



Saturday, October 21, 2023, 8pm

Sunday, October 22, 2023, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall

The Triplets of Belleville A Cine-Concert

Benoît Charest, *composer and conductor*

Featuring
The Triplets of Belleville
a film by Sylvain Chomet

Conducted by the composer Benoît Charest
with

Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville

Dan Thouin, *keyboard and accordion*

Alain Bastien, *drums*

Michael Emeneau, *percussion and electric vibraphone*

Bruno Lamarche, *saxophone, clarinet, and flute*

Maxime St-Pierre, *trumpet*

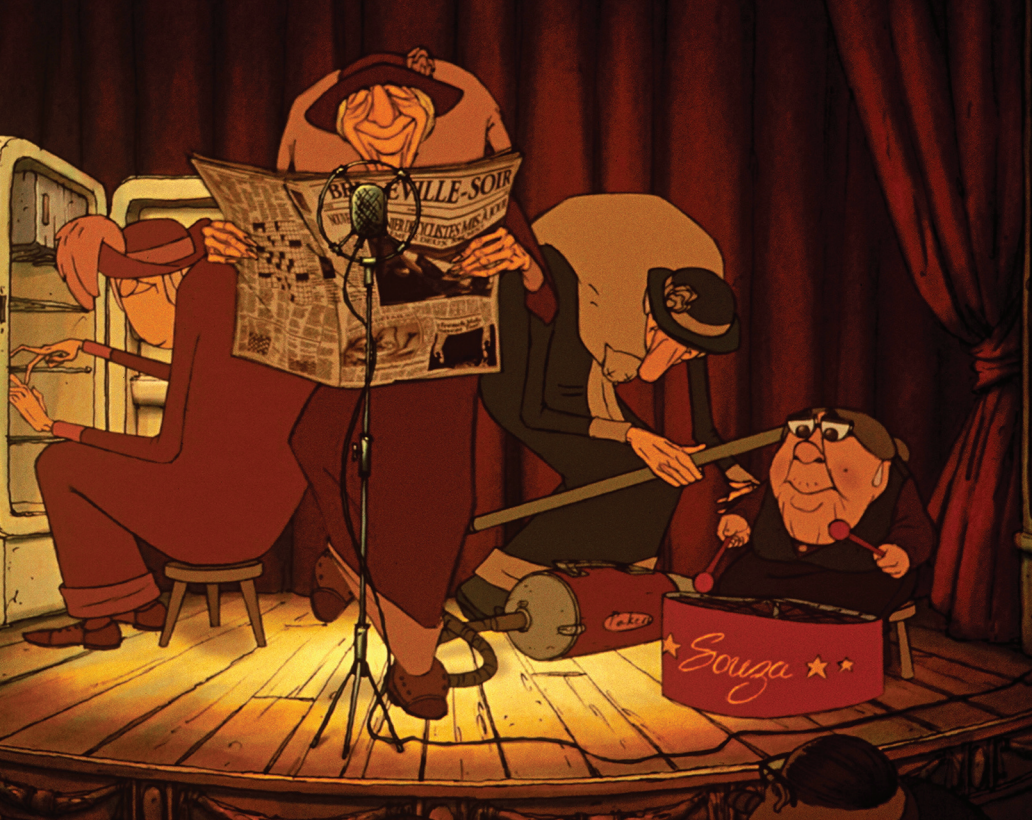
Edouard Touchette, *trombone*

Morgan Moore, *double bass and bass*

Paget Williams, *tour manager*

Guillaume Briand, *sound and technical director*

*This program will be performed without intermission
and last approximately 80 minutes.*



The Film

It has been 20 years since the release of the Franco-Quebécois animated movie *The Triplets of Belleville*. Many still fondly recall their first encounter with the film—its initial resounding success and its incredible soundtrack—which was acclaimed internationally and honored with two Academy Award nominations (Best Animated Feature and Best Song), the Canadian Genie Award (Best Motion Picture), and the French César (Best Film Music).

At this weekend's special screenings of the film at Zellerbach Hall, composer/conductor Benoît Charest leads the members of Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville in a live performance of his original score, including his Oscar-nominated song "Belleville Rendez-vous." In the spirit of the film, the artists promise to transport the audience back to the time of 1930s Paris and Le Jazz Hot.

The musical ensemble is made up of eight musicians playing a variety of instruments, blending live music and cinema, and entrancing audiences with their colorful Parisian-period cabaret music.

The Story

Adopted by his near-sighted grandmother, Madame Souza, Champion is a lonely little boy. Noticing that the lad is never happier than when he is on a bicycle, Madame Souza puts him through a rigorous training program. 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, during the contest, two mysterious, square-shouldered henchmen in black kidnap Champion. 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 encounter 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 the 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 defeating the devilish plans of the evil French mafia?

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sylvain Chomet, *director*

Sylvain Chomet was born in 1963 in Maisson-Lafitte, France. In 1982, he graduated from high school specializing in art and in 1987, he received a diploma from the prestigious comic-strip studio at Angoulême. 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 the UK to work as an animator at Richard Purdum's studio, in September 1988 he established a London-based freelance practice working on commercials for clients such as Swissair, Principality, Swinton, and Renault.

In 1991, Chomet started work on his first animated film project, *The Old Lady and the Pigeons*, with backgrounds designed by de Crécy. In 1992, he wrote the script for a comic called *The Bridge in Mud* (Glénat), a science fiction and historical saga. The following year, he wrote the story for *Léon-la-Came*, drawn by de Crécy and serialized in *À Suivre* magazine. The book version was published by Casterman in 1995, going on to win 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*. This film won the Cartoon d'Or prize, the

Grand Prize at the Annecy Festival, a BAFTA, and the Audience Prize and Jury Prize at the Angers Premiers Plans Festival. It also received nominations for both the French César and the Academy Award.

