remarkable and unforgettable.

In an industry that is fast paced and ever evolving, Frank brings a certain pureness that is rare and unique in today’s music scene.

Gianni Bodo

Montreal born singer-songwriter Gianni Bodo has been writing, recording and performing music for over 2 decades, showcasing his unique ability to sing in three languages. Renowned for his high profile collaborations with, among others, Juno award winning producer and songwriter Pierre Marchand (Sarah McLachlan, Rufus Wainwright), Gianni's debut solo outing, *Fade to Rose*, touted him as one of 2014's biggest music revelations and was featured on *Musique Plus* by Quebec's most esteemed music critic, Claude Rajotte. His musical endeavours have since then been featured internationally in multiple radio and television broadcasts, newspapers, blogs, webzines and magazines.

Released in the midst of the global pandemic, *Hurricanes and Butterflies*, piled up rave reviews and radio play around the world. In 2021, *Si Je Pars*, his first commercial French language single, co-written with 80's blockbuster songwriter Nicholas Eede (*I Just Died in Your Arms*), charted across Quebec and became the first French language single to reach the finals in the history of Canadian Music Week.

In the past year, Gianni has delivered three new video singles in each of his spoken tongues, featuring *Rimani Nell' Ombra*, his first official Italian release. He then later received a worldwide premiere in Italy on Radio Delta 1.

Don't miss this charismatic Italo-Montrealer performing his grandiose trilingual arena rock and his newly designed visual show.

Harrison James

Harrison James, born in 1991 and hailing from the Kapiti Coast in New Zealand, is currently a Principal Dancer with the National Ballet of Canada. After completing advanced training at both the New Zealand School of Dance and the San Francisco Ballet School's Trainee Program, James has performed in cultural epicenters all over the world. Paris, London, Moscow, StPetersburg, New York, San Francisco, Tokyo, Hamburg and of course Toronto. Known for his technical prowess and being an attentive partner, James was promoted to Principal after only three years with the National Ballet of Canada and has danced many of ballet's most iconic and sought after roles during his time there.

Harrison's repertoire includes Eurydice in *Orpheus Alive*, Leontes and Polixenes in *The Winter's Tale*, Prince Florimund in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Peter/The Nutcracker in *The Nutcracker* and Albrecht in *Giselle*. In 2019, Harrison won the Rolex Dancers First Award for his performances as Alexei Vronsky in *Anna Karenina*, the title role in *Apollo* and Oberon in *The Dream*, one of his favourite ballets.

Hugo Laporte

Recognized for the elegance of his singing, his velvety timbre and his charisma on stage, baritone Hugo Laporte is regularly invited to sing in Canada and abroad. Winner of several competitions, including the Grand Prix at the 2014 OSM Competition, he more recently won the "Teatro alla Scala" prize at the Belvedere Competition in Austria, enabling him to make his debut at La Scala de Milan in the roles of Hermann and Schlémil (*Les contes d'Hoffmann*) in March 2023, alongside Vittorio Grigolo and Luca Pisaroni, under the direction of Frédéric Chaslin.

Recent operatic roles include Malatesta (Don Pasquale), Figaro (Il barbiere di Siviglia) and Belcore (L'elisir d'amore) at Opéra de Québec, Sharpless (Madama Butterfly) and Mercutio (Roméo et Juliette) at Opéra de Montréal, Marcello (La Bohème) with the Orchestre symphonique de Trois Rivières, Escamillo (Carmen) at the Opéra du Royaume, Raimbaud (Le Comte Ory) with Tempêtes et Passions, and Le Fantôme (Le Fantôme de l'opéra - French version) at the Théâtre Saint-Denis and the Grand Théâtre de Québec. Internationally, he has performed in France, Italy, Germany, Russia, China and Belarus.

In the 2023-24 season, he will take on several roles, including Almaviva (Le nozze di Figaro), Enrico (Lucia di Lammermoor) and Zurga (Les pêcheurs de perles).

He can be heard on disc alongside pianist Olivier Godin in Jules Massenet's complete mélodies for voice and piano, released in November 2022 on the ATMA Classique label.

