

Guitar ensemble Forestare, composed of 12 guitars and double bass, has already existed for 16 years. Since its inception, the ensemble has participated in the creation of close to 50 original works and has adapted nearly another 100 for its unique make-up. In doing this, the ensemble has created the largest repertoire of music for guitar orchestra in the world.

The group has released three albums to date. The first two were released with the label, ATMA Classics. Both albums were welcomed to much acclaim from critics and audiences alike. The first self-titled release garnered a Félix in the category "Instrumental Album of the Year" in 2007. It also led them to being awarded the Bourse RIDEAU two times which permitted them to present their concert "De l'arbre à la guitare" in more than 50 concert halls throughout Québec, in several music festivals in France, Chili and in many reputable concert halls throughout Canada. Their second album Arauco received nominations for both a Félix and a Prix Opus and was highly praised by critics. The show based on the album has been performed in several concert halls in Québec.

The ensemble's third recording, Forestare Baroque, released by 2xHD recordings, also received praise from critics and music lovers from around the world. The idea for the album was conceived while Forestare was "artists in residence" at the contemporary art museum, l'Arsenal de Montréal. The album, Forestare Baroque was produced by the renown André Perry and recorded by sound engineer, René Laflamme. The album was number one for over a month on sales charts across several high-definition recording websites in countries such as Germany, Japan, England, and the United States. Forestare has presented their baroque program more than 20 times throughout Quebec and Toronto.

Feeding off of this experience, Forestare is again pushing its boundaries with the adaptation of several grand works from composers Debussy, Ravel along with Germaine Taillefer. These impressionistic works will share the program with current French guitar composers Roland Dyens and Arnaud Dumond. The ensemble is currently working on their new opus along with a multimedia show based upon this new project.



# **Concert Forestare: Twelve guitars in Paris**

Enter the magical world of the exceptional ensemble comprised of 12 guitars and double bass, Forestare. With influences from the world of guitar and Spanish music, Debussy and Ravel pushed the limits of musical creation and brought forth impressionism to music.

With original arrangements by Renaud Côté-Giguère, a member of the ensemble, and Dave Pilon, Forestare highlights the influence of the guitar in an arrangement of the unique sounds of Debussy's Suite Bergamasque.

Rediscover Ravel's Ma Mère l'Oye (Mother Goose) ballet with Forestare in a poetic atmosphere endowed with a strong emotional charge.

Hamsas is a work from famous French guitarist and composer Roland Dyens. Written for guitar ensemble, Hamsas is an ode to friendship. Each movement is dedicated to his composer friends who have influenced the world of the guitar: Ravel, Bogdanovich, Kleynjan, Dumond. The last movement pays tribute to Tunisia, Dyens' country of origin.

With the piece, Allegro barbaro, the French guitarist and composer Arnaud Dumond deploys great creativity. Written for 10 guitars and 2 solo guitarists, Allegro barbaro is a dynamic work tinged with flamenco. Forestare highlights all of its virtuosity and passion.

Lumières en Appalaches is a minimalist work for guitar ensemble and solo electric guitar. It is a tribute to the beauty of Quebec's landscapes inspired by a tour that composer, Arnaud Dumond took in the province in 2014. It was during this tour that a great friendship developed between Alexandre Ethier and the composer.

The show "Twelve guitars in Paris", was presented in recital form at the Festival des Îles du Bic and Lachine Concerts, as part of a grant awarded by the Montreal Arts Council. The second step in the creative research for the CAM, is to produce a show for the general public. A set will be created by the collective "Sous-sol Mtl" with stage designers Alexis Vaillancourt and Ludovic Marsolais-Viau who will also provide lighting. All in a mise en scene elaborated by Alexandre Ethier.

