

MUSIC CENTER  
**STRATHMORE**

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*Present*

**THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE**  
**CINE-CONCERT**

**BENOIT CHAREST, COMPOSER-CONDUCTOR**

*Thursday, April 18, 2019, 8pm*

**FEATURING**

*The Triplets of Belleville*

a film by Sylvain Chomet

and

**Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville**

conducted by Benoît Charest

Dan Thouin, *Keyboard & Accordion*

Alain Bastien, *Drums*

Michael Emeneau, *Percussions & Electric Vibraphone*

Bruno Lamarche, *Saxophone, Clarinet & Flute*

Maxime St. Pierre, *Trumpet*

Edouard Touchette, *Trombone*

Rémi-Jean LeBlanc, *Double Bass + Bass*

**TOUR MANAGER**

Sam Thiffault

**SOUND & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**

Guillaume Briand

*There is no intermission*

The film shown is rated **PG-13**

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## THE FILM

It has been more than a decade since the release of the Franco-Quebécois animated movie, *The Triplets of Belleville*. Many remember this film with its resounding success and incredible soundtrack, acclaimed by the Oscars, the Genie Awards, and the French Césars.

This much beloved animated film is screened as composer Benoît Charest leads Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville in the live performance of his original score for the film, including his Academy Award-nominated best song “Belleville Rendez-vous.” In the spirit of the film, Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville immediately transports audiences to the exciting streets of 1920s Paris and Le Jazz Hot.

The musical ensemble is made up of eight musicians with wacky instruments, reminiscent of 1930s France. The terrific Belleville Orchestra blends live music and cinema, enticing audiences into their colorful Parisian period cabaret.

## THE STORY

Adopted by his near-sighted grandmother, Madame Souza, Champion is a lonely little boy. Noticing that the lad is never happier than on a bicycle, Madame Souza puts him through a rigorous training process. Years go by and Champion becomes worthy of his name. Now he is ready to enter the world-famous cycling race, the Tour de France. However, two mysterious, square-shouldered henchmen kidnap Champion during the cycling contest. Madame Souza and her faithful dog Bruno set out to rescue him.

Their quest takes them across the ocean to a giant megalopolis called Belleville where they meet a trio of eccentric jazz-era divas, the renowned Triplets of Belleville. The three music-hall stars decide to take Madame Souza and Bruno under their wing. The motley sleuths follow clues to an underground speakeasy, where they entertain the crowd. Thanks to Bruno’s brilliant sense of smell, the chase is on! But will they succeed in beating the devilish plans of the evil French mafia?

## THE DIRECTOR

### SYLVAIN CHOMET

Chomet was born in 1963 in Maisons-Lafitte, France. In 1982, he graduated from high school, specializing in art, and in 1987 received a diploma from the prestigious comic strip studio at Angoulême, France. In 1986, he published his first book-length comic, *Secrets of the Dragonfly* (Futuropolis) and drew an adaptation of a Victor Hugo novel, *Bug-Jargal*, in collaboration with Nicolas de Crécy. Moving to London to work as an animator at the Richard Purdum studio, in September 1988 he established a London-based freelance practice working on commercials for clients such as Swissair, Principality, Swinton, Renault, and more.

In 1991, Chomet started work on his first animated film project, *The Old Lady and the Pigeons*, with backgrounds designed by Nicolas de Crécy. In 1992, he wrote the script for a comic entitled *The Bridge in Mud* (Glénat), a science-fiction and historical saga, now in its fourth episode. The following year, he wrote the story *Léon la Came*, drawn by de Crécy and serialized in *À Suivre* magazine. The book version was published by Casterman in 1995. It won the René Goscinny Prize in January 1996.

Since 1993, Chomet has been based in Canada. He spent 1995 and 1996 finishing his short film *The Old Lady and the Pigeons*, which won the Cartoon d’Or prize, the Grand Prize at the Annecy Festival, a BAFTA, the Audience Prize, and the Jury Prize at the Angers Premiers Plans Festival, and it received nominations for both the French Césars and for the Oscars.

In early 1997, Chomet published *Ugly, Poor and Sick*, with de Crécy. The book version (Casterman) won the Alph-Art Best Comic Prize at the Angoulême Comic Strip Festival in 1997.

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## THE COMPOSER

### **BENOÎT CHAREST** (*Chief Musician / Composer + Guitars*)

Charest, an Oscar-nominated composer from Montreal, has written more than 20 film scores, including the 2004 *The Triplets of Belleville*, which earned him many awards.

Charest studied at McGill and Montreal universities before learning his trade touring as a sideman with various bands as a versatile composer and accomplished jazz guitarist regularly performing with some of Montreal's finest musicians, Charest wrote his first score in 1992 for an National Film Board documentary.

Charest has composed scores for several movies including a tribute to B Movie Car Chase. He is currently composing music for several upcoming films, as well as touring with Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville.

## MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRA

### **DAN THOUIN** (*Keyboard + Accordion*)

When he first sat behind the family organ, Thouin was seven. Ten years later he was studying classical piano. Soon he began flirting with the jazz scene, then took an interest in electronica and pop music, collaborating with the likes of Mara Tremblay, Yann Perreau, and Marie-Jo Thério, and touring with Jason Bajada and Ghislain Poirier. In 2002, Thouin assembled the Large Ensemble, an all-star local group mixing jazz and rock. Informed by Miles Davis' late sixties experiments, Thouin uses the band to flex their improvisational muscles.

