

Beth McKenna Jazz Orchestra

Home : Montréal

Premiered: March 24th, 2016 - L'Astral (Montreal, QC)

Top 3 "Best Jazz Act" - CultMtl 2016 "Best of Mtl"

Top 3 "Montreal Jazz Artist of the Year - 2015" - Camuz.ca

Top 5 "Best Jazz Act" - CultMtl 2015 "Best of Mtl"



"En quatre plages et mouvements bien tassées, nous reconnaissons facilement les influences et les styles d'écriture, et surtout, l'immense apport du maître que fut Gil Evans" À mille lieues de ce que firent Ellington, Basie ou Kenton, Beth McKenna se fait l'avocate d'une approche poétique où toutes les pièces trouvent leurs appuis dans le maillage des atmosphères"

Christopher Rodriguez - Journal de Montréal/Sortiesjazznights.com

"A (former) student of Christine Jensen, and equally influenced by that other prominent McGill graduate Darcy James Argue, McKenna wants to cast her net wide, both in her writing and by incorporating some electronics into her music. A name to discover. Likewise for the music."

Marc Chenard - La Scena Musicale

"L'univers musical est très évocateur, riche en émotions et fait facilement naître des images ou des impressions à l'auditeur. Beth McKenna a su charmer le public de l'Astral jeudi dernier en livrant ses impressions musicales de plusieurs lieux de vie montréalais, au moyen d'un langage accessible témoignant d'un beau sens de la mélodie. Servie par un orchestre talentueux, sa musique affirme l primauté de l'émotion et de l'imagination, elle nous emmène en promenade sans pour autant nous surprendre. Un spectacle très agréable qui nous plonge dans l'imaginaire le temps d'une soirée..."

Benjamin Goron - Camuz.ca

McKenna est l'une des plus belles arrivées sur la nouvelle scène du jazz canadien. Elle confirme en même temps le statut de Montréal comme pointure forte du big band moderne en Amérique, en ajoutant une nouvelle formation grandement digne d'intérêt à une offre déjà abondante de bons ensembles dans la métropole. Bravo, Beth!

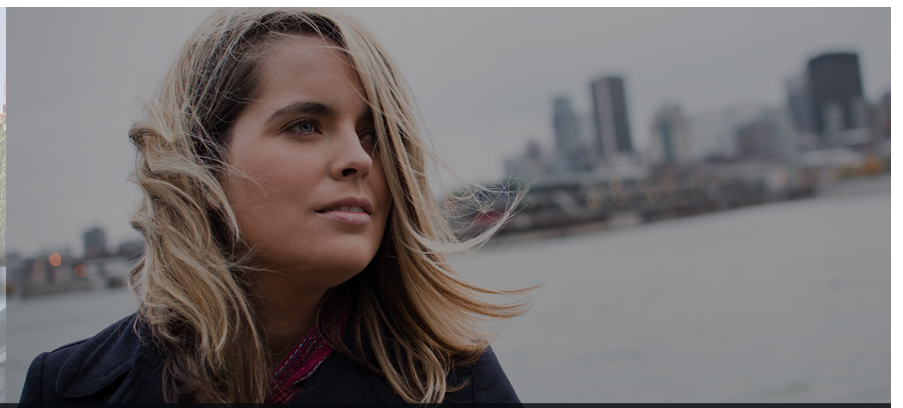
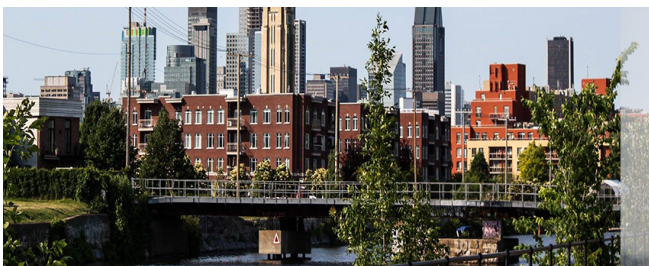
Frédéric Cardin - ICI Musique (CBC)



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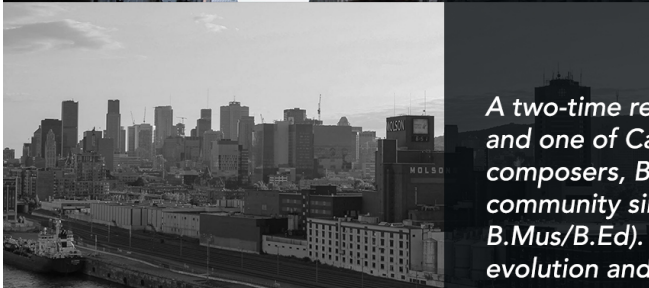


Beth McKenna Jazz Orchestra: Home: Montréal (2016)

