

The Joe Sullivan Big Band

Since its debut performance in 1998, the **Joe Sullivan Big Band** has become a major presence on the Canadian jazz scene. The group's growing list of accomplishments includes numerous concert appearances, radio broadcasts and three critically acclaimed CD recordings. The group has received numerous grants from the Canadian and Québec arts councils and was twice nominated for a Prix Opus. The ensemble is anchored by one of Canada's finest rhythm sections in André White (piano) Alec Walkington (bass) and Dave Laing (drums). It also features an all-star cast of Quebec's top jazz soloists, including Rémi Bolduc, André Leroux, Aron Doyle, Jocelyn Couture and the young trombone virtuoso Jean-Nicholas Trottier. The band performs from a large and varied repertoire of contemporary jazz compositions, principally by Sullivan and Jean Fréchette.

Depuis son spectacle inaugurale en 1998, le **Joe Sullivan Big Band** est devenu une force majeure sur la scène de jazz au Canada. Le groupe compte parmi ses accomplissements de nombreux concerts, émissions de radio et trois excellents disques compactes. Il a aussi reçu de nombreux distinctions, y inclus des bourses des conseils des arts canadiens et québécois et deux nominations pour le prix opus. En plus d'une superbe section rythmique, l'orchestre compte parmi ses membres plusieurs vedettes du jazz québécois, y inclus Rémi Bolduc, André Leroux, Aron Doyle, Jocelyn Couture et le jeune tromboniste virtuose Jean-Nicholas Trottier. Le répertoire du groupe comprend des pièces de jazz contemporain composés principalement par Sullivan et Jean Fréchette.

JOE SULLIVAN BIG BAND

Saxophones

Rémi Bolduc, Donny Kennedy, André Leroux, Al Mclean, Jean Fréchette

Trompettes-Trumpets

Jocelyn Couture, Jocelyn Lapointe, Aron Doyle, Dave Mossing, Joe Sullivan

Trombones

Dave Grott, Richard Gagnon, Jean-Nicholas Trottier, Bob Ellis

Section Rythmique-Rhythm Section

André White (pno), Alec Walkington (bs), Dave Laing (drs)

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Joe Sullivan Big Band

Critical Acclaim

“sans contredit l'un des meilleurs au Canada”

Serge Truffaut (Le Devoir)

“... limpide, clairement et rigoureusement exposé, chevauché par de vrais esprits du jazz. Arrangeur et compositeur de grande maturité...”

Alain Brunet (La Presse)

“it's consistently fine: these are great songs with excellent charts”

“This group is tight. The ensembles sound effortless, light and deft”

Paul Olsen (Allaboutjazz.com)

“This is a world-class big band performing top-notch material on a marvelously recorded album” *Jack Bowers (Cadence)*

“Finally, a document of one of Canada's great big bands”

Len Dobbin, Montreal Mirror

“Sullivan integrates the looseness of small group jazz with the power that only a bigger organization can generate...this is contemporary orchestral jazz of high order”

Ted O'Reilly (Whole Note Magazine)

"Always a thrill to listen to live..."

Irwin Block (Montreal Gazette)

Joe Sullivan: Biographie-Biography

Joe Sullivan est originaire de la ville de Timmins, dans le nord de l'Ontario. Il grandit dans une grande famille franco-ontarienne, où la musique faisait parti des activités quotidiennes. Sa formation musicale débuta au piano durant son enfance et, plus tard, à l'âge de quinze ans, il découvrit la trompette. Sa passion pour la musique lui mena à entreprendre divers activités musicales durant sa jeunesse: il participa à divers concours régionaux de musique classique, fut membre de divers groupes de musique populaire et composa de la musique pour des pièces de théâtre. Il reçut son Baccalauréat en trompette classique à l'Université d'Ottawa en 1981. Son désir d'explorer le monde du jazz lui mena ensuite à l'école de musique Berklee, puis au New England Conservatory of Music à Boston, où il obtint une Maîtrise en Interprétation Jazz en 1987. La même année il s'installe à Montréal. Depuis, il est actif en tant que trompettiste, compositeur, arrangeur, et chef d'orchestre. Compositeur prolifique, il dirige son sextuor et son grand ensemble. Il a six disques compactes à son nom, les plus récents étant **"Voices"** (Effendi 2010) en sextuor et **"Northern Ontario Suite"** (Perry Lake Records 2010) en grand ensemble. Il est membre du **Vic Vogel Big Band** depuis plus de vingt ans; il a été soliste avec l'**Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal** et le **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**; il a joué avec plusieurs artistes renommés y compris **Don Thompson, Lorne Lofsky, Kirk Macdonald, John Medeski, Pat Labarbera, Alain Caron, George Garzone, et Rane Lee**. Il a été récipiendaire du **Prix Socan** (1991) et du **Prix DuMaurier** (Joel Miller Group, 1997) au Festival de Jazz de Montréal, ainsi que de plusieurs subventions du Conseil des Arts du Canada et du Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec. Il enseigne présentement l'arrangement et la composition jazz, et dirige le "McGill Chamber Jazz Ensemble" à l'Université McGill, où il est un professeur agrégé.