Mr. Laporte holds a Master's degree in music with honors under the tutelage of Patricia Fournier at Université Laval. He went on to study with a number of teachers and mentors, including Ghinka Radilova, Benita Valente, Antonio Carangelo and Jean-François Lapointe. Hugo Laporte would like to thank the Relève Musicale de Québec for their support during his studies, and the Jeunes ambassadeurs lyriques for their support in developing his international career.

Jurgita Dronina

Born in Russia, Jurgita was raised in Lithuania and completed her training in Munich, Germany. She considers and calls Toronto her home.

Jurgita is the winner of numerous international ballet competitions including the International Ballet Competition in Helsinki and Moscow.

Prior to joining The National Ballet of Canada, Jurgita was a Principal Dancer with The Royal Swedish Ballet, Het Nationale Ballet and English National Ballet. She was a Guest Principal Dancer with The Royal Danish Ballet, Norwegian National Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, Opera del'Roma, Arena di Verona and Teatro San Carlo in Naples, to name a few.

Kevin Bazinet

Kevin Bazinet is a Québécois Canadian singer, songwriter, musician and producer. Much of Kevin's adolescence was spent composing his own music and performing covers of popular songs which he posted on YouTube. Kevin was 17 years old when his first album, *Mystery Love* was released. At 23 years old, Kevin was crowned the winner of *La Voix III*. His album *Talk To Me* was released in 2015 and earned him a gold album. Kevin is a pop singer with a *jazzy blues* warm tone to his voice and an engaging personality. In 2017, Kevin opened up *Bazinet Studio* where he dedicates his time to mentoring and supporting young and old that have a passion for singing. In 2018, Kevin released 3 singles: *Quand j'en aurai assez de toi*, *Crossfire* and *Human*. With the launch of *FREEDOM* in Fall 2019, Kevin presents us with a redefined style of music that encapsulates the 1980's.

Louis-Charles Gagnon

Louis-Charles Gagnon recently sang the title role in *Le Comte Ory* (G. Rossini) with *Tempêtes et Passions*, as well as Count Almaviva (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*/G. Rossini) and the Duke of Mantua (*Rigoletto*/G. Verdi) at *ItalfestMTL*, Rodolfo (*La Bohème*/G. Puccini) at *Festival-Opéra de Saint-Eustache* and *Le Roi/L'Empereur* for the premiere of *3 contes d'Andersen* (J-F Mailloux/J-P Lavoie) at *Festival d'opéra de Québec*. He also sang as soloist in Bach's *Complete Cantatas* at the *Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' Bourgie Hall*, and in Dvořák's *Stabat Mater* with the *Chœur classique de Montréal* and the *Orchestre symphonique des jeunes de Montréal* at the *Maison Symphonique*.

He has performed the roles of Nadir (*Les Pêcheurs de perles*/G. Bizet) and Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*/G. Donizetti) with *Jeunesses Musicales Canada*. Other credits include Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*/W.A. Mozart) in Germany with *Lyric Opera Studio Weimar (LOSW)*, Septimius (*Theodora*/G.F. Handel) and Gherardo (*Gianni Schicchi*/G. Puccini) in *RNCM* productions. He has also appeared at the *Festival d'opéra de Québec* as the Second Priest and understudy to Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*/W.A. Mozart), directed by Robert Lepage, as the Clerk (*Louis Riel*/H. Sommers) and as a recurring member of the *Brigade lyrique*.

He is a graduate of *Université Laval* and the *UK's Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM)*.

Marco Bocchicchio

Marco Bocchicchio was discovered in 2008 on *TVA's "La Cour des Grands"*, hosted by Gregory Charles. In 2010, after the release of his first album: "*Marco Bocchicchio Chante Noël*", he was cast in the live stage adaptation of "*The Sound of Music*", directed and produced by Denise Filiatrault in collaboration with "*Just For Laughs*".

Since then, the young artist has toured with some of Quebec's greatest singers, including: Mario Pelchat, Johanne Blouin and Marie-Élaine Thibert. In 2014, Marco was crowned the winner of *Superfantastico*, the largest Italian singing competition in North America, which took place at "*La Place des Arts*".

