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22•23

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Nouveau-Brunswick

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Mélanie Léonard

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Cris Derksen & Friends
Cris Derksen et ses amis

Orchestral POWWOW



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Message from the President

REID PARKER



Symphony New Brunswick's season has come to a close and there is no better way to write finis than by this evening's performance by Cris Derkson and our orchestra. This program resonates deeply with our commitment to showcasing the artistry of Indigenous composers and performers and the role that orchestras can play in fostering appreciation for diverse perspectives and forms of expression. We are grateful for the support of our partners, especially The McCain Foundation, RBC Foundation and the Regional Development Corporation, that have helped us bring Orchestral Powwow to the people of New Brunswick.

Details of our 2023-2024 season are available on the final page of the program. An announcement will be made when the box offices open for both subscriptions and single ticket sales. So please stay tuned; watch our website and social media channels and sign up for our e-mail list so you can be the first to find out more about Maestra Léonard's wonderful season that will appeal to all.

Special thanks are owed to Mélanie and to our staff, our board of directors, and our musicians for their wonderful work this past season. I think we can agree that Symphony New Brunswick has never sounded better. We can all expect this progress to continue, so we hope to see you in the autumn.

You can sign up for our newsletter by scrolling to the bottom of our website.

NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

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.





Welcome Message

MÉLANIE LÉONARD

Cris Derksen's music and vision are powerful. In addition to Cris Derksen on cello, Orchestral Powwow involves the Chippewa Travelers, amazing artists and performers, and I am looking forward to welcoming all of them. This promises to be an exciting, meaningful and inspiring musical experience.

Melanie Leonard



CREATED BY

Cris Derksen

Originally from Northern Alberta, Cris Derksen descends from a line of North Tall Cree Reserve chiefs on her father's side, and a line of Mennonite homesteaders on her mother's. A graduate of Edmonton's Victoria School of the Arts, Cris holds a degree in cello performance from the University of British Columbia. Cris has toured widely both nationally and internationally, and is in constant demand as both composer and performer for Canadian symphonies, galleries, and musical ensembles.

Cris has appeared in both capacities in numerous film, television, stage, and choral productions. Accolades include a Juno nomination for Instrumental Album of the Year (for *Orchestral Powwow*), a Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Sound Design/Composition for Theatre, and multiple nominations and wins at the Indigenous Music Awards and Western Canadian Music Awards.

Cris Derksen has most recently been recognized for contributing music to Connie Walker's podcast "Stolen: Surviving St. Michael's", which has just been awarded both the Pulitzer Prize for audio journalism and the Peabody Award for Podcast and Radio.

FEATURING

The Chippewa Travellers



The Chippewa Travellers are an award winning Anishinaabeg family drum group originally from Chippewas of Nawash, Cape Croker rez (Neyaashingaming), Ontario but now reside in the Southern/Central area of Ontario. Jared Bigcanoe, Matthew Lavallee, Tyler Lavallee, Summer Lavallee, Mark Lavallee and Brian Sarazin are all with us here tonight. The group has 15+ members and started singing as Chippewa Travellers in 1998 and before that were known as the Nawash Jrs, in the early 1990's. Several singers were also members of the Otonabee singers back in the early 1980's.

Chippewa Travellers are primarily a Northern original style drum group that also enjoys singing contemporary and southern styles when it is appropriate. Chippewa Travellers have grown up singing within the Powwow (Helushka) society, with several teachers who have been instrumental in guiding the group in proper drum & powwow etiquette. The Group is part of Cris Derksen's Orchestral Powwow Project, with performances at major festivals and theatres across Canada including, Vancouver, Vancouver Island, Yellowknife, Regina, Calgary, Ottawa, Toronto and Halifax. Chippewa Travellers have won Best Powwow Traditional Album at the Indigenous Music Awards 2019, two

Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards as well as the 2010 online Drum Contest; Powwow Idol. Chippewa Travellers have been nominated for Best Traditional Drum Group and Best Album Cover in the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Awards, 2010 & 2012.



FEATURING

Rebecca Benson

Rebecca Benson is a Tuscaroran and Scottish Two Spirit Iroqueer who lives between Tkaronto in Dish With One Spoon Territory and Ottawa on Unceded Algonquin Territory. They wear many different hats as a singer, writer, labor organizer and partner. Rebecca proudly works for CUPE National.