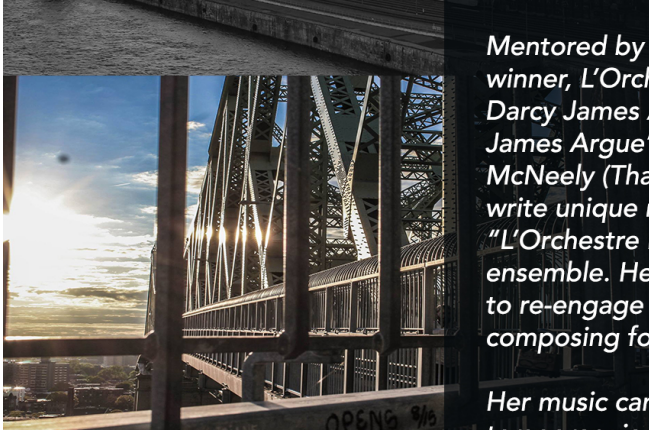
Supported by the Conseil des arts et Lettres du Quebec (CALQ)
Comp. B. McKenna (SOCAN - 2015-16) - Premiered March 24, 2016 (L'Astral)

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www.bethmckenna.ca



A two-time recipient of funding from the Conseil des arts et lettres du Quebec (CALQ) and one of Canada's youngest and most creative Jazz Orchestra leaders and composers, Beth McKenna has been a quickly rising star in the Canadian jazz community since her graduation from McGill's Schulich School of Music (2013, B.Mus/B.Ed). Following the huge success of "START" (2015), Beth presents an evolution and progressive work building forward as her 2nd CD, "Home: Montreal"



Mentored by award-winning artists including Christine Jensen (Montreal-based JUNO winner, L'Orchestre nationale de jazz de Montreal, Christine Jensen Jazz Orchestra), Darcy James Argue (NYC-based GRAMMY and JUNO nominated composer, Darcy James Argue's Secret Society), John Roney (Montreal based Effendi JazzLab), and Jim McNeely (Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Big Band, Vanguard Jazz Orchestra), Beth seeks to write unique music that combines genres. Beth has also worked with Montreal's "L'Orchestre Nationale de Jazz" as well while simultaneously working with her own ensemble. Her goal is reaching out to wider audiences of all ages and musical tastes, to re-engage listener interest in developing her own approach to writing and composing for modern "main-stream/contemporary rock/indie" big band.



Her music can often be described as a mix of rock, indie, pop, R&B, film-genre, contemporary jazz, fusion, free improvisation and folk. Throughout the eight movements of "Home: Montreal", Beth illustrates the city's cultural and diverse tapestry of iconic locations known to locals and tourists alike. Her illustrations of these locations strive to take the listener to these locations without leaving the concert hall. Beth also received inspiration in her innovations, creativity and boundary-pushing techniques in writing from discussions in NYC with Maria Schneider, to whom she is often compared as a female modern-jazz composer and bandleader.



Leading a hand-picked band of 19 of Montreal's top professional musicians under the age of 45*, breaking norms with a near-even split of francophone/ anglophones in the band as well as a strong representation of women in the ensemble, Beth seeks to pull the ensemble away from the jazz orchestra tradition of swing and bebop, towards accessible, "mainstream modern jazz" that reconnects audiences with jazz through a fusion of popular genres. Home: Montreal was nominated for "Revelations CBC-Radio Canada 2016-17" and received mass critical acclaim among media and critics.

The diverse, versatile and the individually-artistic musicians in BMJO are given space within the scores for individual interpretation and collaborative work on the final product of Beth's writing, with each individual soloist part being written for the player's strengths, sound and fit within Beth's writing.

Home: Montréal was written by Beth McKenna in 2015-16, premiered at L'Astral on March 24th, 2016 and is being proposed for performances throughout Montreal and beyond to celebrate Montreal's 375th anniversary in 2017 and Canada's 150th birthday



Beth McKenna Jazz Orchestra

Home: Montréal

*Musical Director/Composer:
Beth McKenna*

Saxophones:

Alexandre Dion (Alto 1, Soprano Sax, Flute)

Genève Gauthier (Alto 2, Flute)

Annie Dominique (Tenor 1, Clarinet)

Claire Devlin (Tenor 2, Clarinet)

Paul Carter (Bari Sax, Bass Clarinet, Clarinet)

Trumpets:

Dominic Rossi (Lead)

Frédéric Bourgeault (2nd)

Rachel Therrien (3rd/Featured Soloist)

Martine Labbé (4th)

Rémi Cormier (5th)

Trombones:

Taylor Donaldson (Lead)

Karine Gordon (2nd)

Hélène Lemay (3rd)

Christopher Smith (Bass Trombone/Tuba)

Rhythm:

François Jalbert (Guitar/Effects)

Jonathan Turgeon (Piano/Synthesizer/Effects)

Émile Farley (Electric Bass)

Peter Colantonio (Drums)



*Beth McKenna
Jazz Orchestra*

Home: Montréal



*Set List - Home: Montreal
(As performed March 24, 2016)*

Movement 1: Arrival:

Movement 2: Old Port/Old Montreal

Movement 3: Afternoon in Parc Lafontaine

Movement 4: Downtown

---- Intermission (15min) ----

Movement 5: P.M.R (Plateau Mont-Royal)

*Movement 6: Pie-IX : Construction, Competition,
Abandonment and New Life*

Movement 7: Sud-Ouest: St. Henri, Lachine Canal, Verdun

Movement 8: Departure

*Optional Encore: Ele(ctro)phant (Comp. B. McKenna -
From "START" - 2015)*