#### **Program**

**Claude Debussy** (1862-1918)

Suite bergamasque arr. Renault Côté-Giguère

I. Prélude

II. Menuet

III. Clair de lune

IV. Passepied

**Maurice Ravel** (1875-1937)

Ma mère l'Oye arr. Dave Pilon

I. Pavane de la Belle au bois dormant

II. Petit Poucet

III. Laideronnette, Impératrice des Pagodes

IV. Les Entretiens de la Belle et de la Bête

V. Le Jardin féérique

## **Roland Dyens** (1955-1916)

Hamsa

I- Première nouvelle

II- Ballade en Fauré

III- La pomposa

IV- Sol lassitude

V- Tunis. Tunisie

## Arnaud Dumond (1950-

Lumières en Appalaches

Allegro barbaro

Solistes: Jonathan Barriault et Renaud Côté-Giguère



# **Concert Forestare:**

# Forestare Baroque!



That concert focuses on the three grand schools of the Baroque era: the Italian, French and German schools, represented by Vivaldi with his Folia and the concerto L'estro Armonico, La Super Fantaisie, BWV651 pour orgue and the Concerto Brandebourgeois no.3 from Bach as well as a suite of pieces taken from the Bourgeois Gentilhomme by Lully.

"Forestare has managed to create a sound that is distinct... The effect

created by this mass of guitars...is quite simply striking." -La Presse

# **Program**

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) Sonata no. 12, Op 1, Rv 63 "La Folia" arranged by Dave Pilon

**Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750)

Fantasia Super: Komm, heiliger Geist BWV 651 arr. David Ratelle

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

CONCERTO no. 2, RV578 for two violins and cello obligato, from L'estro armonico opus 3 arranged by Jürg Kindle

Jean Baptiste Lully (1632-1687)

Le Bourgeois gentilhomme (comédie-ballet) arranged by Dave Pilon and David Ratelle

**Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750)

Brandenburg Concerto no. 3 BWV 1048 in G major, arranged by Dave Pilon



# **Concert Forestare:**

# De l'arbre à la guitare



The 14 musicians of Forestare will take you on an eclectic musical voyage. You will hear classical and contemporary works tinted with a touch of world music and even an arrangement of a country song that is sure to please, all of this with the stage direction of Dominick Trudeau. Truly unique!

"The sonority of 13 or so guitars, plus double bass once in a while to round out the lower end and add soaring lyricism, really isn't like anything else, especially when the mix of works explores all manner of playing techniques, mood, and character." – Patsy Morita, AllMusic.com

"Fulfilling, never redundant dynamics emphasize the impeccable arrangements and orchestral colors that carry the listener courageously into ancient times." – Christophe Rodriguez, "Le Journal de Montréal"

## **Programme**

**Denis Gougeon** – Québec Une petite musique de nuit d'été

Roland Dyens – France Hamsa: V - Tunis, Tunisie

**Steve Reich** - USA Electric Counterpoint

François Gauthier - Québec Equus

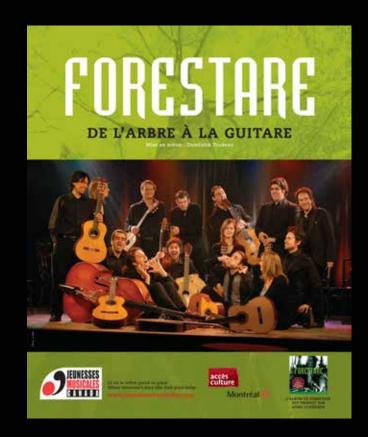
Leo Brouwer - Cuba Acerca del cielo, el aire y la sonrisa : Il- Fantasia de los ecos Cuban Landscape with Rain

Pascal Quoquochi Sasseville – Quebec Chaman

R. Murray Schafer - Canada Gamelan

**Francis Marcoux** - Québec Selisir Manuel de Falla - Espagne La vida brève

**Appalachian American fiddle** - USA Cluck ol hen



# Programme de concert

## Arauco

The 14 members of this unparalleled ensemble will take you on a musical journey from south to north, where the history of the Native American vibrates the 72 strings of their guitars.

After returning from the Entrecuerdas Festival in Santiago, Chile, Alexandre Éthier brought back with him a magnificent work from Chilean composer, Javier Farias. "Arauco, of soul and blood", an eight movement work for guitar ensemble and double bass; inspired from an epic poem from Alonso de Ercilla (1533-1594); this work pays homage to the resistance of the mapuche people against the Spanish invasion.

