



**MONTCLAIR**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Wiley Hausam, Director

Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts

**PEAK Performances** presents



# *The Triplets of Belleville*

**A Cine-Concert**

Benoît Charest, Composer-Conductor

**Thu., November 16, 2023, 7:30 pm**

**Alexander Kasser Theater**

Featuring

***The Triplets of Belleville***

a film by **Sylvain Chomet**

and conducted by the composer **Benoît Charest**

**Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville**

**Dan Thouin**, Keyboard & Accordion

**Bryan Head**, Drums

**Michael Emeneau**, Percussions, Electric Vibraphone

**Bruno Lamarche**, Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute

**Maxime St-Pierre**, Trumpet

**Edouard Touchette**, Trombone

**Morgan Moore**, Double Bass, Bass

Tour Manager **Paget Williams**

Sound and Technical Director **Guillaume Briand**

**Running Time: 90 minutes, no intermission.**

# About the Film

It has been more than a decade since the release of the Franco-Quebécois animated movie *The Triplets of Belleville*. Many still remember this film, its resounding success, and incredible soundtrack, which was acclaimed many times at the Oscars, the Genie Awards, and the French César.

This much beloved animated film is screened as composer Benoît Charest leads Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville in the live performance of his original score for the film, including his Academy Award–nominated best song “Belleville Rendez-vous.” In the spirit of the film, Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville immediately transports audiences to the exciting streets of 1920s Paris and Le Jazz Hot.

The musical ensemble is made up of eight musicians with wacky instruments, reminiscent of 1930s France. The terrific Belleville Orchestra blends live music and cinema, enticing audiences into their colorful Parisian period cabaret.

# The Story

Adopted by his near-sighted grandmother, Madame Souza, Champion is a lonely little boy. Noticing that the lad is never happier than on a bicycle, Madame Souza puts him through a rigorous training process. 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 this cycling 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 a trio of eccentric jazz-era divas, the renowned Triplets of Belleville, live. 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 beating the devilish plans of the evil French mafia?

# About the Artists

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

In 1991, Chomet started work on his first animated film project, *The Old Lady and the Pigeons*, with backgrounds designed by Nicolas de Crécy. In 1992, he wrote the script for a comic entitled *The Bridge in Mud* (Glénat), a science-fiction and historical saga now in its fourth episode. The following year, he wrote the story *Léon-la-Came*, drawn by Nicolas de Crécy and serialized in (*A SUIVRE*) magazine. The book version was published by Casterman in 1995. It won the René Goscinny Prize in January 1996.

Since 1993, Sylvain 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, the Audience Prize and the Jury Prize at the Angers Premiers Plans Festival, and received nominations for both the French César and the Oscars.

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

**Benoît Charest** (Composer/Conductor, Guitars), an Oscar nominee composer from Montreal, has written over 30 film scores, including 2004's *Triplets of Belleville*, which has earned him many awards.

Charest studied at McGill and Montreal universities before learning his trade touring as a sideman with various bands. A versatile composer and accomplished jazz guitarist regularly performing with some of Montreal's finest musicians, Charest wrote his first score in 1992 for an NFB documentary.

Charest has composed scores for several movies, including writing a tribute to B-movie car chases. He is currently composing music for several upcoming films as well as touring with the Terrible Orchestre de Belleville in a cine-concert in which an eight-piece band plays in-sync the score to the *Triplets of Belleville* movie.

## Musicians

**Dan Thouin** (Keyboard + Accordion) first sat behind the family organ at age seven. Ten years later he was studying classical piano. Soon he started flirting with the jazz scene. Then, he took an interest in electronica and pop music, collaborating with the likes of Mara Tremblay, Yann Perreau, and Marie-Jo Thério 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's late-'60s experiments, Thouin used the band to flex their improvisational muscles.

**Bryan Head** (Drums) is a Los Angeles-based drummer and percussionist. He has performed and recorded with such varying artists as Roger Hodgson of Supertramp, Foreigner, surf legend Dick Dale, Julian Lennon, Shelby Lynne, the Plimsouls, Abandoned Pools, Peter Case, and John Doe of X.

**Michael Emeneau** (Percussions, Electric Vibraphone) has worked professionally as a vibraphonist, producer, remixer, and arranger for 25 years, playing such diverse genres as jazz, rock, drum and bass, salsa, techno, country, Hindustani, gospel, Baroque, and orchestral music. During this time he has produced 16 albums, recorded on another 150, composed music for eight films, toured internationally, and lived on three continents. As a solo recording artist he has released a series of highly acclaimed solo CDs on the boutique record labels Hearts of Space, Daikini, and Six Degree's records. Currently he is member of Ben Charest's Orchestre Terrible de Belleville and Tur Malka featuring Canadian jazz vocal legend Karen Young.

