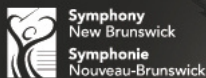


Saison

22·23

Season



Special Guests | Invités Spéciaux

Platypus Theatre

Marie-Pier Arseneau, Soprano

With | Avec

Camerata NB

Music Director | Directrice musicale

Mélanie Léonard

# How the Gimquat Found her Song

FREDERICTON  
**playHouse**

Saturday | December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Samedi | Le 17 décembre

**IMPERIAL  
THEATRE**

Sunday | December 18<sup>th</sup>  
Dimanche | Le 18 décembre

**CAPITOL**

Tuesday | December 20<sup>th</sup>  
Mardi | Le 20 décembre

# Message from the President

REID PARKER



The board of directors of both Symphony New Brunswick and Symphony New Brunswick Foundation along with our staff and musicians wish all of our patrons and donors a very happy holiday season and good health for 2023. The Symphony's concert this month "How the Gimquat Found her Song" promises to be a delight for young and old alike.

We are also eagerly anticipating our concerts next spring. Several special works never performed before by SNB will be presented; all of which should be a delight for concertgoers. Mark your calendars for our season-ending Virtuoso Series this May. This blockbuster program will be one of the highlights of the year and will include a very special commission. We cannot wait to share more details soon, Don't miss it!

Our Foundation recently filed its annual application to the Canada Cultural Investment Fund. We asked for the maximum amount for which we are eligible and hope to receive good news in March. The Foundation is the biggest annual donor to SNB and it is vital that the Foundation continues to grow. More contributions from our patrons and friends will be needed over the next twelve months so we can again apply next fall for the maximum matching grant from the federal government. We have been very gratified with your support so far this season. On Giving Tuesday alone this year, SNB and the Foundation received over \$10,000 in new contributions. However, more help will be needed. We thank you for your continued generous support of our programs.

SUPPORT SNBF TODAY

# Biography

## MÉLANIE LÉONARD

Born in Montreal, Mélanie Léonard was most recently the music director of the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra. She has also been resident conductor and associate conductor of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra.

She was invited to conduct at the Montreal International Jazz Festival and several Canadian orchestras including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre Métropolitain, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Edmonton, Regina, Calgary and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestras and Symphony Nova Scotia.

Maestra Léonard has recorded soundtracks for Aura at Montréal's Notre-Dame Basilica; Land of Fantasy, a Cirque du Soleil show presented in Hangzhou, China; and Paradise City, an immersive multimedia universe in South Korea.

Mélanie Léonard was the first woman to complete a doctorate in orchestral conducting at the University of Montreal. In 2012, she received the Jean-Marie Baudet Prize in orchestral conducting awarded by the Canada Council for the Arts.



# Platypus Theatre's

## "HOW THE GIMQUAT FOUND HER SONG"



Since 1989, almost one million young audience members have been introduced to classical music through Platypus Theatre. After more than 650 performances with more than 75 orchestras worldwide, Platypus has established itself as one of North America's premiere music education theatre companies. Original and engaging storylines are presented in an intelligent and interactive way, with music always taking the lead role. Children laugh, sing and empathize with the characters while learning musical concepts, styles, and much more. In 2006, one of Platypus' most cherished productions "How the Gimquat Found her Song" was produced for TV and went on to win several awards including Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff World Television Festival. In 1991, Platypus was the subject of a nationally broadcast documentary on CTV, followed by a PBS full-performance broadcast in 2000. During its 25th anniversary year, Platypus premiered its eighth original production, Presto, Mambo!, in partnership with four orchestras across Canada. Other Platypus Productions include Emily Saves the Orchestra, Rhythm in your Rubbish, Bach to the Future, Charlotte and the Music-Maker, Flicker of Light on a Winter's Night, and Peter and the Wolf.

# “HOW THE GIMQUAT FOUND HER SONG”

In one of Platypus Theatre’s most beloved family concerts, audiences embark on a musical expedition across continents and through centuries to help a discouraged bird discover her unique voice. Young audiences laugh, chant and sing along with the Gimquat and her wizard guide as they explore musical styles from Gregorian chant to rap. With so much wonderful music to choose from, how can she ever find the song that’s meant for her? How the Gimquat Found Her Song is a heart-warming tale about the search for identity and a celebration of music in all of its forms.

