

ALEX BELLEGARDE

Bassist



A prominent artist on the Quebec scene, Alex Bellegarde is a versatile and energetic player with a broad imagination. Constantly finding new types of projects with which to extend his jazz vocabulary, he collaborates with a wide range of musicians, poets, actors and visual artists and creates music drawn from a wealth of sources.

His compositions, along with a great performance by his quartet, won the coveted *GM Grand Jazz Award at the 26th edition of the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal*. His CD *Caminando* (Justin Time Records) received excellent press reviews and is one of *Coda Jazz Magazine's* top 10 picks for 2006.

A busy musician on Montreal's effervescent jazz scene, he heads a weekly jam session and plays Latin bass with many Montreal-based Cuban musicians such as Yoël Diaz, Jesus 'El Nino' Alejandro and Acéré, as well as legendary guest artists on visit from Cuba and the US, such as vocalist Chiquitin and percussionist Candido Camero with whom he played at the 2006 Canadian National Jazz Awards.

Multidisciplinary events include: *Émergence Énergie* (dance, poetry, painting, music), *Espace Olibrius*, *Jazzamérique* (multimedia), *Exit Sur Scène* (10 years of poetry in Quebec), *MRJ* (Bravo film). Plays in Montreal: *Cornemuse* by Larry Tremblay, *Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui*, *Marc Delaruelle's La Tête Dans Les Nuages*, *Salle Fred Barry* and *Hamlet Machine* by Heiner Müller, *Cinquième Salle*, *Place des Arts...* to name a few !

Throughout high school in Québec's Eastern townships, he played with the award winning Ensemble Davignon and Massey Vanier Band. Influenced greatly by bassist, the late **Skip Bey**, he has gone on to play in many special events such as the *Musicians' Solidarity Show*, *Évidemment Jazz* and *L'Off Festival de Jazz*, all highly representative of the Montreal jazz scene, as well as in clubs and festivals in Canada and the US.

- ♦ *Guest performance at the National Jazz Awards, April 8th 2008, Toronto*
- ♦ *Guest performance at the Governor General's Arts Awards Gala, March 28th 2008, Ottawa*
- ♦ *Nomination for the Prix OPUS 2008 for best performance in the Jazz and World Music Category...*

François Richard's Spontaneous Creation Module : Claude Lamothe, Michel Dubeau, Pierre Tanguay, Alex Bellegarde

DISCOGRAPHIE: *Montreal meets New York* / Neal Haiduck & Alex Bellegarde (2007 Blackwood Productions) *Caminando* / Alex Bellegarde Quartet (2006 Justin Time Records) *Alex Bellegarde Quartet 'Live'* (2003 Chien Noir Productions) *One Fine Saturday* / Alex Bellegarde (2002 VV Records) *Montréal Jazz & Blues Plus* (2001 VV Records) *À Chacun son Tour* / Alex Bellegarde Quartet (2000 Independent).

Collaborations: *Django in Montreal* / Maanouche Swing (2008 Independent). *Empreintes* / Eval Manigat (2007 Tchaka Productions). *Nature Boy* / Denis Chang (2006 Hot Club Records). *Souvenirs* / Trigo - Campion (2006 Hot Club Records). *Viva la Musica Cubana* / Yoël Diaz (Fleur de Lys Productions 2006). *Yoël Diaz Y Su Team Timba* (2006 M&M001). *Cherokee* / Alex Gordon - Ginny B (2006 Independent). *Yoël Diaz and his Latin Band* (2005 House of Jazz). *How can you hug a fish* / Vivienne Dean (2005 Independent). *Lucky Lex & the Adventure* (2005 Independent). *Fragments* / Marlène Continente (2005 Solar productions). *Live à l'OFF Festival de Jazz de Montréal* / Abel Hassing Quintette (2003 Independent)

Music for film and theatre: For the feature film *Swinging couples* by Simon Boisvert 2006 *Timba Tune*: Alex Bellegarde (*Caminando*, Justin Time Records 2006) *One fine saturday* Alex Bellegarde (One Fine Saturday VVRecords, 2002).

For the documentary film *Urbaine & Ordinaire* by Maxime Rousseau and Alexandre Bertrand. 2004 *The Way*: Alex Bellegarde (Alex Bellegarde, One Fine Saturday, VVRecords, 2002).

For the play *Cornemuse* by Larry Tremblay 2003 *Tango Cornemuse*: Alex Bellegarde/ Philippe Brault, 2003.

Some festivals and events: Concert for the Governor General Michaëlle Jean, La Citadelle, Québec - Festival International de Jazz de Montréal - L'OFF Festival de Jazz de Montréal - Rimouski Festijazz International, Qc - National Jazz Awards Toronto - Sunfest, London, On - Kingston Jazz Festival, On - Sutton Jazz Festival - Jazz all year around FIJM, Spectrum Mtl - Jazz Vespers Manhattan NYC, USA - Eddie Palmieri & Team Timba, Medley, Mtl - Rythmes of the World Festival, Montréal - Les Francofolies de Montréal - Neal Haiduck, Enrique Medina and El Rico Son, Harlem NY, USA - La Charanga Habanera from Cuba, Medley, Mtl - Vic Vogel Octet, Salle Pierre Mercure, Mtl - Distillery Jazz Festival, Toronto - Fiesta del Sol, London, On - Festival des Nuits d'Afrique, Mtl - FIJM Les Nuits de Montréal - Les Francofolies de Montréal - Les Folles Nuits de Jazz au Centre d'Histoire de Montréal - Soirée de la Solidarité musicale, Mtl - International Music Day, Mtl - Salon de la Musique de Montréal - Évidemment Jazz, Mtl - TrioFF Générations Jazz, Mtl - Fringe Festival de Montréal - Multimedia X NYC, ÉU - Fiesta del Sol à London, ON - Festival Latino-Américain de Montréal - Festival Cubain de St Sauveur, QC - Festival Voix d'Amériques, Mtl - Coup de Cœur Francophone, Mtl - Les Francouvertes - Festival de la Francophonie, Ottawa, ON - International Swing Dance Festival, QC - Festival International de la Chanson de Granby, QC - Festival Zoopalooza, QC - Festival des Musiciens, QC as well as performances for Radio Canada, CIBL 101.5, Global and Bravo TV..... to name just a few.