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

The Triplets of Belleville (2003) was Chomet's first feature-length animated film, immediately becoming an international sensation.

Benoît Charest, *composer, chief musician, and guitars*

Benoît Charest, the Oscar-nominated composer from Montreal, has written more than 30 film scores. He studied at McGill and Montreal universities before learning his trade as a musician touring as a sideman with various bands. A versatile composer and accomplished jazz guitarist who regularly performs with some of Montreal's finest musicians, Charest wrote his first score in 1992 for a National Film Board of Canada documentary.

Charest's music for *The Triplets of Belleville* won the French César Award for Best Film Music, the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award for Best Music, the Golden Star of the French Cinema Press for Achievement in Music, and the Félix Award for Achievement in Music.

MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRA

Dan Thouin (*keyboard and accordion*) first began playing his family organ at the age of seven; 10 years later he was studying classical piano. Soon afterwards, he began flirting with jazz music, electronica, and pop music, collaborating with the likes of Mara Tremblay, Yann Perreau, and Marie-Jo Thériou, 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 1960s musical experiments, Thouin used the band to flex his improvisational muscles.

Alain Bastien (*drums*) was born in Shawinigan (Canada). Although self-taught from the age of 15, he pursued musical studies at the University of Montreal, where he earned his BA in jazz performance. For the last 20 years, he has been working in different musical contexts, ranging from R&B and funk to Latin and popular music. Bastien has played in jazz festivals all around the US, Canada, France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Greece, Switzerland, Mexico, and China. Over the years, he has collaborated with a host of artists including Benoît Charest, Jean Beaudet, Yves Léveillé, Yannick Rieu, Têrez Montcalm, Carl Naud, and Abraham Barrera.

Michael Emeneau (*percussion and electric vibraphone*) has worked professionally as a vibraphonist, producer, re-mixer, and arranger for 25 years, working in such diverse genres as jazz, rock, drum & bass, salsa, techno, country, Hindustani, gospel, Baroque, and orchestral music. He has produced 16 albums, recorded on another 150, composed music for eight films, toured internationally, and lived on three continents.

Emeneau has released a series of highly acclaimed solo recordings on the boutique recording labels Hearts of Space, Daikini, and Six Degrees Records. Currently, he is a member of both Benoît Charest's Orchestre Terrible de Belleville and Tur Malka, featuring Canadian jazz vocal legend Karen Young.

Bruno Lamarche (*saxophone, clarinet, and flute*) has been working in Canada and Europe for more than 20 years. He has had the honor of performing 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. Lamarche's wide-ranging career has seen him perform with Altsys, Dixieband, ONJM, and Jazzlab. A recognized arranger, he earned a bachelor's degree in jazz performance at McGill University, where he also received the Marion Magor Memorial Scholarship and the James McGill Award.

Maxime St-Pierre (*trumpet*) is acclaimed for his work with a number of artists and music bands including Cegep St-Laurent, Montreal University, Vic Vogel, Dems Christianson, and the Montreal Jazz Big Band. He has also worked with many popular singers and ensembles, among them Jean Jean-Pierre Ferland, Daniel Belanger, Jean Leloup, Michel Legrand, Yannick Rieu, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Michel Cusson Wild Unit, Eva! Manigat, La Bande à Magoo, and Kappa.

Edouard Touchette (*trombone*), from Freighsburg, Canada, 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 24, he is already making his way in Montreal as a freelance trombonist.

Morgan Moore (*double bass and bass*) has won a Juno Award for his work on Ranee Lee's *Live at Upstairs* and has performed with such notables as Sophie Milman, Oliver Jones, Nikki Yanofsky, Rob Lutes, Kaba Horo, John Day, Benoît Charest, James Gelfand, and Marianne Trudel. As one of Montreal's first-call bassists, he has also enjoyed the opportunity to play with international artists including Mark Murphy, Phil Dwyer, Jimmy Cobb, Nate Smith, and Sheila Jordan.



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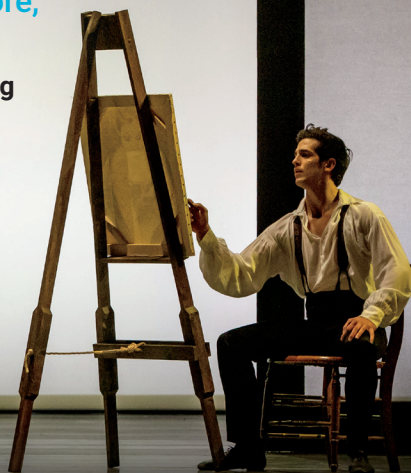
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THE JOFFREY BALLET
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Paget Williams (*tour manager*) is a native of Montreal and has worked in the music business since the mid 1980s. He has been a tour manager for artists such as Manu Chao, Amadou and Mariam, Bebel Gilberto, Marilyn Manson, NOFX, Martha Wainwright, Carla Bruni, The Herbaliser, and Jain. He also does production, production management, and stage management work for Osheaga Montreal, Owls Head Festival, World Ski, and Festival Whistler.

Guillaume Briand (*sound and technical director*) 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. On tour with the extreme heavy metal group Unexpect, out of Montreal, Briand has performed his sonic magic in stadiums throughout Europe. He also works as a technical director for various touring shows, especially the poetic musicalizations of Queen Ka and the *Triplets of Belleville* cine-concert.

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 to produce a range of original and ambitious work aimed at family audiences and young adults.

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***The Triplets of Belleville*
is a film by Sylvain Chomet**

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