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# 2015 // 16 SEASON

# Northrop Presents THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE CINE-CONCERT Benoît Charest, Composer-Conductor

Wed, Feb 17, 7:30 pm Carlson Family Stage



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Northrop at the University of Minnesota Presents

# THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE: A CINE-CONCERT

# **Benoît Charest, Composer-Conductor**

Featuring

The Triplets of Belleville

a film by Sylvain Chomet

and

## Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville

with composer Benoît Charest

Keyboard, DAN THOUIN Percussion, MICHAEL EMENEAU Bass, HANS BERNHARD Drums, ALAIN BASTIEN Saxophone, BRUNO LAMARCHE Trumpet, ARON DOYLE Trombone, GABRIEL GAGNON

Company Manager, DAVID ETIENNE SAVOIE

There is no intermission.

Media partner:





This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

This presentation is also supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Crane Group, and General Mills Foundation.



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Cover and above: Photo courtesy of the artists.

# **THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE**

## **THE FILM**

It has been more than a decade since the release of the Franco-Quebecois animated movie, *The Triplets of Belleville*. Many still remember this film, its resounding success and incredible soundtrack, which was acclaimed many times at the Oscars, the Genie Awards, and the French Césars.

This much-beloved animated film is screened as composer Benoît Charest leads Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville in the live performance of his original score for the film, including his Academy Award-nominated best song "Belleville Rendez-vous". In the spirit of the film, Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville immediately transports audiences to the exciting streets of 1920s Paris and Le Jazz Hot.

The musical ensemble is made up of eight musicians with wacky instruments reminiscent of 1930s France. The terrific Belleville Orchestra blends live music and cinema, enticing audiences into their colorful Parisian period cabaret.

# **THE STORY**

Adopted by his near-sighted grandmother, Madame Souza, Champion is a lonely little boy. Noticing that the lad is never happier than on a bicycle, Madame Souza puts him through a rigorous training process. Years go by and Champion becomes worthy of his name. Now he is ready to enter the world-famous cycling race, the Tour de France. However during this cycling contest two mysterious, square-shouldered henchmen in black kidnap Champion. Madame Souza and her faithful dog Bruno set out to rescue him.

Their quest takes them across the ocean to a giant megalopolis called Belleville where a trio of eccentric jazz-era divas, the renowned "Triplets of Belleville," decide to take Madame Souza and Bruno under their wing. The motley sleuths follow the clues to an underground speakeasy where they entertain the crowd. Thanks to Bruno's brilliant sense of smell the chase is on! But will they succeed in beating the devilish plans of the evil French mafia?

# **THE DIRECTOR**

Sylvain Chomet was born in 1963 in Maisons-Lafitte, France. In 1982, he graduated from high school specializing in art and in 1987 received a diploma from the prestigious comic-strip studio at Angoulême (France). In 1986, he published his first book-length comic, *Secrets of the Dragonfly* (Futuropolis), and drew an adaptation of a Victor Hugo novel, *Bug-Jargal*, in collaboration with Nicolas de Crécy. Moving to London to work as an animator at the Richard Purdum studio, in September 1988 he established a London-based freelance practice working on commercials for clients such as Swissair, Principality, Swinton, and Renault.

In 1991. Chomet started work on his first animated film project The Old Lady and the Pigeons, with backgrounds designed by Nicolas de Crécy. In 1992, he wrote the script for a comic entitled The Bridge in Mud (Glénat), a science-fiction and historical saga, now in its fourth episode. The following year, he wrote the story Léon-la-Came, drawn by Nicolas de Crécy and serialized in (A SUIVRE) magazine. The book version was published by Casterman in 1995. It won the René Goscinny Prize in January 1996. Since 1993, Sylvain Chomet has been based in Canada. He spent 1995 and 1996 finishing his short film *The Old Lady* and the Pigeons. This film won the Cartoon d'Or prize, the Grand Prize at the Annecy Festival, a BAFTA, the Audience Prize, and the Jury Prize at the Angers Premiers Plans Festival and received nominations for both the French Césars and for the Oscars.

