



ORCHESTRE
NATIONAL DE JAZZ
MONTRÉAL

BIO

Created in 2012, l'Orchestre national de jazz de Montréal (ONJ) is a unique ensemble of variable instrumentation that brings together conductors and instrumentalists of the highest calibre. Its mission is to commission, present and record new music, interpret jazz repertoire from around the world, invite top national and international artists, and raise public awareness about the contribution and the importance of jazz in musical culture.

The ONJ is made up of some twenty regular musicians who have been joined to date by over a hundred of the best jazz musicians in the country, a dozen renowned conductors and some of the most prestigious international guest artists including: *Ingrid Jensen, Helen Sung, Terence Blanchard, Bendik Hofseth, Mathias Rüegg, Aaron Parks, Jean-Michel Pilc, John Hollenbeck, Theo Bleckmann, François Bourassa, Oliver Jones, Sly5thAve*, and more.

In addition, the ONJ has been nominated 7 times at the Opus Awards and twice at the ADISQ Gala. At the 21st edition of the Conseil Québécois de la Musique - Opus Awards 2018, the ONJ won both awards in the jazz category:

- Record of the Year - Jazz: *Under the Influence*, composition and direction by Christine Jensen featuring singer and songwriter Sienna Dahlen.
- Concert of the year - Jazz: composition, scenography and direction by John Hollenbeck starring singer Theo Bleckmann, at GESÙ (FIJM) 2017.

Since its foundation, the ONJ has produced over 60 unique concerts, interpreted more than 600 musical works drawn from the repertoire of more than 60 major national and international composers and arrangers, in front of more than 30,000 spectators.

So far, ONJ has also commissioned seven works from top Canadian composers. Three of these suites have already been published: *Dans la Forêt de ma Mémoire* by Marianne Trudel, *Under the Influence* by Christine Jensen and ***The Mystic Mind*** by Jean-Nicolas Trottier, our latest recording which we will be bringing on tour in 2020-2021.

"...Under the direction of trombonist and composer Jean-Nicolas Trottier, you can discover what the Orchestre national de jazz de Montréal truly stands for on this album. *The Mystic Mind* is an ambitious work, composed of scenes that create a luxury setting for soloists... In the spirit of what was once brilliant conductor Gil Evans with *New Bottles Old Wine* and *Out Of The Cool*, composer Jean-Nicolas Trottier offers more than just solos to his privateers. The improvisations are framed by an immense and fine work of writing. Although the framework for which we are in awe is light, it's bliss to hear the power of tenor sax Yannick Rieu... As for the orchestral mass, here again Jean-Nicolas transports us into space, time and a sophisticated writing, sometimes abundant, and like a long poem, jazz finds its place there." - Christophe Rodriguez, *SortiesJAZZnights.com*, October 10th 2019, Montreal