"I liked it a lot the sobriety of the staging, the use of projected images from the past, the use of lights to create a carnal sunset, one of blood- red and ochre. I especially liked- this expressive and rhythmical music, halfway between Rodrigo and Brouwer, with a touch of flamenco and Native American roots. The musicians of Forestare are equal to the task, rhythmically precise and solid, easily executed nuances in their attacks and evocative textures. Pieces from Quebec native (Attikamekw) Pascal Quoquochi Sasseville ended a spicy program greatly appreciated by the audience. The north and the south, united in a kind of continental pow-wow." -Frédéric Cardin, Radio-Canada, August 2nd 2011

# **Program**

Javier Farías - Chili Arauco, por fuerte, pricipal y poderosa ...

Raphaël Reed – Quebec A Path to The Woods

Pascal Quoquochi Sasseville – Atikamekw, Quebec Chaman Racines

**Traditional Quebec** – Arr. Luc Lévesque Reel de Port-Daniel

Micmaq First Nation Honour Song Micma

**Antoine Ouellete** – Québec Fougères II

François Gauthier – Québec Milles Pattes



# Baroque album



For their third album, Alexandre Éthier, founder and artistic director of the guitar ensemble Forestare, brings forth a new baroque album dedicated to the music of Bach, Lully and Vivaldi. Inspired by the atmosphere of the Arsenal of Montréal, where Forestare has been artists in residence since 2014, the ensemble has delved into the exploration of this rich repertoire that is full of masterworks.

The album focuses on the three grand schools of the Baroque era: the Italian, French and German schools, represented by Vivaldi with his Folia and

the concerto L'estro Armonico, La Super Fantaisie, BWV651 pour orgue and the Concerto Brandebourgeois no.3 from Bach as well as a suite of pieces taken from the Bourgeois Gentilhomme by Lully.

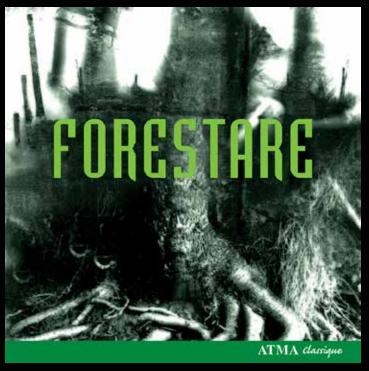
Helping them succeed in their endeavour, Forestare surrounded itself with renown collaborators who include André Perry as producer, Georges Nicholson with the title of musical coach as well as René Laflamme as sound engineer. All of the arrangements were created by Dave Pilon and David Ratelle, conductor and member of the ensemble respectively as well as Jürg Kindle, Swiss composer and arranger. Thanks to the 2xHD technology, the newest and most advanced techniques in recording technology, the ensemble has obtained a timeless album destined for neophytes and the most demanding audiophiles alike.

«...characterized by impressive recording quality, and original and special interpretations.... A sort of three-dimensional sound that also help the listener to appreciate all the minimal musical nuances that surrounds and envelops himself.... I believe their musical skill and expertise are undeniable, the sound is really amazing.» -Andrea Aguzzi, NeuGuitars.com

«Like tasting a unique wine made from unknown grapes, FORESTARE BAROQUE' offers a fresh, 21st century glance at the baroque era...Using Forestare's more modern guitar arrangement gives this music a new perspective and turns it into quite an adventure. The energy emanating from the players make this a captivating introduction to the classical genre in a contemporary way, without betraying the authenticity of these timeless compositions.» -www.e-onkyo.com



# Album éponyme



Forestare is an ensemble of 12 young award-winning acoustic guitarists, so named in honour of the trees from which their instruments are made. Founded in 2002, the ensemble is as passionate about environmental issues as it is about its music, which includes a wide range of influences including gamelan and pop. Forestare's debut recording with ATMA features original works by contemporary composers including Steve Reich, Denis Gougeon and Leo Brouwer. Québec poet/singer- songwriter Richard Desjardins makes a cameo appearance with the ensemble performing two of his own songs.

