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Joel Miller



## Symphonic Jazz Jazz symphonique



Mélanie  
Léonard

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March 4, 5 and 7, 2024

# Message from the President

REID PARKER



Welcome back everyone after what seems like a long mid-winter break. This week, we feature the fabulous Joel Miller, brother of SNB's Principal Bass and son of Michael Miller, one of New Brunswick's best-known composers. Jazz and classical music have often come together in a fusion of two great musical art forms in a large number of wonderful twentieth century compositions. Joel, Mélanie and their colleagues will provide you with a wonderful sampling of different aspects of jazz in this week's concerts. I'm sure we are all in for a treat.

Change is becoming a normal part of life in the music world and Symphony New Brunswick's experience is no different. We are pleased to announce the appointment of Nadia Francavilla as SNB's Principal Second Violin, a position she will also hold in the Saint John String Quartet. Nadia has admirably filled this position on an acting basis for the past season. Welcome, Nadia!

It would be unlike me not to address financial matters in these remarks. The fiscal year 2022-2023 presented financial challenges for SNB, and we have implemented measures to avoid a repeat. Your assistance is crucial this year to stabilize our financial standing and enhance our working capital. Contributions of any size are greatly appreciated, and Gillian Gresh, SNB's Director of Donor Relations, will ensure proper recognition for all donations. As always, I am open to discussing the Symphony with anyone who may have questions. Thank you for your continued commitment to Symphony NB and the SNB Foundation.

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# Biography

## MÉLANIE LÉONARD

Born in Montreal, Mélanie Léonard is music director of Symphony New Brunswick and the Assistant Professor of instrumental conducting (contemporary music) at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. She was previously resident and associate conductor at the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director at the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra.

As a guest conductor, she has worked with many institutions including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Les Violons du Roy, Orchestre Métropolitain, the National Arts Center Orchestra, as well as symphony orchestras in Edmonton, Regina, Victoria, Winnipeg, Québec and Nova Scotia.

Ms. Léonard has worked on soundtracks for Aura at the Montreal Notre-Dame Basilica, Paradise City in South Korea, and for Cirque du Soleil's Land of Fantasy. Melanie has founded three contemporary music ensembles: Prima Ensemble, Wild West New Music Ensemble and the Calgary New Music Festival. In 2023-2024, Ms. Léonard will conduct Orchestre Métropolitain and the Saskatoon Symphony. She will also be making her début with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Léonard was the first woman to complete a doctorate in orchestra conducting from University of Montreal. In 2012, she received the Canada Art Council's Jean-Marie Beaudet award for orchestral conducting.







# Welcome Message

MÉLANIE LÉONARD

Juno nominated saxophonist Joel Miller joins the orchestra tonight with his trio in this exciting program featuring original compositions specially orchestrated for Symphony NB.

I eagerly anticipate this distinctive musical experience in your company. My first professional symphonic concert was at the Montreal Jazz Festival. The prospect of hearing a symphonic jazz concert is exceptionally rare and exciting. This performance promises to be impactful, highlighting Symphony NB's versatility and the remarkable talent of the musicians involved.



# Special Guests

JOEL MILLER



*"Miller...seems to be telling us intricate and riveting stories -things happen, the story unfolds-bringing Walt Disney's 1940 Fantasia to mind."*

-Dan McClenaghan All About Jazz

Joel Miller is a Juno award-winning jazz saxophonist and composer currently based in Fredericton, New Brunswick. With 10

albums to his credit and more than 160 original works registered with SOCAN over the past thirty years, Joel stands among the most prolific and highly respected jazz artists in Canada today.

He has led workshops on jazz improvisation and composition throughout North America as well as in Sweden, Norway and Peru. He is the recipient of over 30 grants for sound recording, composition, production and artist residencies from FACTOR, The Canada Council for the Arts, Musicaction, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Quebec, and Arts NB.

So far, Joel's work has earned over 15 music industry awards, including the 2013 Juno Award for Contemporary Jazz album of the year. He received a Master's in Jazz Performance from the Schulich School of Music at McGill University where he taught saxophone for over 15 years. Joel has appeared as featured composer and soloist on over 15 International broadcasts, and has performed with Geoffrey Keezer, Christine and Ingrid Jensen, Brian Blade, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Matt Wilson, Henry Hey, Denzal Sinclair, Joé Armando, Tuco Bouzi and Dixie Band, Michael Bubl , and the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

Above all, Joel's compositions, improvisations, albums, and shows "... communicate joy, celebration, humour, and curiosity about our amazing planet".

# ADRIAN VEDADY



Adrian Vedady is Montreal's most in-demand acoustic jazz bassist. He is known for his beautiful sound, his soulfulness, and ability to connect with a broad array of musicians. In 2014, he won a Juno award for best jazz album with Mike Rud's Notes on Montreal project. In 2020, he won another Juno award for best jazz album with Jacques Seguin's Migrations.