Joe Sullivan comes from the Northern Ontario town of Timmins. He grew up in a large franco-ontarian family, where music was a part of daily life. He began his formal training on piano and later, at the age of fifteen, started playing the trumpet. During his youth, he led an active musical life that included classical piano competitions, rock bands and high school concert and stage bands. He also composed music for several theater productions. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in classical trumpet at the University of Ottawa in 1981. His interest in jazz led him to the Berklee School of Music, then to the New England Conservatory of Music, where he received a Master's degree in Jazz Studies in 1987. Since then he has lived in Montreal and has been active as a performer, composer, arranger and bandleader. A prolific composer, Sullivan directs a jazz sextet and a jazz Big Band. He has six compact discs to his name, the most recent being **"Voices"** (Effendi 2010) for sextet and **"Northern Ontario Suite"** for the Big Band. He has been a member of the **Vic Vogel Big Band** for over twenty years; has appeared as a trumpet soloist with the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**, and the **Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal**; and He has performed with numerous jazz artists of international repute, including **Don Thompson, Lorne Lofsky, Kirk Macdonald, John Medeski, Pat Labarbera, Alain Caron, George Garzone, and Rane Lee**. He has received both the **Prix Socan** (1991) and the **Prix DuMaurier** (Joel Miller Group, 1997) at the Montreal International Jazz Festival as well as several awards from the Canadian and Québec arts councils. He currently directs the McGill Chamber Jazz Ensemble and teaches jazz composition, arranging and trumpet at McGill University, where he is an associate professor.

Joe Sullivan Big Band Highlights

Repertoire: The ensemble's repertoire consists of approximately 50 original compositions and arrangements, about 40 of which are by Joe Sullivan. The remaining compositions are by Jean Fréchette, Janis Steprans, Jean-Nicolas Trottier and Al Mclean. Sullivan has also arranged the compositions of several important Canadian jazz composers, including Kirk MacDonald, Janis Steprans and Pat Labarbera.

Performance History

- **featuring Pat LaBarbera;** Concert at **Tanna Schulich Hall** in Montreal, October 29th 2010
- **featuring Lorne Lofsky;** concert at **Espace Dell'Arte** in Montreal, February 16th 2010
- **at Segal Center** in Montreal, November 15th 2009
- **featuring Don Thompson;** Concert at the Casa Luna in Montreal, November 21st, 2008, featuring Canadian jazz legend and multi-instrumentalist Don Thompson.
- **Mont Orford** summer concert series, August 31st 2008
- **featuring George Garzone;** at **Espace Dell'Arte** in Montreal, part of the concert series **Jazz en Rafale**, March 29th 2008. This concert received the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.
- at **Salle Odysée** in Gatineau, March 8th 2008, recorded for broadcast for **Espace Musique**. Live recording of the "**Northern Ontario Suite**".
- **featuring Brian O'Kane;** Concert at Mojito, Montreal, February 9th, 2008
- **featuring Jean Fréchette and Jean-Nicholas Trottier;** Concert at Mojito, Montreal, November 8th 2007.
- "**Back To School Special**" at the Mojito in Montreal, Sept 13th 2007
- "**The Northern Ontario Suite**"; at the Mojito in Montreal, April 2007
- **featuring Al Mclean, André Leroux, Aron Doyle:** Espace Dell'Arte, Montreal Feb 28th, 2007.
- **Sala Rossa**, Montreal, July 2nd 2006 **featuring the music of Chuck Dots**
- **Ottawa Jazz Festival** June 26th, 2006
- **featuring Kevin Turcotte (Toronto) and Janis Steprans (Quebec City);** Espace Dell'Arte, Montreal May 18th, 2006 (part of "Stop and Listen" concert series)
- **Joe Sullivan Big Band plays the music of Rémi Boldu,** Club Soda Montreal April 25th, 2006
- **Tanna Schulich Hall**, McGill University, Montreal, March 11th, 2006
- **featuring Kirk MacDonald and Andre Leroux;** main stage, **Montreal Intl Jazz Festival**, July 8th, 2005,
- **featuring Remi Bolduc;** **Focaccio** Montreal, May 19th, 2005
- **featuring Kirk MacDonald;** **Focaccio** Montreal, March 11th, 2005
- **featuring Andre Leroux;** **Focaccio** Montreal, Feb 5th, 2005
- **featuring Pat Labarbera;** **Focaccio** Montreal, Nov 12th, 2004
- **featuring Kirk MacDonald;** **Espace Alizé** Montreal, May 27th, 2004
- **featuring Al Kay;** **Musicfest Canada** (held at Vanier College), May 29th, 2004
- **Gesu Centre de Créativité** Montreal, Feb 11th 2004
- **at Espace Focaccio** Montreal, Dec 1st, 2003