« Some good advice: go and lose yourself in this forest of boreal guitars, classical ones. (...) Forestare has managed to create a sound that is distinct from that of all other contemporary ensembles on the market. The effect created by this mass of 13 guitars (...) is quite simply striking. It has the intensity of rock (...) Forestare offers a local composers a judicious choice (...) Richard Desjardins, sensitive not just to the instrumental chops but also to the critical spirit and environmental preoccupations of his young colleagues, agreed to interpret La maison est ouverte and Les Yankees. Superb! » Alain Brunet, La Presse, Saturday, March 10, \*\*\*\* and « Notre choix » in Cahier Arts et spectacles

« Here at last is the first CD from this unusual ensemble, which is distinctive not only for its makeup (12 classical guitars, double bass, and conductor) but also for its contents, which ranges from songs by Richard Desjardins to contemporary music by Steve Reich (the

magnificent Electric Counterpoint unplugged!) ... And all this makes for a marvelous mix! » Réjean Beaucage, Voir, Thursday, March 22 2007 \*\*\*\* « (...) a really convincing first CD. The ingenious arrangements, even more than the individual virtuosity, give it a striking voice and dramatic power. When Richard Desjardins sings La Maison est ouverte and, especially, Les Yankees, there are intense moments that the fans appreciate. The rest of the repertoire has a contemporary flavor (Reich, Brouwer, Gougeon...), and is well balanced and well chosen. Performing live in a hall (...) turned out to be an excellent choice. » Serge Paradis, Ici, Thursday, March 22 2007 \*\*\*1/2

« (...) Forestare exists because of wood and plays for the cause of wood.

We have to admit that the message is clear. Richard Desjardins has got it, and happily retransmits it during two songs, La Maison est ouverte (...), and Les Yankees, whose powerful protest rings out like thunder (...) The CD will lead you into a musical world as rich and complex as an oldgrowth forest. » Richard Boisvert, Le Soleil, Saturday, March 17 mars 2007 \*\*\*1/2





## **Album Arauco**



Forestare, the 12 member ensemble of young classical guitarists - who burst onto the Montreal music scene in 2002 - returns with their latest ATMA recording. Arauco is the fruit of a richly inspiring cultural and musical exchange in 2008 between the members of Forestare and the Chilean Guitar Ensemble. The title work by award-winning Chilean composer Javier Farias is inspired by Chile's epic poem La Araucana, and pays homage to Amerindian resistance, north and south, and to the flowering of their cultures. Québec composers Raphaël Reed and Pascal Sasseville Quoquochi contribute nature-inspired works, and ensemble member François Gauthier's piece Mille Pattes rounds out the program.

"Here's a great return! Without false modesty, yours truly as well as the Cahier Week-end, have given a serious hand to this young group that plunges into the arena with twelve guitars! Still under the direction of guitarist, Alexandre Éthier, Forestare has shared the stage with Richard Desjardins, Catherine Major and Claire Pelletier. Five years later, with a consistent formula, these masters of the strings offer a voyage to the heart of the conquest of Chile, the epoch of the conquistadors. With a radiant dynamic, never redundant, we take note of the impeccable work done with the arrangements, where orchestral colors transport the listener to the time of the ancients where courage was necessary." Christophe Rodriguez, Journal de Montréal, Thursday March 8th 2012 \*\*\*\*1/2

ATMA Classique

"Here's a fascinating disc that my two colleagues on this music page could have commented on. Simultaneously classical, pop, South American-flamenco, lightly mixed with new-age, this "golden nugget the size of a stadium", as the booklet tells us, is a sort of oratorio that is personified by twelve guitars and

two double basses. In less than 40 minutes, this symphonic poem for 82 strings tells us of the fight to the death between the mapuche people and the Spanish conquistadors. In a live context, a text read by a narrator connects the movements, but for obvious reasons, we only find the text in the booklet of the album. Three composers from here (Quebec), Raphaël Reed, Pascal Sasseville Quoquochi and François Gauthier, create a backdrop that frames the centerpiece work from 2007, Arauco. Faithful to their ecological mission, the ensemble Forestare adds a new dimension to their cause: promoter of native people. Unclassifiable and inexhaustible, this disc is one of the revelations of the year!" L'actualité, Georges Nicholson, April 13th 2012

"Second disc in ten years of existence for Forestare, an ensemble that regroups 15 musicians in which there are 13 guitarists, under the direction of Alexandre Éthier. On their first disc, the collective maps a vast forest where we find, among others, the works of Steve Reich (Electric Counterpoint I, II et III) and instrumental versions of songs by Richard Desjardins(Les Yankees, La maison est ouverte). Arauco concentrates on the pieces of Javier Farias, a young Chilean composer whom founded his own guitar ensemble. The musicians of the disc have taken their inspiration from a text that tells of the resistance of the mapuches (native people of central Chile and Argentina) against the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century. The album plays like an epic poem. The confrontations and the moments of tension are greatly reinforced by the double bass, while the movement of troops, the battles and short truces are found in the guitars which are at one moment turbulent and at others melancholic. The most striking thing about Forestare is in the virtuosity of the musicians. Their mastery is found in the judicious balance between tension, passion, violence, and sorrow. The album is completed by the compositions of Raphaël Reed, François Gauthier et Pascal Sasseville Quoquochi" Alexandre Vigneault, La Presse, 31 mars 2012 \*\*\*