## PETER DUSCHENES, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ACTOR AND WRITER



Peter is the papa of the platypus puddle. (Did you know that a group of platypuses is called a “puddle”?) He co-founded Platypus Theatre many years ago when he was just a platy-pup and now Peter has brought his theatrical symphony concerts to nearly a million

children all over the world. He and his partner Sarah have two grown platy-pups, Magda and Theo, but they’re off at university so Sarah and Peter like to hang out in the backyard with their dog Moby and their chickens Edith, Gertie and Frannie. (But they don’t play with Moby and the chickens at the same time because that would be a disaster!)

## SAMANTHA BITONTI - ACTOR

Samantha is thrilled to be joining the Platypus team for the 2022-2023 season! Samantha calls Montréal home, and loves to spend her days playing Shakespeare with Repercussion Theatre, and cultivating creativity



as a teacher with Geordie Theatre School. Bringing something classical to the hearts and minds of young people is right up her alley! Samantha loves acting, singing in the car, her friends and family, her cat Tilly, and ice cream.

## WENDY ROCKBURN – STAGE MANAGER

Hello! Wendy grew up in Ottawa, the nation's capital, and still lives in that beautiful city. When she was a lot younger, she trained horses for a living then she worked with animators on a couple of cartoon series and stage



managed a whole bunch of plays. But now, when she's not working with loony birds, enthusiastic puppet dogs and wonderful musicians, she spends a lot of time walking real dogs and traveling around the world.

PLATYPUS THEATRE'S

# How the Gimquat Found Her Song

Written by Peter Duschenes

Stage direction and puppet design: Peter Duschenes and  
Meredyth Babcock

Originally produced by: Michael Duschenes

## **Performers:**

Gimquat: Samantha Bitonti

Magician: Peter Duschenes

Stage Manager: Wendy Rockburn

*Excerpts from the following:*

**Bizet:** Carmen Suite

**Vivaldi:** The Four Seasons (Spring - 1st Movement)

**Duschenes, Mario:** Sad Dance

**Duschenes, Mario:** Jiminy Cricket

**Duschenes, Mario:** Awakening

**Duschenes, Mario:** Gregorian Chant

**Anonymous:** Tordion

**Bach:** "Bist du bei mir"

**Berlioz:** Symphonie Fantastique – Last Movement

**Brahms:** Lullaby

**Offenbach:** French Can-can

**Duschenes, Mario:** Smokey Jazz

**Ravel:** Mother Goose Suite ("Pavane de la Belle")

**Ravel:** Mother Goose Suite ("Le Jardin Féérique")

Platypus Theatre wants to hear from you!

Leave a comment at [platypustheatre.com](http://platypustheatre.com) or follow us on  
Facebook, Twitter or YouTube

HOW THE GIMQUAT FOUND HER SONG

7

# Special Guest

## MARIE-PIER ARSENEAU SOPRANO

Marie-Pier Arseneau is a 5th year student in Music Education at l'Université de Moncton, and studies voice with Lisa Roy. In recent years, Marie-Pier has been invited to participate in musical events such as the Young Artists Series of the Barachois Musical Summer and the Jeunesses Musicales NB tour in 2020. She has also participated in advanced voice workshops such as the Académie



de l'Été musical de Barachois, Musique sur mer en Acadie, as well as the prestigious Académie du Domaine Forget in Quebec. In 2022, she won first prize in the senior voice category of the New Brunswick Provincial Music Festival and also at the National Music Festival-Federation of Canadian Music Festivals.

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## AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SNB is pleased to welcome Ukrainian families to our performance tonight. Ласкаво просимо!



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## VIOLINI

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Concertmaster  
Victor Vivas  
Timi Levy  
Hok Kwan  
Dmitry Myzrikov

## VIOLIN II

Nadia Francavilla\*  
Sara Liptay  
Ali Leonard  
Vivian Ni

## VIOLA

Christopher Buckley\*^  
Stephen Mott  
Dalia Garcia

## CELLO

Jaeyoung Chong\*  
Chris Yoon

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Andrew Reed Miller\*^

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Danièle Jones\*  
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Andrew George\*  
James Kalyn

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Yvonne Kershaw

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HOW THE GIMQUAT FOUND HER SONG

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*We're invested in the future of Symphony New Brunswick.*