In May 2019, he released his second solo album titled: "*La Vie Devant Moi*". During this time, he also completed his Bachelor's Degree in Voice Performance at *McGill University's Schulich School of Music* where he met Francis Choinière, Sam Champagne and Ian Sabourin. Together they formed "*Lyrico*" an operatic pop trio, touring across Canada. Marco's dream has always remained the same since the very first time he stepped on stage, he would love to become and internationally renowned singer/songwriter.

Marco Sanelli

Marco Sanelli's strong and clear voice continues to interpret the great songs and vocalists of our time. Singing in Italian, English, and French, you will certainly enjoy his personal renditions of the classics, allowing you to experience a range of emotions. Born in Canada from Abruzzese parents, he continues to support *ItalfestMTL* by sharing his talent and energy with festival goers. Come and experience his fantastic show which takes the audience through all of the emotions, from sadness and nostalgia to excitement and joy.

Michael Occhipinti / Sicilian Jazz Project avec Daniela Spalletta et Giuseppe di Bella

Michael Occhipinti's *SICILIAN JAZZ PROJECT* has been dazzling audiences worldwide with its thrilling mix of Old World Sicilian folk and the New World sounds of electric guitars, global funk, chamber music, and jazz improvisation. Using music sung by Sicilian fishermen, miners, and folk musicians as a starting point, the music is like a trip on the Mediterranean that detours to Mali, Jamaica, New Orleans, and Toronto.

The Sicilian Jazz Project features some of the best musicians from Toronto's vibrant music scene as well as a variety of international guests, and in August 2023 welcomes Sicilian vocalists and composers Daniela Spalletta and Giuseppe Di Bella to Canada for the first time.

Daniella Spalletta has been called "a silken voice, with remarkable fluidity and range" by the prestigious American Jazz magazine *Downbeat*, and she finished Second in the prestigious *Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition* in 2019.

Giuseppe Di Bella is a gifted singer-songwriter, performer, poet, and guitarist with a stunning voice. He has been a finalist twice for the *Parodi Prize* in Sardinia, and for the *Botteghe D'autore* prize.

Michael Occhipinti launched *The Sicilian Jazz Project* as a way to preserve the old Sicilian dialect from Modica (pronounced Muorica in dialect) his late parents spoke with him at home in Toronto. Michael started collecting songs from family and musicians in Sicily, and adapting them along with the field recordings that Alan Lomax and Diego Carpitella made in the 1950s. The group uses Sicilian folk music as a starting point, but then takes off as a vehicle for improvisation and ambitious arrangements across multiple styles. Michael wanted the Sicilian Jazz Project to reflect the diversity of modern Canada, and the result is a group like no other.

The regular lineup featuring Michael Occhipinti (guitar), Roberto Occhipinti (bass), Mark Kelso (drums), and Kevin Turcotte (trumpet) will be joined by special guest Don Byron.

Don Byron is a Grammy-nominated clarinetist, saxophonist, composer, arranger, and social critic who redefines every genre of music he plays. Though rooted in jazz, Byron has been a singular voice in an astounding range of musical contexts, continually striving for what he calls "a sound above genre".

Michel Pagliaro

Come and hear Montreal's rock'n'roll stage beast – PAG!

Montreal musician born in 1948, Michel Pagliaro is the recipient of many prestigious songwriting awards. Without abandoning his love of musical performance, he takes part in numerous artistic projects as a musician, arranger, producer and engineer on both sides of the Atlantic. Always on the road, Michel Pagliaro takes to the stage accompanied by musicians who share his spirit and harmonies, with whom he delivers an electric performance for his own pleasure and that of his audience. Michel Pagliaro is still on the road with his rock and roll songs that have marked the lives of listeners of all generations.

Music has to be lived, played and felt. It's not just a bunch of notes, but rather a series of sounds and rhythms that bring an idea to life.

Mike Mellino

Mike Melino is a classical and jazz singer who trained at Vanier College. Since then, he established himself a rewarding professional career as a singer in corporate events, in the world of musical theater and festivals. He has performed on stages for several major events and shows throughout Quebec, Ontario and Italy. This trilingual artist was awarded twice the grand prize winner of the Italian singing competition Superfantastico (2005 and 2016).