April 1, Salle Maurice-O'Bready (Sherbrooke)

August 1, Présence Autochtone (Montréal) June 21, Cabaret Lion D'Or (Montréal)

2011

June 3, La Chapelle historique du bon pasteur (Montréal) 2010 November 13, (Grenville-sur-la-Rouge) April 20, Verre-Bouteille (Montréal) December 2, L'Excentrice (Montréal) September 11-12-13, Les Escales Improbables (Montréal) September 5, La Fête de la Musique (Tremblant) August 16, Festival des Traditions du Monde (Sherbrooke) August 7, 475ième de Gaspé (Gaspé) July 15, Festival 1001 Pots (Val David) June 20, Festival Présence Autochtone (Montréal) May 16, Tohu (Montréal) April 24, Maison de la culture Marie-Uguay (Montréal) April 23, Maison de la culture Rosemont-Petite Patrie (Montréal) April 22, Maison de la culture Mercier (Montréal) April 7, Théâtre Corona, CBC/Radio-Canada (Montréal) April 6, Centre communautaire (Pierrefonds) March 28, Église Sacré-Coeur (Sainte-Thérèse) March 27, Théâtre Hector-Charland (L'Assomption) March 23, Salle de Spectacle Régionale Desjardins (New-Richmond) March 21, Théâtre de Baie-Comeau (Baie-Comeau) March 20, Salle de spectacles de Sept-Îles (Sept-Îles) March 14, Théâtre du Marais (Val Morin) March 13, Salle Georges-Codling (Sorel-Tracy) March 11, Salle Maurice-O'Bready (Sherbrooke) March 10, Centre Culturel de Drummondville (Drummondville) March 7, Salle Pauline-Julien (Sainte-Geneviève) March 6, Salle Desjardins (Terrebonne) March 1, Salle Albert-Dumouchel (Valleyfield) February 11-12, Théâtre Outremont (Outremont) February 1, Théâtre Mirella et Lino Saputo (Montréal) January 30, Maison de la culture Rivière-des-Prairies (Montréal) 2008 November 29, Théâtre du Rift (Ville-Marie) November 28, Théâtre du Cuivre (Rouyn-Noranda) November 27, Théâtre des Eskers (Amos) November 26, Théâtre Télébec (Val d'Or) November 23, Théâtre des Deux-Rives (Saint-Jean-sur Richelieu) November 13. Maison de la culture Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Montréal) October 19, Auditorium Le Prévost (Montréal) October 18, Maison de la culture St-Michel (Montréal) October 11, Le Palace (Granby) October 4, Centre d'art de Richmond (Richmond) September 26. Salle Émile-Legault (Ville Saint-Laurent)

June 27, Festival de Jazz (Montréal)

April 24, Salle Jean-Despréz (Gatineau)

June 12, Hommage à Clémence à l'Espace Go (Montréal)

# A stunning curriculum

## 2002

- Foundation of the Ensemble 2003
- Tele-Quebec Show with special participation of Richard Desjardins.
  2004
- International Festival of Nérac, France
  International Festival of Belfort, France
  2005
- Numerous participations at non-profit shows for environmental organisms.
  2006
- Abitibi Guitar Festival
- Montreal Jazz Festival 2007
- Felix award for best instrumental album of the year, Gala de l'Adisq 2007
- · GM scene, Montreal Jazz Festival 2008
- · Relève Accès culture award, Montreal · Residence award, Quebec
- GM scene, Montreal Jazz Festival 2009
- 7 Continents Une Terre show, Corona Theatre, Montreal
- Présence Autochtone show with participation of Elisapie Isaac, Richard Seguin and Samian.
- · Concert for the 475th anniversary of Gaspe city.
- · Traditions du monde Festival, Sherbrooke
- Festival Internacional de Guitarra Entrecuerdas, Chili 2010
- Special appearance on the upcoming Gilles Vigneault album 2011
- Recording sessions for FORESTARE'S second album, «Arauro» 2012
- · Nomination for best instrumental album of the year, L'ADISQ for «Arauro»
- Participation in the concert "International Guitar Night"
  2013
- Performance for IAMA World