In early 1997, Sylvain Chomet published *Ugly, Poor* and Sick, again with Nicolas de Crécy. The book version (Casterman) won the Alph-Art Best Comic Prize at the Angoulême Comic Strip Festival in 1997.

# THE COMPOSER CONDUCTOR (and guitarist)



Benoît Charest. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Benoît Charest, the Oscar-nominated composer from Montreal, has written over twenty film scores, including the 2004's *Triplets of Belleville*, that has earned him many awards.

Charest studied at McGill and Montreal universities before learning his trade touring as a sideman with various bands. A versatile composer and accomplished jazz guitarist, Charest regularly performed with some of Montreal's finest musicians, and in 1992 wrote his first score for an NFB documentary. He is presently writing music for his jazz organ trio and touring with the "Terrible Orchestre de Belleville."



# **MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRE**

#### DAN THOUIN (keyboard)

When he first sat behind the family organ Daniel Thouin was seven. Ten years later he was studying classical piano and soon started flirting with the jazz scene. Then, he took an interest in electronica and pop music, collaborating with the likes of Mara Tremblay, Yann Perreau, and Marie-Jo Thério, and touring with Jason Bajada and Ghislain Poirier. In 2002, Thouin assembled the Large Ensemble, an all-star local group mixing jazz and rock. Informed by Miles Davis' late sixties experiments, Thouin used the band to flex their improvisational muscles.

#### HANS BERNHARD (bass)

Hans Bernhard has a deep and sincere love for the music he plays, a passion which has brought him many rewarding opportunities: a full scholarship to study at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, the experience of traveling worldwide to share his music, and the occasion to explore, compose, and perform a wide range of musical styles including jazz, rock, American, and Eastern European folk. He moved to Montreal from his home in Santa Cruz, California to study Sound Recording at McGill University where he received his Masters degree in 2012. He currently resides in Montreal and works fulltime as a performing musician and recording engineer.

#### ALAIN BASTIEN (drums)

Born in Shawinigan (Canada, P.Q), Alain Bastien, although self-taught from the age of 15, pursued musical studies at the Université de Montréal where he received a B.A. in Jazz Performance. For the last 20 years, he has been working in different musical contexts from R & B to funk, Latin to popular, although jazz remains the vehicle within which he primarily operates. Bastien has played in jazz festivals all around Canada, the U.S.A, France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Greece, Switzerland, Mexico, and China. Jean Beaudet, Yves Léveillé, Yannick Rieu, Benoît Charest, Térez Montcalm, Carl Naud, Abraham Barrera are some of the artists he has worked with over the years.

#### BRUNO LAMARCHE (saxophonist)

Saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist Bruno Lamarche has been known in Canada and Europe for more than 20 years. He has had the honor of working with luminaries such as Buddhakick, Félix Stüssi, Ray Anderson, Bernard Primeau, Joel Miller, Ben Monder, Philip Catherine, Christine Duncan, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Don Thompson, and of course, Benoît Charest. His wide-ranging career has seen him perform with Altsys, Dixieband, ONJM, and Jazzlab. A recognized arranger, Lamarche earned a Bachelor of Jazz Performance at McGill University where he also received the Marion Magor Memorial Scholarship and the James McGill Award.

#### MICHAEL EMENEAU (percussion)

Michael Emeneau has worked professionally as a vibraphonist, producer, re-mixer, and arranger for 25 years, playing such diverse genres as, jazz, rock, drum & bass, salsa, techno, country, Hindustani, gospel, baroque, and orchestral music. During this time he has produced 16 albums recorded on another 150, composed music for eight films, toured internationally, and lived on three continents. As a solo recording artist he has released a series of highly acclaimed solo CDs on the boutique record labels, Hearts of Space, Daikini, and Six Degree's records. Currently he is a member of Ben Charest's "Orchestre Terrible de Belleville," and "Tur Malka" featuring Canadian jazz vocal legend Karen Young.