His most recent professional achievements include his performances in *Guys and Dolls* (2012), *Prom Queen (The Louder We Get)* (2016) and *It Shoulda Been You* (2018) with the *Segal Center for Performing Arts*, as well as in the provincial tour of *Mamma Mia!* (2019) with the *Juste Pour Rire* team. Mike is performing at ItalfestMTL.

N'Riko

N'Riko is a talented singer from Italy. His style and music are a unique mix of Italian and Latin American music. He is Italian, that's for sure, but he spent many years of his life in the City of Lights. Born from the union of a Neapolitan father and a Parisian mother, N'Riko carries within him the perfect mixture of "la dolce vita" and the "savoir faire" from two of the most beautiful cities in the world. At the young age of one, he moved to Naples, Italy, where he did most of his growing up and where he mastered the art of music.

Music is a passion for N'Riko. "You can express feelings with music the way you can't with words". N'Riko is now working with a well-known Italian producer and is in the process of recording another international featuring after the first two featuring with RKM & Martha Heredia.

Neva Badolato et YNG Inferno

Meet Neva Badolato, an Italian singer and law student with a remarkable talent for both opera and jazz. Born into a musical family, Neva's captivating voice has mesmerized audiences since she was young.

Alongside her, her brother Dante Badolato, professionally known as YNG Inferno, an artist and producer, creates innovative and boundary-pushing music that resonates deeply. Together, Neva and YNG Inferno form a dynamic duo, blending their individual talents to create a captivating fusion of artistry and sound. With Neva's enchanting vocals and YNG Inferno's visionary productions, this talented sibling duo is poised to make a lasting impact.

Priscilla-Skye

Having grown up in a family immersed in music, Priscilla-Skye's passion for singing, performing, and playing piano, ignited at a young age. She developed her talents through years of dedicated practice and a relentless pursuit of musical excellence. Drawing inspiration from diverse musical genres and languages, she performs in English, French, Italian and Spanish. Priscilla-Skye's music blends elements of Jazz, Pop, and Rock.

In 2021, Priscilla-Skye took a bold step forward in her career, releasing her first single “Pure”. The track struck a chord with listeners, garnering an impressive 268,000 views on YouTube. “Pure” showcased Priscilla-Skye’s ability to convey emotions with breathtaking authenticity and her status as a promising young artist to watch. Priscilla-Skye released her highly anticipated second single in 2022 titled “Feel the Beat” capturing the heart of fans worldwide and amassing over 500,000 viewers.

Priscilla-Skye’s performances are characterized by her unwavering belief in the power of music to unite and uplift by encouraging her audience to let go, embrace the music, and embark on a transformative journey together. She is currently in the process of writing and composing new music.

Rick Pagano

Acclaimed La Voix participant Rick Pagano, singer-songwriter and live performer, is the lead singer of the former group Final State, a band that has been widely heard on Quebec radio and has performed more than 300 concerts until today. Rick’s song “Clone” was also featured on the top 5 radio stations in Quebec in 2020, as well as being Anglo #1 on the ADISQ Palmarès for 5 consecutive weeks in 2019. He also composed recent *singles* by Marc Dupré and Éric Lapointe. Rick Pagano will return in 2023-2024 with a series of Ep in French and English signed Joyride Records.

Rob Henx

Canadian/Brazilian guitarist Rob Henx started playing guitar at the young age of 13. Influenced by the gods of rock such as Eddie Van Halen, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Steve Vai, Edu Ardanuy, Dream Theater and Pantera, he started playing in several tribute bands, at the age of 15, treading in the musical footsteps of his idols. Henx always considered his guitar as an extension of his soul creating music inspired by moments of his life, memories, hopes and everything in between. Music teacher for more than 20 years, he taught several students music theory, rhythm and guitar.

Under the name of Roberto Hendrigo he released his first solo album *Sons* in 2017, followed in 2019 by *Enjoy* and his third album *Oráculo* in 2021.

Horizon is Rob Henx’s latest release in which the name Horizon is used as an analogy to the Event Horizon, the boundary defining the region of space around a black hole from which nothing can escape and time and space are relative. Like the power of music that captures us making the perception of time and space relative.