## 2014

- · Audio recording by Radio-Canada
- · Residency at the contemporary art museum, Arsenal
- Festival des guitares du monde in Abitibi-Témiscamingue 2015
- A series of 6 concerts at the Arsenal in Montreal
- Video clip Forestare/Reich/Spriggs at the Arsenal in Montreal
  Benefit concert for the organization, Share the Warmth
- Recording sessions for album Baroque 2016
- Forestare Baroque Quebec's tour 2017
- Île D'Anticosti's tour 2019
- Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée tour
- · Presentation of the new concert «Douze guitares à Paris»









# Alexandre Éthier - Classical guitar Founder and Artistic Director



Hailing from St-Aimé, in the Montérégie region of Quebec, Alexandre started learning guitar with father at a young age. That being said, it was only when he was about 17 years old, that he began to seriously devote his time and energy to the instrument. His musical apprenticeship brought him to study with José Harguindey, Alvaro Pierri and in Chicago with master composer and guitarist Sergio Assad.

In the spring of 2000, he met Richard Desjardins, who invited him to open for Richard Desjardins' 2001 summer tour of France. Upon his return from France, he founded the guitar ensemble Forestare, an ensemble featuring 12 guitars and a 5-string upright bass. Forestare has performed hundreds of concerts in such rooms as the Palais Montcalm and the Salle Bourgie, in addition to being invited to perform in several international festivals in France, Quebec and Chili. In 2007, Forestare won a Felix award for Instrumental Album of the Year

After 10 years together, the Forestare Ensemble is now recognized internationally for the quality of its concerts and for its unique and ambitious repertoire.

In conjunction with his work with Forestare, Alexandre actively works as a soloist and also performs in chamber music ensembles, often performing with Alexandre DaCosta and Wonny Song. In the past, he has been invited to perform with the Alcan String Quartet, L.A. String Quartet, and with the Orchestra London, with the director Jean-Philippe Tremblay. He also performs with Guitares Nomades, a guitar trio that performs various folkloric, jazz, and classical repertoires from around the world. Alexandre teaches music at Share the Warmth, a youth outreach program in the southwest of Montreal. In september 2013, the 'El Sistema' program was implemented there, and ensemble guitar and chorale courses are o ered free of charge three times a week.

In addition to teaching at the Camp Musical Père Lindsay every summer, he is the founder of the Projet Musical Kitcisakik, a free music camp and concert series o ered to Anicinapek youth from the parc la Verendrye community.

#### Olivier Labossière - Classical guitar, technical director



At the age of 12, Olivier Labossière began learning the guitar. With an ever increasing interest for the instrument, he completed the program of pop and jazz music performance at the Cégep of Drummondville, Quebec. During this time he was named a laureate in the competition, Guitare-Drummond, in the small ensemble category. He

then continued his studies with a Bachelor's degree in classical music performance at the Université du Québec à Montréal, in which he had the pleasure to study with Marc Deschênes and Alvaro Pierri. While there he had the chance to participate in several master classes at the Mozarteum University of Salzburg in Austria. Olivier has performed many concerts both as a soloist and in duo with his colleague, Alexandre Ethier. Since 2002, he has been an active member of the ensemble, Forestare, both as an arranger and performer. Olivier also maintains an active schedule teaching guitar in schools, since 2006, at Curé-Antoine Labelle high school in Laval, Quebec.

## Steve Cowan, Classical guitar



Steve Cowan has performed and taught extensively throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe. His critically-acclaimed debut album, Pour guitare, features exclusively Canadian music and has helped to establish him as "one of Canada's top contemporary classical guitarists" (Classical Guitar Magazine). He

has commissioned several new works for guitar and given world premieres in major cities such as Paris, Toronto, and New York.