#### **ARON DOYLE** (trumpet)

A seasoned and versatile trumpeter, Aron Doyle has made Montreal home since 1991. Arriving from Vancouver and completing a jazz performance undergrad at McGill University in 1995, he has settled into a steady playing and teaching career. Amassing 100 plus recordings, multiple tours and festivals throughout North America and Europe with a wide array of groups, and performing fulltime with many of Montreal's mainstay large and small ensembles including and among others: Altsys Jazz Orchestra, Le Dixieband, Joe Sullivan Big Band, Lorraine Desmarais, Christine Jensen, DJ Ram, L'Orchestre de Jazz de Montreal, and numerous Effendi artists.

#### **GABRIEL GAGNON** (trombone)

Gabriel Gagnon is a young up-and-coming trombonist that is already performing regularly on the Montreal scene in Canada. He is a member of the jazz quartet JAGG, winner of the 2014 new talent contest Jazz en Rafale. Recently the young musician has performed in renowned ensembles such as the Joe Sullivan Big Band, L'Orchestre National de Jazz de Montréal, and The Christine Jensen Orchestra. Gagnon obtained a Bachelor's degree in Jazz interpretation from McGill University in 2014.

**DAVID-ETIENNE SAVOIE** (production manager) Throughout the years, David-Etienne Savoie has worked as a production manager and main controller on many international projects, such as Lhasa de Sela (180 concerts worldwide, four in USA), Patrick Watson (400 concerts worldwide, three in USA and 15 with a symphonic orchestra), Amadou and Mariam (300 concerts throughout the world, three in USA), Afrocubism (60 concerts around the world, two in USA), Omara Portuondo (20 concerts around the world), and finally, 150 concerts with Raul Paz. He also played in Europe with many artists such as Arthur H, The Roots, Matthew Herbert, Pierre Lapointe, Ariane Moffat, Champion, Jean-Louis Murat, Bertrand Belin, and many more.

# THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE

Exclusive Worldwide Touring Management by: David Lieberman/Artists Representatives P.O. Box 10368, Newport Beach, CA 92658 P: 714-979-4700 F: 724-979-4740 info@dlartists.com dlartists.com

#### The Triplets of Belleville is a film by Sylvain Chomet

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#### Les Armateurs

Production company Les Armateurs, founded by Didier Brunner in 1994, has brought two new writer-directors to the world of cartoon films, Michel Ocelot and Sylvain Chomet. The aim of the company is to discover talent and to produce a range of original and ambitious work aimed at family audiences and young adults.

The Triplets of Belleville was born at the International Animated Film Festival of Annecy. We had just given seven years of ours lives, our energy and passion, to finance and make *The Old Lady and the Pigeons*, a 26' cartoon costing more than 800,000 Euros.

The writing and directing talent revealed in this film was such that I knew I wanted to pursue my collaboration with Sylvain more ambitiously, taking even greater risks. I wanted to produce his first feature film and give him an opportunity of expressing the full extent of his gifts. It was time to capitalize on the theatrical success of *Kirikou and the Witch*, which made Les Armateurs a credible partner in the field of ambitious animated features and to build on the success of *The Old Lady and the Pigeons* within the profession (Oscars, BAFTA, Cesar, Annecy, etc...) Despite the magnificent graphics of *The Triplets of Belleville*, neither the story nor the setting are aimed specifically at a young audience. I knew that we were asking our partners to accompany us in a innovative and risky venture, given the expense of the production. We held true to our course, which is one of the fundamental qualities of Les Armateurs. The crew has shown admirable resilience and today we are proud to be able to steer our ship of fantasy into a safe harbor.

#### AWARDS

- OSCAR Academy Award
- Nominee Best Animated Feature Film, Best Song
- Cannes Film Festival (official selection) Award: Special Mention Special Prize—PALM DOG, for the dog! GENIE Awards (Canadian Oscar) Award: Best Picture, nominee for Best Music
- GRAMMY
- Nominee: Best Song
- Copenhagen International Film Festival Special Jury Prize, nominated for a Golden Swan
- National Society of Film Critics (U.S.) Award: Best Film
- CÉSAR Award (French Oscars)
- Award: Best Music, Nominee for Best Film and Best first work of fiction
- LUMIÉRE Award (French Golden Globes) Award: Best Film
- Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award: Best music score
- BAFTA (British Oscar)
- Nominee: Best non-English Feature Film New York Film Critics Circle
- Award: Best Animated Film
- ANNIE Animated Theatricals (Annie Awards) Nominee: outstanding achievement,
- directing, and writing

