

Huu Bac Quintet

Skillfully combines his vietnamese and chinese heritages to north-american jazz music



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In Montreal, november 2013, Huu Bac Quach performs his first concert with his quintet skillfully combining his vietnamese and chinese heritages to North American Jazz music.

Backed by a solid team of some of the most prominent musicians on the up and coming Montreal jazz scene Huu Bac performs his compositions inspired by his numerous travels in Asia, Europe and South America. He is accompanied by Guillaume Martineau on piano, Vanessa Marcoux on violin, Sébastien Pellerin on upright bass and Etienne Mason on drums.

In concert, he charms a large public through the beauty and intensity of his musical pieces as well as through his impressive mastery of the dan bau (vietnamese monochord), the erhu (chinese fiddle), the quena (andean flute) and the jazz guitar.

The Huu Bac Quintet delivers a true dialogue between Asian, North and South American cultures in a contemporary, original and unique way!

Huu Bac Quintet

www.huubac.com

Huu Bac Quach
dan bau, erhu, quena, guitar

Guillaume Martineau
piano

Sébastien Pellerin
bass

Vanessa Marcoux
violin

Etienne Mason
drums





HUU BAC QUACH | **DAN BAU, ERHU, QUENA, GUITAR**

Arrived in Quebec from Vietnam at the age of two, Huu Bac absorbs with great enthusiasm life in his new homeland. His musical journey starts in Montreal (McGill University) with a sound foundation in jazz guitar. In 2002, he discovers the beauty of the vietnamese monochord, the Dan Bau, under the guidance of master Pham Duc Thanh. He works on traditional repertoire all the while integrating western pieces. His curiosity for ancient string instruments leads him to the Shanghai Conservatory of Music where he learns the chinese fiddle, the Erhu.

Back in Montreal in 2006, he encounters renown peruvian composer Lucho Quequezana who invites him to a musical journey in Peru with the group Sonidos Vivos. This intimate contact with afro-peruvian music and music from the Andes is a source a inspiration in his artistic itinerary. Learning to play the andean bambo flute, the Quena, Huu Bac expands his talents of performer to a new instrument.

From 2009 to 2015, he collaborates twice with the Cirque du Soleil, recording for the shows "Totem" and "Toruk". He also recorded for "Canotgraphie", a show by artistic director Robert Lepage. In 2010, he distinguishes himself as finalist for the "Montreal Arts Council Diversity Award". He is as well invited in 2011 to take part in the festival "Africa-Asia Encounters", in Paris. His work as a composer has been supported on many occasions by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Nourished by his travels and encounters, he dedicates himself to the composition and performance of a present day jazz music blending eastern and western colours. The waters of the Mekong River flows in his compositions, expressing his asian cultural heritage in the North American backdrop.

In november 2013, he founded the Huu Bac Quintet, which has since toured in Canada, USA, China, Korea, Peru and Africa as well as garnered various awards : "RIDEAU/ROSEQ Award 2014", "Entrées en Scène Loto-Québec 2015-16", "Stingray Rising Stars Award 2015", "Public Choice Award 2016" at Vitrine des Musiques Locales Métissées and finalist for the Montreal International Jazz Festival "TD Grand Jazz Award"

His first album as a composer/performer, "On the Steps of St-Paul's", was released in November 2017.



GUILLAUME MARTINEAU | PIANO

Honoured as the Revelation Radio-Canada 2015-2016 in jazz, pianist Guillaume Martineau is widely known for his versatility and creativity across many genres and musical styles. He completed his jazz studies at the Berklee College of Music in Boston in 2012 where he received the North American Scholarship and the Zambelli Award. After completing his masters degree in classical piano performance at McGill University, he won the 1st prize at the Canadian Music Competition in 2009, around the same time he had his first experience with Oliver Jones, who inspired Guillaume to transition from classical to jazz as an artist and pianist.

Today, Guillaume's achievements as a pianist and artist reflect greatly on his versatility. He was the invited soloist of six different symphony orchestras, recorded the piano parts in the feature film Louis Cyr, hosts his own weekly one-hour radio show dedicated to his own musical improvisation on CIBL Radio-Montreal, and not to forget his piano marathons lasting up to 12 hours non-stop. Throughout Guillaume's career, he has performed internationally in countries including Canada, U.S., Japan, France, Switzerland and Austria. In his first album Par 5 chemins, Guillaume expresses his imagination through his compositions in creating music best described as a Cinematic-Jazz style. His second album Piano Marin was recorded at Radio-Canada's Studio 12, which reaches the endless possibilities in Guillaume's creativity, featuring all-entirely improvised works.

Guillaume Martineau's creative style, artistry and voice as a musician and composer is greatly influenced by his mentors in both classical and jazz styles: Menahem Pressler, Anton Kuerti, Richard Raymond, Gilles Manny, JoAnn Brackeen and Laszlo Gardony, to name a few.

SÉBASTIEN PELLERIN | DOUBLE-BASS

Graduate of McGill University, Sébastien Pellerin is now well established on the Canadian music scene. Recipient of a scholarship from the Quebec Council of Arts, he studied with New York bassists Larry Grenadier and Omer Avital. Sebastien was also admitted to the Banff Jazz Workshop where he studied with Scott Colley, Donny McCaslin and Dave Douglas, to name just a few.