Steve is a prizewinner of numerous international competitions, including 1st prizes at the Indiana International Guitar Competition (2016), Guitare Montréal (2015), and Boston GuitarFest (2013). A distinguished teacher, he has given public masterclasses at the University of Victoria, McMaster University, Conservatorium van Amsterdam, the Royal Danish Academy of Music, and more. Originally from St. John's, Newfoundland, Steve holds degrees from Memorial University, the Manhattan School of Music, and McGill University. His former teachers include Sylvie Proulx, David Leisner, and Jérôme Ducharme.

## Chuck Hobson - Classical guitar



After obtaining a BMUS in classical guitar performance at Indiana University in 2006, Charles Hobson was invited by Canadian guitarist, Daniel Bolshoy, to continue his studies at Concordia University in Montreal. It is at Concordia that he completed the DAMPS

program in classical guitar in 2008.

During his studies he had the chance to study with several world-renowned classical guitarists such as: Nuccio D'Angelo, Ernesto Bitetti, Fabio Zanon, Matteo Mela, Jérôme Ducharme, Lorenzo Micheli, Xuefei Yang, etc. Charles has also been the recipient of several awards, including 1st place in both the soloist and chamber music categories at the Concours de l'Association des Éducateurs en Musique du Québec (2008), 2nd place at the Canadian National Festival (2008), 3rd place at the Grand Prix de Guitare de Montréal (2010), and 3rd place with Duo Beija-Flor in the competition, Mon Accès à la Scène (2011).

Charles actively performs with several groups such as the flute and guitar duo, Duo Beija-Flor (CD Envol 2011, Muzica 2013), the instrumental, tuba led group DJU (self- titled album 2012, prix CIBL 2012) and the guitar ensemble, Forestare, in which he has been a member since 2011. He also performs as a soloist having performed in the US as well as Canada.

#### Jean-François Haché - Classical guitar



Jean-François Haché is a classical guitarist from Sept-lles Quebec. A holder of a doctorate in classical guitar performance from the University of Montreal, he has an invested interest in promoting and performing original classical music from Quebec. Aside from his classical studies, he has also a deep interest in several styles

of music from world to rock. Over the years, Jean-François has had the chance to learn from some of the guitar world's greatest masters including Rémi Boucher, Boris Gaquere, William Kanengeiser, Ana Vidovic, Lorenzo Micheli, Matteo Mela and Pavel Steidl. He has been a recipient of several prizes from di erent provincial and national competitions, including a second place finish in the Canadian music competition. Jean-François performs regularly as a soloist as well as with chamber music ensembles.

### Simon Duchesne - Classical guitar



Simon Duchesne is from La Tuque in Haute-Mauricie. At a very young age, although extremely interested in guitar, Simon undertakes classical piano studies. At the end of adolescence, his interest for classical guitar will prevail. He will begin interpretation studies in Trois-Rivières, and then in Montreal, where he will obtain a Bachelor's degree in music at UQAM under the direction of Alvaro Pierri, followed be a Master's degree in

interpretation at the University of Montreal under the direction of Peter McCutcheon. UQAM will then accept him in its' Ph.D. program: Études et pratiques des arts. On top of Forestare, he is a member of the classical guitar duo Con Fuoco (with Hugo Larenas). Musician of ecclectic influences, he appeared in multiple musical projects, on electric or classical guitar: le Quatuor Mains Libres, Eden106 (electrorock), le Trio de guitares contemporain, L'Hexacorde (contemporary classical music), Nicolas Maranda (singer- songwriter) and Robert Marcel Lepage (composer). He also refines his talents as singer-songwriter with the rock band: Les Voisins d'en dessous. Simon teaches the quitar at Collège Stanislas in Montreal.

## Francis Brunet-Turcotte - Classical guitar



Francis Brunet-Turcotte earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Montreal in Bruno Perron's class. He is currently pursuing his master's degree (classical guitar) with Alvaro Pierri at Laval University. In 2008, he obtained a college diploma from Saint- Laurent CEGEP where he studied both classical and jazz guitar with Marc Deschênes (classical) and Yvan Lemelin (jazz). Francis is the recipient of many

prizes as a soloist. He placed third in the final of the 2008 Canadian Music Competition, first place at the "Vallée des champs" music competiton in 2007 and took eighth place at the "Bas-Richelieu" classical music competition in 2006. He also teaches guitar in private and group sessions.