#### 2015//16 NORTHROP FILM SERIES

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater//*Beyond the Steps* Thu, Feb 25, 6:30 pm

Mark Morris Dance Group// L'Allegro (PBS) Thu, Mar 24, 6:30 pm

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal//*Quelques pas a Paris* Thu, Mar 31, 6:30 pm

Miami City Ballet // Ballet 422 Thu, Apr 21, 6:30 pm

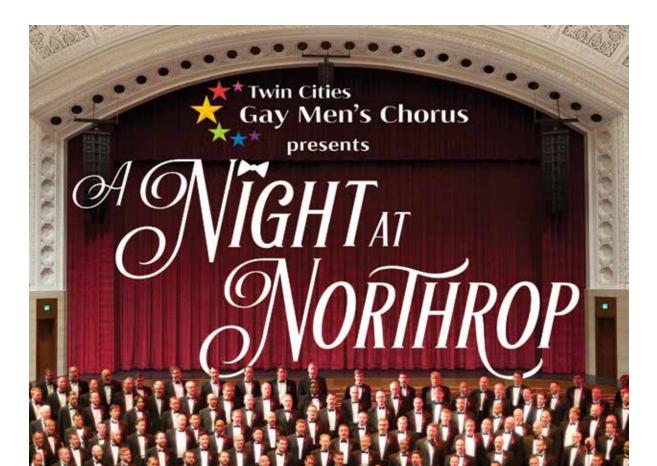
All screenings are located in our 4<sup>th</sup> floor Best Buy Theater, and are free and open to the public.

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Mark Morris Dance Group in Great Performances L'Allegro. Photo © David Leyes.

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Chorus: 612-339-7664 or tcgmc.org

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> Shaun Hopper fingerstyle guitarist March 18 | 7:30 p.m.

Patty Griffin, Sara Watkins, and Anaïs Mitchell *Together On Stage* March 28 | 7:30 p.m.

> Meredith Monk and Vocal Ensemble The Soul's Messenger April 15 | 8 p.m. presented with the Walker

> > **Angelique Kidjo**

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**Tickets:** 651-690-6700 | oshag.stkate.edu **Ticket Office Hours:** Mon-Sat, 12–6 p.m.

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Many view autism as a condition needing a cure. But what if it's not? What if neurological differences such as autism, ADHD, and dyslexia are a valuable part of human diversity? That's what drives Dr. Jigna Desai at the University of Minnesota to remove barriers and stigma that prevent these members of our society from reaching their full potential. "All brains may not be created the same," she says, "but they all deserve equal rights." umn.edu/desai



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#### ATM

An ATM is located near the elevator on the ground floor, west-side.

#### Restrooms

Restrooms are located on every level and side of the building, including family restrooms (except on the fourth floor, where there is a women's restroom on the east side, and a men's restroom on the west side only).

#### **General Ticket Information**

For any ticketing questions, visit U of M Tickets and Events on the ground floor of west and east sides of the building or visit northrop.umn.edu for the most current listing of events.

#### **Replacing Lost Tickets**

For your convenience, U of M Tickets and Events keeps record of your purchase, should you lose or forget your tickets.

#### **Accommodating Special Needs**

Northrop has accessible seating; please ask an usher for assistance. Elevators are located on both the east and west sides of the building. Accessibility services, including parking information, are available upon request.

If a guest wishes to transfer from their wheelchair to fixed seats, the wheelchair will be taken to the outer lobby to comply with local fire code regulations. At the end of the performance an usher will return the wheelchair to the guest.

#### **Cameras and Cell Phones**

Use of cameras and recording equipment are not permitted in the theater. Please be considerate and turn off your cell phones or other electronic devices during the performance.

#### **Motorist Assistance**

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#### **Campus Security Escort**

Trained security monitors are available 24/7 to walk or bike with anyone on campus. This free service is provided by the University of Minnesota Police Department. Please call 612-624-WALK (9255) or ask an usher to contact them for you.

#### **Ouestions?**

If you have any questions or concerns, please ask an usher or anyone with a Northrop name tag.

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