As a performer Rebecca is a classically trained singer with a fierce love of pop music, who began hand drumming a decade ago. They now blend these musical traditions in a number of musical projects, including the Cris Derksen Quartet, several projects with the Luminato Festival, and the Queer Songbook Orchestra. Rebecca has performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Regina Symphony Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Folk on the Rocks, and at the Sydney Opera House. Rebecca is a Mohawk language learner, who loves to share stories and perspectives from her communities.

About Orchestral Powwow

Orchestral Powwow is a Juno-nominated collection of songs that weaves together traditional Powwow beats and symphonic sounds, created by world-famous Cree musician Cris Derksen. This brand-new musical genre features Cris Derksen on solo cello, together with traditional Indigenous Drum Circle, singers, and hoop dancer live in concert with SNB. The fusion of Indigenous and Classical traditions results in an eclectic and crowd-pleasing concert experience.

Program

All selections by Cris Derksen, unless noted

Parkdale

Crow Hop

Solo featuring the Chippewa Travellers

Mozart's Ghost

Overture to "The Spider Being"

Buffalo Girls

WarCry

Love is A BattleField

Intertribal Happy Feet

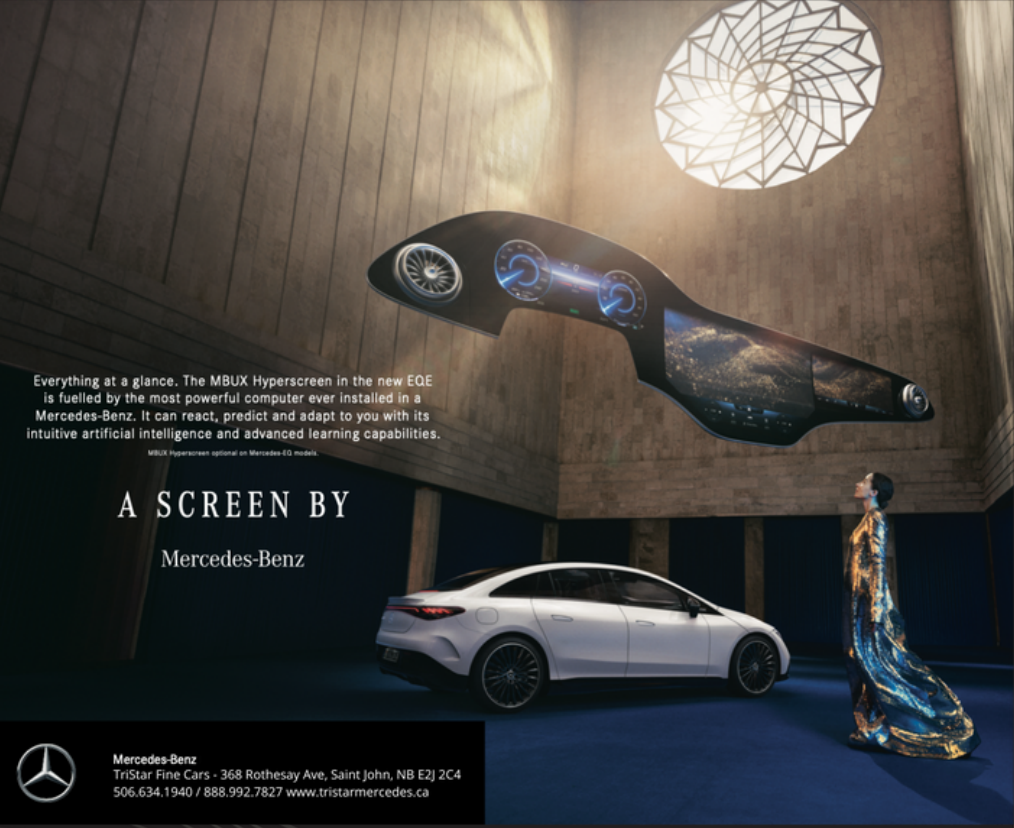
Powwow Rhapsody

Round Dance

New Heya

Symphony New Brunswick acknowledges that our performances take place on the traditional territory of the Wabanaki peoples. In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, we are committed to dialogue and artistic collaboration that enhances the experience of all our audiences.


Unauthorized recording or photographing of the Orchestra is prohibited.



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The St. Mary's Band and Bruce Holder Jr. Memorial Chair

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AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thank you to the McCain Foundation, RBC Foundation, and the Regional Development Corporation for helping SNB bring Orchestral Powwow to the people of New Brunswick.

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