In recent years, Sébastien has had the chance to record and share the stage with many musicians, singers and performers. He has toured abroad with the group Color Violeta. Together, they recorded 3 albums, touring Germany, France, Bolivia, Chile, and across Canada and the United States, where they performed at Berklee University. The members of the group are also the founders of the Musicaustral Musical Camp which takes place once a year in Chile. This camp aims to teach South American rhythms to young people in this country. Sébastien Pellerin also shared the stage with Jorge Martinez with whom he has played throughout Canada and Mexico. They were the opening act for the concerts of Paco De Lucia (in Winnipeg) and Cesaria Evora (in Montreal). The bassist is also an active member of the Intakto group and the Huu Bac Quintet, with whom he has toured in the United States and Canada. In addition to working in the world of Latin music, Sébastien is very involved in jazz music. He has made his place in several jazz groups such as Jean-Nicolas Trottier Quartet, Jacques Kuba Seguin, Rachel Therrien to name just these. With those bands, Sébastien Pellerin performed in France, Italy, Belgium, Poland, Portugal and Israel. He is part of the Benjamin Deschamps group with whom he toured across Canada and Europe. The group has been acclaimed in several festivals such as: JPL Festival (best band 2019 award), Montreal International Jazz Festival (2017-2015), Rimouski Jazz Festival (best jazz band 2013 award). Together, they also recorded concerts for Radio-Canada's television and radio channel. Sébastien is an upright bass teacher at the College Marie-Victorin in Montreal.



VANESSA MARCOUX | VIOLIN

Vanessa holds a bachelor's degree in violin performance from McGill University (where she graduated with Distinction and "Outstanding Achievement in Violin"), as well as a Master's degree in violin from the University of Montreal. She also perfected her training at the prestigious Conservatoire National Supérieur de Lyon (France). She then pursued a second bachelor's degree in instrumental composition at the University of Montreal where she studied with renowned composer Ana Sokolovic. Throughout her studies as a violinist and composer, she has received numerous grants and awards, and is now performing regularly as a soloist and a chamber musician in an array of musical activities ranging from classical and contemporary music to world music, jazz and improvisation. As a soloist and improviser, she has been heard with ensembles such as the McGill Chamber Orchestra (2014) and the Metropolitan Orchestra (2016) with Karen Young and the group Magillah. She has recorded albums for numerous renowned Canadian artists, and played the solo violin part for the critically acclaimed soundtrack of Le Journal d'Anne Frank presented by the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde in 2015 (music by Jorane). She is also a member the Montreal-based award-winning ensemble Oktopus, a leading figure of Klezmer and Eastern European music in Canada. With the group she has toured worldwide in countries such as France, Germany and Belgium.

They were nominated for a Juno Award and a Canadian Folk Music Award in 2018 for its second album, Hapax. She is also active in the world of musical theatre, and has recently been featured as the solo violinist for The Hockey Sweater production, presented at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa in 2018. As a composer, her works have been performed by various ensembles such as the Quebec Symphony Orchestra, the Sherbrooke Symphony Orchestra, and the duo Fortin-Poirier, among others. She is currently working on the musical score for the movie Restless River, directed by Marie-Hélène Cousineau and based on a novel by Gabrielle Roy. Since 2016, she partners with pianist Marie-Christine Poirier to form her own project, Duo Cordelia, which features classical repertoire, traditional music as well as her own compositions. Since its creation, the duo has performed in numerous venues and garnered praise for its virtuosity and originality. She pursues an active career on all fronts and draws inspiration from many sources in order to offer performances which combine the freedom of improvisation with the complete mastery of her instrument.



ETIENNE MASON | DRUMS

Having been playing drums for more than 17 years, Etienne Mason is a drummer who's main objectives are originality, creativity and musicality. He participates actively in multiple bands, not only as a drummer but also as a producer, arranger and composer. His studies in pop music at Cegep Lionel-Groulx and Jazz music at McGill University has allowed him to be extremely versatile, playing style ranging from rock to jazz, world music and electronic music.

He has won the title of « Instrumentalist of the Year » in 2013 in the Jazz En Rafale contest for up and coming jazz bands and has participated in many different Jazz Festivals : International Jazz Festival of Montreal, Festi-Jazz Rimouski, Festi-Jazz de Tremblant ; World Music Festivals : Festival des Traditions du Monde de Sherbrooke, Hamilton World Music Festival, to name a few

He released his debut solo album in April 2016, and plans on releasing two more this year.

“The founder, Huu Bac Quach,...isn't shy to infuse North American accents, in a harmonious blend of cultures.”

Ronald Martel - La Presse - LaTribune

“Huu Bac Quach, an artist to keep an eye on.”

Yves Bernard - Le Devoir

“Huu Bac Quintet,..., blew us away with his dynamism, talent, humour and his creativity.”

Marie-Josée Boucher - Info-Culture

“The balance between jazz and asian influences reminded us of the harmony between nature’s elements...”

Alexandre Faille- La Tribune, Sherbrooke

“The show of Huu Bac Quintet is original. The ancestral asian touch brings a nice element to jazz, a more contemporary musical style. A group to discover...”

Reine Côté - Nord Info & Voix des Mille-Iles

“...a nuanced and well rounded performance...”

Anne-Frédérique Hébert-Dolbec - Journal Métro - Le Messager

“Huu Bac Quach, a musician versed in using MANY instruments... Impressive was Huu Bac's dexterity using varying instruments...”

Marlon Regis - The Huffington Post

“Huu Bac Quintet, a groupe lead by an original and audacious composer-performer,..., a musical journey where originality flirts with eclecticism...”

Éric Dumais - La Bible Urbaine

“Rich and complex harmonies leading us to a reassuring unknown territory...”

Joëlle Desjardins- Nord Info





2017 Finalist

Public Choice Award 2016



LES **ENTRÉES**
EN SCÈNE
LOTO-QUÉBEC
2015-2016



RIDEAU/ROSEQ Award 2014



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