Roberto Hendrigo (aka Rob Henx), expects to provide his listeners an escape of time and space through different feelings and emotions rising from the softer melodies of Memories, to the heavier like Obsession. Beside his solo career, he’s a proud member of Red Raven Chaos and Moonrunners. Rob Henx proudly uses Godin Guitars, Vola Guitars (7 strings), KSR Amplification, Xvive Wireless Audio and Doble A Pedalboards.

Salvatore Sciascia

Discovered by Mr. Léopold Simoneau, Artistic General Director of the Opéra du Québec, Salvatore Sciascia, who was studying musical dictation and stage direction with Pierrette Alary at the

Vincent-d'Indy music school, was invited to audition. He received 3 roles, including Arlequin in I Pagliacci, Salome and Tristan et Isolde. With Opéra du Québec, he has performed Docteur Caïus in Falstaff, Goro in Madama Butterfly and Ruiz in Il Trovatore. Salvatore has experience in many areas of music, notably as a singer on Les Beaux Dimanches, Jacques Boulanger's Radio-Canada program and Québec sait chanter. He also sang the Canadian and American national anthems at the Montreal Forum during the evening dedicated to Guy Lafleur. For 15 years, he organized concerts with Quebec opera singers. In addition, Salvatore has been the leader of a specialized Sicilian-language theater company for 30 years, and is the artistic director of opera for ItalfestMTL, formerly Montreal's Italian Week.

Tony Vardaro

Tony Vardaro was born in Santa Maria Capua Vetere, in the province of Caserta, Italy. At the age of 15, he emigrated to Canada where he began his music career in the Italian circuit with several bands. Vardaro was the founder and lead singer of one of the most renowned orchestras in Canada, known as “La Gioventù”. He is an eternal lover of Italian and Neapolitan music and has dedicated much of his life to promoting and spreading this music in Canada. In recent years, Vardaro has devoted himself to producing high-level shows to raise funds for disabled children and young adults in the Italian community in Canada. Thanks to his passion for music and his generosity, he has contributed to improving the lives of many people and to enriching Italian Canadian culture.

John Marano is a highly skilled musician with a deep-rooted passion for Latin and jazz music. John is known for his ability to connect with his audience and create a memorable experience for them through his music. In fact, he is a true advocate of music education and is committed to inspiring and mentoring young musicians. His dedication to the art of music has earned him a reputation as a skilled musician and a respected member of the music community.

Giosue Vardaro discovered his true passion for music at a young age. At the age of 7, he began playing the drums and quickly became proficient in his craft. With years of experience under his belt, Joey is a seasoned musician who has performed with various rock and hip hop groups. His versatility as a drummer has allowed him to showcase his talent across different genres and styles of music.

Nicola Vardaro is a versatile pianist, keyboardist, and singer with years of experience in live performances. He has a passion for all genres of music and combines jazz, Latin, and soul to create unique beats and melodic styles. Nicola has performed in a range of musical settings, from solo performances to leading a 10-piece orchestra and has a natural ability to engage and entertain his audience. As an artist, he continues to push the boundaries of music, exploring new creative directions and producing fresh and exciting sounds.

Mike Mascitto is a lead guitarist with over 20 years of experience performing in various cover and entertainment bands. His style and technique bring a unique flair and recognizable tone to any song he plays. Influenced by the guitar virtuosos of the 80s, Mike has developed a skillful ability to blend rhythm guitar riffs with lead guitar into a seamless, fluid burst of guitar playing. His musical proficiency and technical excellence have earned him a reputation as a sought-after performer, capable of elevating any musical arrangement with his exceptional talent on the guitar.

Vincent Marchessault

A lecturer and photographer for six and ten years respectively, Vincent Marchessault is passionate about Italy and its history. A graduate of McGill University in political science, international relations and German, he also holds the CILS diploma (Certification d'italienne langue étrangère) at level C1, and specializes in the history of Venice. He has given over 50 lectures on the city, as well as on the Renaissance, the Middle Ages and daily life in Roman antiquity. In September, he will publish his account of Venice, a stay in the fabulous city of the Renaissance. This will be followed by a book of reports on the city of Venice today and a book of photographs of the city.