Joe Sullivan Big Band Highlights (Continued)

- at Espace Focaccio Montreal, Nov 10th, 2003
- at Espace Focaccio Montreal, Oct 6th, 2003
- Montreal Intl Jazz Festival, July 2003
- Pollack Hall, Mcgill University, Feb 5th, 2003
- Off Jazz Festival, July 6th, 2002
- Jazzfest des Jeunes du Quebec, St. Hubert, March 23rd, 2002
- Moyse Hall, Mcgill University, Dec 5th, 2001
- Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, Concordia University, March 18th, 2001

CD Recordings

- 2010 "Northern Ontario Suite" (Perry Lake Records)
- 2006 "Stop And Listen" (Effendi)
- 2004 "Joe Sullivan Big Band" (Effendi)

Grants

- **Canada Arts Council:** Rehearsal and Production (1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009), Sound Recording (2002, 2005, 2009), Commissioning Grants (1998, 2001, 2002, 2011)
- **Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec:** Rehearsal and Production (2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011)

Awards:

- Nomination for **Prix Opus**, best jazz concert of 2007-08 (Mont Orford, Aug 31st 2008)
- Nomination for **Prix Opus**, best jazz recording of 2005-06

Joe Sullivan Big Band Members

SAXOPHONES

Donny Kennedy

Donny, originally from Regina, has lived in Montreal since his days as a student at McGill in the mid-1990's. Donny is one of the city's best young alto players and is author of his own debut cd, "Horizons" (2004). Donny has been a member of the JSBB since 2005. He has recorded with Min Rager and has performed with Kevin Dean and Vic Vogel. His group was chosen by the Canada Council for the Arts as one of Canada's rising stars at the IAJE festival in Toronto in 2004.

Rémi Bolduc

Rémi is one of the city's most original jazz saxophonists. Since returning from New York, where he studied with and was strongly influenced by Steve Coleman, Rémi's highly personal approach to the alto sax has won him the admiration and respect of his peers. He has recorded with Jerry Bergonzi, Mark Johnson, Kirk Macdonald and Jazzlab and has performed with numerous artists including Ben Monder, Jeri Brown and . Rémi is currently teaching at McGill University.

André Leroux

André has long been recognized as one of Canada's finest jazz saxophonists. He has recorded with the Joe Sullivan Sextet, François Bourassa, James Gelfand and Vic Vogel, to name only a few. He is also in great demand as a classical saxophonist and is active on the contemporary music scene in Montreal. Current projects include "Hommage à John Coltrane", his first CD as a leader, and a new recording with the Joe Sullivan 6tet. André currently resides in St Donat.

Al McLean

Since arriving in Montreal as a student in the early 1990's, Al has established himself in the top tier of Canadian saxophonists. His solos are consistently outstanding and he has pushed the veterans in the band to new heights. This fine young artist is clear evidence that jazz is alive and well here. He has CD with Brian Hurley and has recorded with Josh Rager and the JSBB. Al currently resides in Chateauguay Qc.