#### Jonathan Bariault - Classical guitar



After graduating with highest honors from the Montreal Conservatory of Music in 2004 in Jean Vallières' class, Jonathan Barriault undertook a masters degree that same year at Laval University in Alvaro Pierri's class, which he completed in 2006

For the past few years, contemporary music has been an intergral part of his artistic activities. From 2007-2010, he was a member of the montreal based contemporary music ensemble Kore with whom he premiered many contemporary works, both on classical and electric guitars. Member of the newly formed plucked strings ensemble Punctum, he participated in its inaugural concert in february 2012 - a concert which featured microtonal guitar works. He is also the guitarist of Ensemble 1534 a pan-canadian ensemble based in the nations capital with which he recently performed Boulez's Le marteau sans maïtre. Having recently developed a taste for music that is played loud, he is also the co-founder and lead guitarist of Caverns, a psychedelic punk quartet with whom he performs regularly. Jonathan is the recipient of such prizes as The Conervatory's concerto competition, The Drummondville guitar competition. The CBC Radio-Canada prize for young musicians and the Montreal International Guitar Competition where he was a finalist.

#### Adam Cicchillitti - Classical guitar



There were several media accolades in 2017 for Montreal-born guitarist Adam Cicchillitti. The renowned American magazine Classical Guitar called him "a superb Canadian guitarist" and CBC Music included him on its list of Canada's top thirty most promising young musicians in classical music, describing him as an "ardent ambassador for classical guitar." His debut album Canciones, which was financed by the Canada Council for the Arts and MusicAction.

was released in early 2018 under the Analekta label. The CBC music flagship classical music program In Concert mentioned that «every note stands out, like the brilliant distinct colours of a masterpiece by Pablo Picasso» when describing Adam's debut album.

#### Simon Auger - Classical guitar



Simon Auger is a young artist full of energy short music with dance at the age of 5 years. In 1999, he won the competition Strings and Piano at Trois-Rivières. At the end of his college studies in music at the Cégep de Trois-Rivières, he won first prize with a composition of classical guitar, "Magma" and the third with

another guitar composition and voice, "To Lose" in the competition Cégep en Spectacle. In 2006, he won the third prize at the Montreal Guitar Show. He played in all Forestare since 2002. Recipient of the Award for Excellence in Performance at UQAM, Simon is a guitarist of international standard. He completed his Masters Degree in Performance in April 2009 during which he worked with Alvaro Pierri, guitarist and teacher of international renown.

## Renaud Côté-Giguère - Classical guitar



A guitarist and composer from Montreal, Renaud Côté-Giguère has performed in numerous venues and festivals throughout Canada and the United States. Among them, the Festival Classica (2016, Saint-Lambert), the Toronto Guitarfest (2015, Toronto) the Segovia Classical Guitar Series (2014, Evanston), the

millennium stage of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (2013, Washington) and the Switchboard Music Festival (2012, San Francisco). In the last two years, he recorded three albums with his chamber groups: the Canadian Guitar Quartet (Atma Classique), Forestare (2xHD) and the Acero Trio (self-produced).

Renaud began his studies at the Conservatory of Montreal at the age of 16 where he completed his Bachelor's Degree under the tutelage of Jean Vallières. In 2013, he was given a Master's Degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he studied with Sergio Assad and David Tanenbaum. Renaud recently graduated from the doctorate program at University of Montreal where he focused on the music of Tōru Takemitsu with his director Peter McCutecheon. il a obtenu une Maîtrise avec mention d'honneur au Conservatoire de Musique de San Francisco, où il a étudié durant deux ans avec le professeur Sergio Assad. Renaud compose également beaucoup de musique pour les différents ensembles avec lesquels il se produit à travers le monde, et plusieurs interprètes internationaux lui commande maintenant des oeuvres.

### Pierre-Alexandre Maranda - Double bass



Double bassist Pierre-Alexandre Maranda obtained a prize with great distinction in chamber music performance as well as in interpretation at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. In parallel, he has perfected his improvisational technique with René Lussier, Robert Marcel-Lepage and Lori Freedman. Distinguished by the variety of milieus in which he participates and his interest for new works, he plays contemporary music with di erent ensemble, he improvises, and he performs jazz, as well as pop and classical repertoire. Having often worked

in interdisciplinary art, he has had the occasion to take part in multiple dance, film and theatre productions.



# **BOOKING**

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