**Bruno Lamarche** (Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet) is a saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist. Lamarche has been known in Canada and Europe for more than 20 years. He has had the honor of working with luminaries such as Buddha Kick, Félix Stüssi, Ray Anderson, Bernard Primeau, Joel Miller, Ben Monder, Philip Catherine, Christine Duncan, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Don Thompson, and of course, Benoît Charest. His wide-ranging career has seen him perform with Altsys, Dixieband, ONJM, and Jazzlab. A recognized arranger, Lamarche earned a bachelor of Jazz Performance at McGill University, where he also received the Marion Magor Memorial Scholarship and the James McGill Award.

**Maxime St-Pierre** (Trumpet) became a solid trumpeter as a member of many scholarly music bands, such as Cégep St-Laurent, Montreal University, Vic Vogel, Dems Christianson, and Montreal Jazz Big Band. He has also worked with many popular singers and groups, among them Jean-Pierre Ferland, Daniel Bélanger, 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 Frelighsburg, 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 as a freelance trombonist in the city.

**Morgan Moore** (Double Bass, Bass) has a Juno for his work on Raneé Lee's album *Live at Upstairs* and has performed with such notables as Sophie Milman, Oliver Jones, Nikki Yanofsky, Rob Lutes, Kaba Horo, John Day, Ben Charest, James Gelfand, and Marianne Trudel. Being one of the first-call Montreal bassists has given Moore the opportunity to play with such international artists as Mark Murphy, Phil Dwyer, Jimmy Cobb, Nate Smith, Sheila Jordan, and many others.

**Paget Williams** (Tour Manager), a native of Montreal, has worked in the music business since the mid-'80s. He has been tour manager for many artists, such as Manu Chao, Amadou and Mariam, Bebel Gilberto, Marilyn Manson, NOFX, Martha Wainwright, Carla Bruni, The Herbaliser, Jain, and many others. He also does production, production management, and stage management on many events: Osheaga Montreal, Owl's Head Festival, World Ski and Festival Whistler, etc.

**Guillaume Briand** (Sound & 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, Fofounes électriques, le Grand Bambou, Spectra, Cabaret La Tulipe, 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, he has performed his sonic magic in stadiums throughout Europe. He also performs as a technical director for touring shows, especially the poetic musicalizations of Queen Ka and cine-concert *The Triplets of Belleville*.

Exclusive Worldwide Touring Management by:

**David Lieberman/Artists Representatives**

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

Rated PG-13 by the MPAA

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**Les Armateurs** (Production company), 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.



Special thanks to the Quebec Delegation in New York for supporting this performance.

# An Invitation to Our Community

We believe that the live performing arts contribute to the building of healthier communities.


We would like to invite you to become a member of our community in any way that's comfortable for you.

Our community is diverse and inclusive: you'll find interesting folks from surrounding towns, Montclair State University students, faculty and staff, and artists and thinkers from the world at large.

If this sounds interesting to you and you'd like more information, please reach out to me.

I'll be back in touch. Thank you so much for your interest in being together in a physical space to experience the live performing arts!

Sincerely,



**Wiley Hausam**

Director, PEAK Performances

Email: [hausamw@montclair.edu](mailto:hausamw@montclair.edu)

## Upcoming Events

### DAKHABRAKHA

The Unofficial Ambassador of Ukraine to the globe!

**Global Music | Kyiv, Ukraine**

**SAT., NOVEMBER 18 @ 8:00 PM**

### CÉCILE McLORIN SALVANT

**Jazz**

**SAT., DECEMBER 16 @ 8:00 PM**

**OPERA IN CONCERT**

### **BLIND INJUSTICE**

Music by **Scott Davenport Richards**

Libretto by **David Cote**

Based on the book *Blind Injustice* by **Mark Godsey**

Musical Direction by **Ted Sperling**

Stage Direction by **Robin Guarino**

**FRI., FEBRUARY 16 @ 7:30 PM**

**SUN., FEBRUARY 18 @ 3:00 PM**

### MANDY PATINKIN IN CONCERT

**BEING ALIVE**

With Adam Ben-David on Piano

**SAT., FEBRUARY 24 @ 8:00 PM**

### KEIGWIN + COMPANY

**STAGE DOOR**

Dance | Variety

**SAT., MAY 11 @ 8:00 PM**

**SUN., MAY 12 @ 3:00 PM**

**FOR TICKETS:**

**973-655-5112 | [PEAKperfs.org](http://PEAKperfs.org)**



Programs in this season were made possible, in part, by the Alexander Kasser Theater Endowment Fund, PEAK Patrons, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

PEAK Performances develops, presents, and produces a broad range of world-class dance, film, master classes, music, opera and music theater, talks, and theater in the Alexander Kasser Theater on the campus of Montclair State University for students, faculty, staff, and the general public. We are building community through live performance. PEAK Performances is a program of the university's Arts + Cultural Programming Department





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