Jean Frechette

Best known as the saxophonist and arranger for La Bottine Souriante, Jean is Montreal's first call on baritone saxophone. He is a long-time member of both the Vic Vogel Big Band and the Joe Sullivan Sextet. Frechette is also a respected big band composer and arranger whose music has been recorded by Vic Vogel, Denny Christianson and this ensemble.

TRUMPETS

Jocelyn Couture

Jocelyn is one of those lead players that makes other trumpeters shake their heads in disbelief. Not only does he possess tremendous power and range, but he swings, too! He has played lead for Vic Vogel, Maria Schneider, the Maritime Jazz Big Band, Kenny Wheeler, Michel Legrand, Bobby Vinton, Lou Rawls and others. He also directs the stage band and teaches trumpet at Vanier College.

Jocelyn Lapointe

Jocelyn has been a successful free-lance lead trumpeter in Montreal for over twenty years. He is a long-time member of La Bottine Souriante and has played lead trumpet for Robert Charlebois, Vic Vogel, Denny Christiansen and numerous other ensembles and visiting artists over the years. He currently teaches at Cegep Joliette and resides in Montreal.

Dave Mossing

Originally from Regina, Dave is one of Montreal's finest contemporary jazz soloists. He has performed with Oliver Jones, Raneé Lee, Karen Young, and Vic Vogel, to name a few. He has recorded numerous CD's and radio shows as a sideman. He has released one CD with the '*Dave Mossing Quintet*' which has performed at various venues around Montreal.

Aron Doyle

Aron is one of Montreal's busiest sidemen and finest jazz soloists. Originally from British Columbia, he has impressed Montreal jazz fans and his fellow musicians with his warm tone and musical sense of phrasing. He has appeared with Kenny Wheeler, Ray Anderson, Maria Schneider, Altsys, Dave Turner, Joel Miller, Jazzlab and many others. Aron is also a member of the No Name Jazz Sextet.

TROMBONES

Dave Grott

Over the years, Dave has established himself as one of Montreal's finest trombonists. Best known for his work as lead player for Vic Vogel, he is one of our busiest free-lancers, and has toured extensively, notably with the musicals "Chicago" and "Forever Swing".

Jean-Nicholas Trottier

Jean-Nicholas is a young trombone virtuoso who has already made his mark in Montreal. He is a prolific jazz composer, leader of his own big band and is a first-rate jazz soloist. He currently teaches at Université de Montreal and resides in Longueuil.

Richard Gagnon

Richard is a self-taught jazz trombonist who has been on the scene for many years as a member of the Vic Vogel band and as leader of his own quintet, which has released two CDs. Richard also founded the group "Trombones Action", a five trombone ensemble with two CDs to its credit. He is a member of Jazzlab and has performed with numerous ensembles including "La Bottine Souriante"

Bob Ellis (bass trombone)

Bob is best known as a long-time member of both the Vic Vogel band and "La Bottine Souriante". Along with his ability to power the bottom of a big band, Bob is capable of playing with classical delicacy, as evidenced by his work as a member of Les Grands Ballets and l'Orchestre Symphonique de Trois-Rivière. He teaches at the Conservatoire de Trois-Rivière and at Cegep Joliette.

RHYTHM SECTION

André White (piano)

André is one of Montreal's most versatile and universally respected musicians. His skill as a pianist is equalled only by his skill as a drummer, and he is in great demand on both instruments. André is also a jazz historian and sound engineer; in short, he's a regular jazz renaissance man! His long list of accomplishments include appearances with Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Carter, Pepper Adams, Barry Harris and Kevin Dean. He has several cd recordings under his own name: with Ben Monder, Kirk Macdonald, Janis Steprans, Joe Sullivan and as leader of his own trio. André is also a professor at McGill University.

Alec Walkington (bass)

Alec is one of Montreal's most respected bassists, largely due to his great time feel and strong improvisations. His impressive CV includes appearances with Joe Henderson, Curtis Fuller, Kenny Wheeler and Jimmy Heath, to name only a few. He is currently a member of the Kevin Dean Quintet. Alec also teaches at McGill University.

Dave Laing (drums)

Dave Laing is one of Canada's very finest jazz drummers. He has long been just about every band leader's first choice here in Montreal, and deservedly so. He is perhaps best known for his work with the Kevin Dean Quintet, with which group he appears on a regular basis. He is also a member of the Joe Sullivan Sextet and the André White Trio.