In 2022, he won an East Coast Music award for best jazz album with the Montreal Jazz Trio.

Over the years, Vedady has performed with international recognized artists such as Marc Copland, Dan Weiss, Peter Bernstein, Ingrid Jensen, Jean-Michel Pilc, Sheila Jordan, Chet Doxas, David Liebman, Ariel Pockock, Ravi Coltrane and George Colligan. He is the recipient of two composition grants from Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and a FACTOR recording grant in 2007 which led to the recording of his first album as a leader: In Three Acts.

# SYLVIO PUPO

Known for dazzling crowds weekly at Halifax mainstay, The Local, pianist Silvio Pupo was born in Holguin, Cuba where he studied classical piano at the Professional School of Music. In 2009, Silvio moved to Atlantic Canada where he was quickly sought after to by an array of East Coast artists, including Hot Toddy's bassist Tom Easley. Currently based in Moncton,



Silvio tours and records with artist like Ben Caplan Hepner and Alfie Zappacosta. He embodies a rare balance of complete musical confidence with flexibility, quick wit and charm.

# JON BAILEY



Jon Bailey is a drummer/percussionist hailing from Fredericton, New Brunswick. He completed his Bachelor of Music degree in Percussion Performance at Acadia University in 2009. Upon graduating, he went on to pursue his passion for Cuban music in Havana, Cuba where he had the chance to study with some of the country's most celebrated percussionists. Following this, he spent four years working as a performer in the cruise ship industry, visiting over 50 countries. Currently, Jon enjoys freelancing in a variety of musical settings while also teaching music full-time in the Fredericton area.



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# Program

All selections by Joel Miller unless otherwise noted

Entrain  
Dance of the Nude Fishes  
Intervals  
This and That  
Pachamama  
Aqualand

## *Intermission*

Horse Power  
Blinding Light  
Wait for it  
Baja  
Schubert Harmony (Ave Maria)  
Summertime - George Gershwin  
Joé Chevere

# The Best of Both Worlds

JOEL MILLER

I grew up in a musical family. Dad taught formal music composition at Mount Alison University. Mom loved jazz and dancing. I never imagined that one day I'd be playing my own jazz compositions with my own group and a symphony. I had privilege and a loving family. All the things I needed to fit in, but I struggled in school, didn't play sports, and felt quite different from most of the other kids in Sackville, NB. All that changed at age 10 when my brother handed me a saxophone. Music saved me.

The act of freely creating and experimenting with sound let me find my voice. Listening to and emulating jazz became my new language, which my Mom called Anglo-Saxophone. Playing saxophone in jazz and punk bands opened my world up as a way to connect with people. When Symphony New Brunswick was launched in 1983, I was hustling to raise funds to get my band to Toronto for a national competition (we got there!). It didn't even occur to me to dream that I could someday have my compositions played by a symphony orchestra AND have my own jazz quartet play on stage with them. My oldest brother was studying bass, maybe that was something he could do (he is!). Fast forward a few years, and I went off to McGill University and Montreal, and dedicated my life's work to jazz and its values of improvisation, exploration, sharing, and "from the people" origins. I was very much my mother's son.

After I became a father myself, I began to appreciate more clearly my own father's classical music world, with its values like craftsmanship, creative orchestration and larger formal architecture. In 2015, I began a Master's at McGill, through the Jazz area, but I was seeking something outside of that, and was fortunate to be able to talk classically trained musicians into playing in a sort of chamber symphony that was my Master's project, and evolved into my most recent Juno-nominated/ECMA winning album UNSTOPPABLE. In fact, I was on the bus heading to the Montreal airport to fly to the Junos in March 2020 when I got a call, "Don't get on the plane - there's some virus and it looks like things will be cancelled." We all know what happened next... so many changes for so many people. For me, this led to coming home to New Brunswick, wondering "what next?" as touring was not an option, and so much else had changed.