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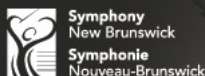
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22•23

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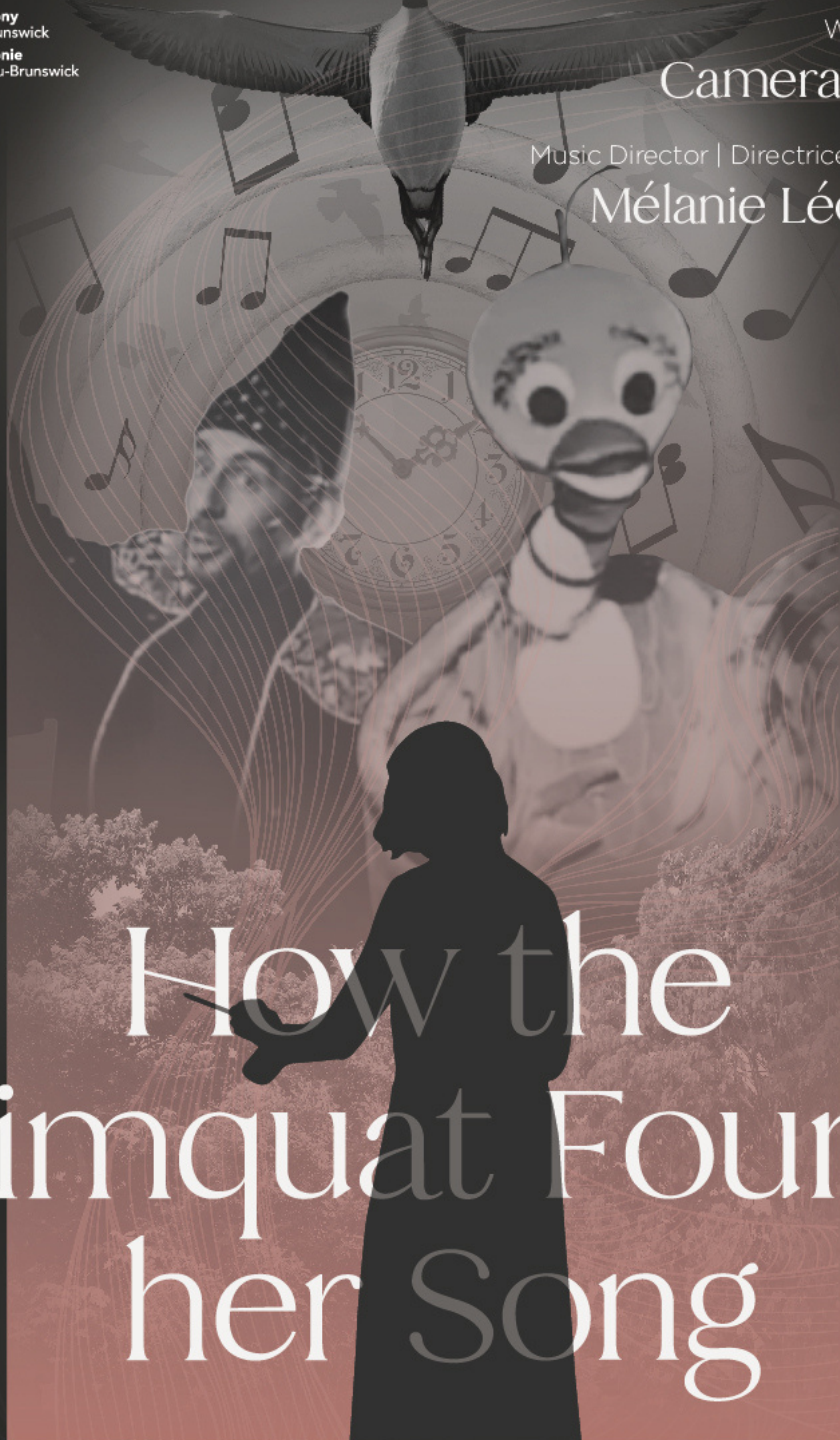
Marie-Pier Arseneau, Soprano

With | Avec

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Music Director | Directrice musicale

Mélanie Léonard



# How the Gimquat Found her Song



Saturday | December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Samedi | Le 17 décembre



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Dimanche | Le 18 décembre



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Mardi | Le 20 décembre