### **ALAIN BASTIEN** (*Drums*)

Born in Shawinigan, Canada, and self-taught starting at 15, Bastien pursued musical studies at the Université de Montréal where he achieved a bachelor's degree in jazz performance. For the last 20 years, he has been working in different musical contexts from R&B, funk, Latin, and popular music, although jazz remains the vehicle within which he operates. He has appeared in jazz festivals in Canada, the United States, France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Greece, Switzerland, Mexico, and China. Bastien has worked with Jean Beaudet, Yves Léveillé, Yannick Rieu, Benoît Charest, Tézé Montcalm, Carl Naud, and Abraham Barrera, among others, over the years.

### **MICHAEL EMENEAU** (*Percussion*)

Emeneau has worked professionally as a vibraphonist, producer, remixer, and arranger for 25 years, playing such diverse genres as jazz, rock, drum and bass, salsa, techno, country, Hindustani, gospel, baroque, and orchestral music. During this time, he has produced 16 albums, recorded on another 150, composed music for 8 films, toured internationally, and lived on 3 continents.

As a solo recording artist, he has released a series of highly acclaimed CDs on the boutique record labels Hearts of Space, Daikini, and Six Degree's records. Currently, he is a member of Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville and Tur Malka, featuring Canadian jazz vocal legend Karen Young.

### **BRUNO LAMARCHE** (*Saxophone, Flute + Clarinet*)

Saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist Lamarche has been known in Canada and Europe for more than 20 years. He has had the honor of working with luminaries such as Buddhakick, Félix Stüssi, Ray Anderson, Bernard Primeau, Joel Miller, Ben Monder, Philip Catherine, Christine Duncan, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Don Thompson, and, of course, Benoît Charest. His wide-ranging career has included performances with Altsys, Dixieband, ONJM, and Jazzlab. A recognized arranger, Lamarche earned a bachelor's degree in jazz performance from McGill University where he also received the Marion Magor Memorial Scholarship and the James McGill Award.

### **MAXIME ST. PIERRE** (*Trombone*)

As a member of many scholarly music groups, such as Cegep St-Laurent, Montreal University, Vic Vogel, Dems Christianson and Montreal Jazz Big Band, St. Pierre became a solid trumpeter. He has also worked with many popular singers and groups, among them Jean-Pierre Ferland, Daniel Belanger, Jean Leloup, Michel Legrand, Yannick Rieu, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Michel Cusson and Wild Unit, Eva Manigat, La Bande a Magoo, and Kappa.

### **EDOUARD TOUCHETTE** (*Trombone*)

From Frelighsburg, Canada, Touchette picked up the trombone at a young age. He moved to Montreal and went on to collaborate with established bands like Papagroove, Coyote Bill, and the University of Montreal Big Band. At 21, he's making a career as a freelance trombonist in the city.

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## RÉMI-JEAN LeBLANC (*Double Bass + Bass*)

Montreal-based LeBlanc has been active on the Canadian music scene since 2005 and has collaborated with an array of musicians including Yannick Rieu, Jean-Michel Pile, Marianne Trudel, Steve Amirault, Carol Welsman, and Elizabeth Shepherd. LeBlanc has also toured with different projects in Europe, China, Japan, Mexico, the United States, and Canada, and has performed with international artists such as David Binney, Seamus Blake, Greg Osby, Terri Lyne Carrington, Ari Hoenig, Gilad Hekselman, Ben Wendel, and Billy Hart.

He put out a third album, *Déductions*, as a leader in 2018. The album features New York City guitarist Nir Felder, Cuban pianist Rafael Zaldivar, and Montreal native Sam Joly on drums and offers an energetic, introspective take on rock-infused jazz.

## GUILLAUME BRIAND (*Sound + Technical Director*)

Briand became a musician when he discovered his passion for the art of sound. At age 17, he decided to follow his heart and began his career working as a sound engineer at Production Jeun-Est, FOUFOUNES ÉLECTRIQUES, le Grand Bambou, Spectra, Cabaret Latulipe, and Cabaret Juste Pour Rire. He has traveled the world, creating soundscapes and mixing instrumentation in France, Italy, China, the United States, Singapore, and Germany where he worked with percussionist and hybrid artist Merlin Ettore. He has performed his sonic magic in stadiums throughout Europe on tour with the extreme heavy metal group Unexpect. He also serves as a technical director for touring shows, especially the poetic musicalizations of Queen Ka and *The Triplets of Belleville*.

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*The Triplets of Belleville* is a film by Sylvain Chomet  
Rated PG-13 by the MPAA

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## LES ARMATEURS— PRODUCTION COMPANY

“Les Armateurs, founded by Didier Brunner in 1994, has brought two new writer/directors to the world of cartoon films, Michel Ocelot and Sylvain Chomet. The aim of the company is to discover talent and produce a range of original and ambitious work aimed at family audiences and young adults.

*THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE* was born at the International Animated Film Festival of Annecy. We had just given seven years of our lives, our energy and passion, to finance and make *The Old Lady and the Pigeons*, a 26-minute cartoon costing more than 800,000 Euros.

The writing and directing talent revealed in this film was such that I knew I wanted to pursue my collaboration with Sylvain more ambitiously, taking even greater risks. I wanted to produce his first feature film and give him an opportunity of expressing the full extent of his gifts. It was time to capitalize on the theatrical success of Kirikou and the Sorceress, which made Les Armateurs a credible partner in the field of ambitious animated features, and to build on the success of *The Old Lady and the Pigeons* within the profession (Oscars, BAFTA, Cesar, Annecy). Despite the magnificent graphics of *THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE*, neither the story nor the setting are aimed specifically at a young audience. I knew that we were asking our partners to accompany us in an innovative and risky venture, given the expense of the production. We held true to our course, which is one of the fundamental qualities of Les Armateurs. The crew has shown admirable resilience, and today we are proud to be able to steer our ship of fantasy into a safe harbor.”

— Didier Brunner