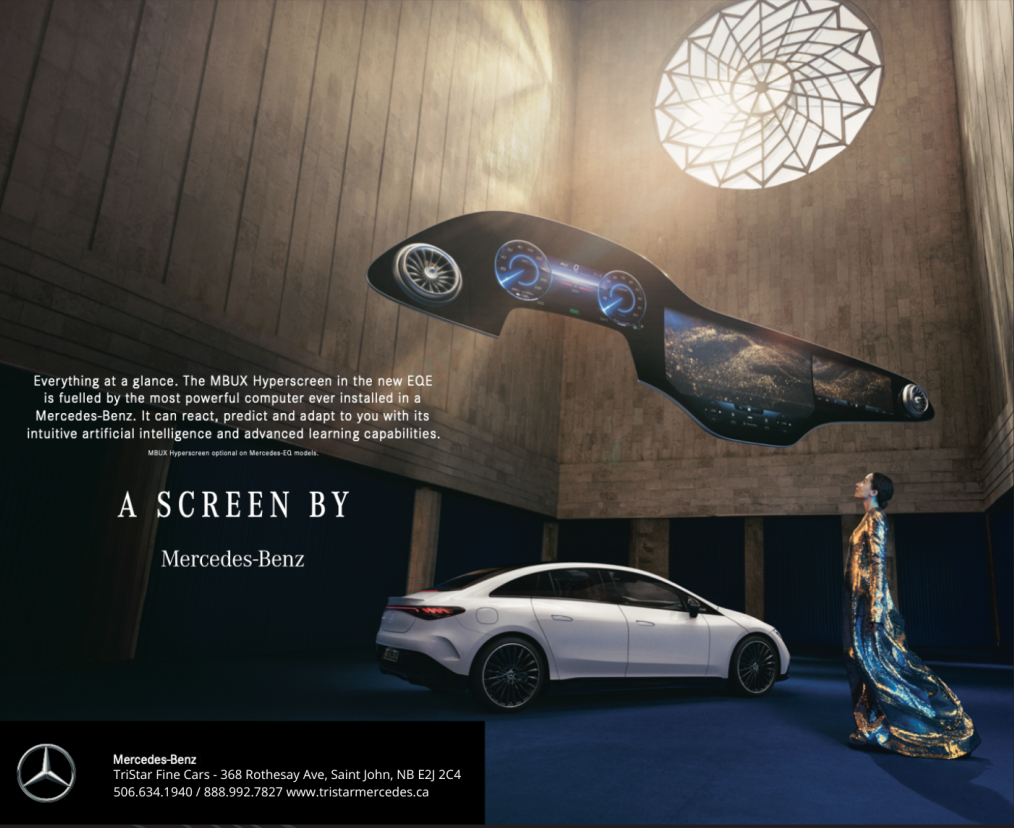
When I began the conversation with conductor Mélanie Leonard, she invited my own quartet to play WITH the symphony. Holy smokes! At the same time: gulp. I didn't have a process in place to fully realize this invitation to have these two ensembles come together in an authentic way I wanted. To be honest, I thought the orchestra needed to listen to some key jazz recordings and well, had to loosen up. My ideas about composing in formal "classical" settings were about expanding my own pre-existing Jazz compositions mixed my own kind of pursuit of virtuosity. Excellence. I later came to realise that improvisation, my principal "jazz" value, the very thing that provided the structure and propulsion for how I led my own jazz groups, was very much alive and kicking in theatre and contemporary "classical" music. We share the same values. It just sounds and looks different.

I'm grateful to my partner Mel McCarthy, Symphony NB operations director Peter Sametz, and my brother Andrew Reed Miller, for pointing out that everything I needed was right here in New Brunswick: the time, the space, musicians willing to be outside their comfort zones, THANK YOU, we just needed a willingness to listen to understand. To (safely) make mistakes together. And to create something new and meaningful.

This concert is built on relationships, possibilities, and tremendous respect for trying things "both ways." I'm not promising perfection. I wish for a fun night of music and an authentic way for us being together. I'm truly thankful for this opportunity. Throughout 2023 Silvio Pupo, Adrian Vedady, Jon Bailey, my brother's ensemble Resonance, musicians from Symphony NB, had the luxury of time with support from ArtsNB, The Canada Council for the Arts, Fredericton Playhouse's InterMISSION artist residency to work the "chunks" of figuring out how to work together in way that included the best of both worlds. I hope you enjoy Symphonic Jazz as much as we enjoyed creating it.

-Joel Miller


P.S. I'm playing my own compositions onstage with Symphony NB and my jazz quartet!!!! AMAZING!!! I'm beyond grateful.



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In Honour of Suzanne Farrer Irving

# Musicians

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Concertmaster  
Lucia Rodriguez  
Hok Kwan  
Katherine Moller  
Ali Leonard

## VIOLIN II

Nadia Francavilla\*^  
Dmitry Myzdrikov  
Hrvoje Tisler  
Aida Tisler

## VIOLA

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Stephen Mott  
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Daniella Tejada Cortes

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Jennifer Shea

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Neil Bishop\*  
Yvonne Kershaw

## HORN

Jon Fisher\*  
Jon Astley  
Olivier Huebscher  
Peter Sametz

## TRUMPET

Rob Dutton\*  
Matt Ross  
Conor Conway

## TROMBONE

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## TIMPANI

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## PERCUSSION

Ian Gibson



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Mozart's Requiem  
Le Requiem de Mozart

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