

The Joe Sullivan Big Band



The **Joe Sullivan Big Band** was established in the 1990's by band leader, trumpeter and composer Joe Sullivan and gave its première performance at the Oscar Peterson Hall in Montreal in 1998. Since then, it has become a major presence on the Canadian jazz scene. The group has given well over fifty concerts at major venues, principally in the Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec City areas. They include prestigious performances at major festivals (Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Quebec City, L'Off Jazz, Mt Tremblant etc.) and at venues such as the Lion D'Or, Tanna Schulich Hall, the Oscar Peterson Hall, Pollack Hall, the Segal Centre, Salle Odysée (Gatineau) and Chateau Frontenac (Quebec City). Recordings include various radio broadcasts and four critically acclaimed albums. The most recent, ***Unfamiliar Surroundings*** was singled out by renowned jazz critic Peter Hum as the best Canadian jazz album of 2016. The group's repertoire consists of over 100 original compositions and arrangements, written principally by the leader Joe Sullivan, but also featuring several outstanding pieces by Jean Fréchette. The ensemble has also been the recipient of numerous grants over the years, including grants for the production of concerts and recordings and the commissioning of new works from the Canada Arts Council, the Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec and Musicaction.

JOE SULLIVAN BIG BAND

Saxophones

Janis Steprans, David Bellemare, 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, Jean-Sébastien Vachon

Section Rhythmique-Rhythm Section

Josh Rager (pno), Alec Walkington (bs), Rich Irwin (drs)

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website: joesullivan.ca

FB : <https://www.facebook.com/Joe-Sullivan-Big-Band-9768843741/>

CD Recordings

- ***Unfamiliar Surroundings*** (Perry Lake/Effendi, 2016)
- ***Northern Ontario Suite*** (Perry Lake Records, 2010)
- ***Stop And Listen*** (Effendi, 2006)
- ***Joe Sullivan Big Band*** (Effendi, 2004)

Critical Acclaim

- "...brimming with Sullivan's original composing voice and consummate craftsmanship...." *Peter Hum (Ottawa Citizen)*
- "Sullivan is a modern big band composer / arranger in the best sense of the phrase, writing music that is at ease in the twenty-first century as it carries on the time-honored jazz traditions of creative improvisation and emphatic swing." *Jack Bowers (allaboutjazz.com)*
- "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)*
- "...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, Toronto)*
- "Always a thrill to listen to live..." *Irwin Block (Montreal Gazette)*

Joe Sullivan - Biography



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 at the age of fifteen, started playing the trumpet. 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 the Montreal area and has been active as a performer, composer, arranger and bandleader. A prolific composer, Sullivan directs a jazz sextet and a jazz Big Band and has nine compact discs as a leader. He has played with an impressive list of renowned artists, including Slide Hampton, Pat Labarbera, Dave Liebman, Kirk MacDonald, John Medeski, François Bourassa, Lorne Lofsky, Alain Caron and many others. He currently directs the McGill Jazz Orchestra 1 and teaches jazz composition, arranging and trumpet at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, where he is an associate professor.