



Government of Canada
The National Battlefields
Commission

Gouvernement du Canada
Commission des champs
de bataille nationaux

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

The Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand 20th musical season: a highly colourful summer of celebration



Quebec, May 15, 2012 – The National Battlefields Commission is proud to announce its 20th summer season of free shows on the Plains of Abraham. Over the years, more than 600,000 spectators have applauded over 3000 local and foreign artists at the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand, this lively, charming oasis which combines music and nature: over 1000 performances in a most exceptional setting. The 20th musical program promises to offer a colourful, diversified high-quality bill of fare, with 30 magical evenings held under the stars between June 9 and August 19, Thursday through Sunday from 8:00 p.m. There will be some new faces, and artists who managed to delight spectators in previous editions will also make a comeback. Twenty years, an event worth celebrating!

In the heart of the Plains of Abraham and a short walk from the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand has concocted a very special program to thank followers for their loyalty and unconditional love of this congenial, favourite Quebec City site. A program fit to win the hearts of newcomers.



This year the spectators are invited to share their favourite performances of the season: the concert they feel has made a mark, delighted them and which they applauded. They will get a chance to vote by filling out the form available at the start of the season at www.theplainsofabraham.ca, in the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand section. The recipient will be announced during the closing performance on Sunday August 19.

A 20th delightfully rhythmical program

For the first rendezvous on June 9, Jeanick Fournier will open with her vibrant **tribute** to Céline Dion. Other preeminent musical personalities will be honoured at the Bandstand during cult-concerts: tributes to Juliette Gréco (Manon Lefrançois – July 22), Aretha Franklin (Soul Train – July 27), Yves Montand (Hugo Lapierre – July 29), the Fab Four (Beatles Forever – August 5). The *fête* has the place of honour with La Ritournelle (August 11), and La Grand' Débâcle (June 22) will make the party *swing* to traditional tunes. For his part, the dynamic Martin Fontaine (August 12) will get you to hit the floor. Three former **Star Académie** participants will take up with fans again, including the angelic Annie Blanchard (June 15), Marc Angers the violinist (August 17) and Corneliu Montano the tenor (August 19), who will get top billing at the *Varieties*.



Guy Dussault at the microphone and Jean-François Lambert who will direct the *Abraham Band*, are back at the helm of two exclusive shows: the ***Bandstand Varieties***. Let yourself be carried away into the retro world (June 17) of Guy Harvey of the Gendarmes, Simon Brouillard of the Lutins, and Michel Stax. During the second show (August 19), the friendly Corneliu Montano, Jeanick Fournier and Claude Vallières will close the Bandstand season with flying colours: Marvellous surprises in the waiting.

Blues and **jazz** will get choice billing: the duo Singing Pianos will combine both styles perfectly (June 10). The jazz will be remodelled drawing its inspiration from the tradition of Guillaume Bouchard (June 21), the English sparkle of the Anne Bisson Trio (July 19), the *manouche* swing of Artillerie lourde (July 28), the reinvented classic style of the Nobilis Jazz Quartet (August 3), the Caribbean fragrances of Mô Jazz (August 9), and the irresistible Misses Satchmo band (August 16). Adam Karch (July 26) will propose a detour through **folk-rock** blues, Randall Spear (June 28) will seek out the folk enthusiast in you, and Michael Jerome Brown (June 14) will rub shoulders with American roots.

Swing and crooner fans will not be outdone, with Jivecity's performances and punchy brass instruments (July 20), crooner Michel Rondeau (August 2) and the Grand Orchestre de Roland Martel (August 10) performing for a 5th time in the most outstanding ballroom possible: nature's setting!



The Bandstand will **carry us** to faraway places with Rômmel Ribeiro's Brazilian charm (June 16), the gypsy tunes of the Trio MJK (June 29), Small World Project's eclectic must (July 21), Son Cubano's warmth (August 4), and the liveliness of the committed Wesli Band (August 18).

As was the case last year, the Bandstand will be closed on the Fête nationale du Québec, on Canada Day and during the Festival d'été de Québec because of the large crowds in town and the increased cultural offer.

Because it is in our nature

Because of our environmental concern and to preserve this unique heritage for the benefit of future generations, the park continues to take a green turn. To this end, the National Battlefields Commission invites Bandstand enthusiasts to consult the schedule online beginning May 15. Photos and more detailed descriptions of the artists are available online. The printed version will be available next May 29.



For more information please refer to our Web site and our Facebook page. Spectators can share their comments and their appreciation of the concerts on our Facebook page and check out the latest news at: <http://www.facebook.com/edwinbelangerbandstand>.

We'll be waiting for you

On show nights the public can either walk or take the bus, car pool or park their vehicle near the bandstand for \$7. A parking attendant will be expecting visitors at the green tent from 6:00 p.m. during the week and 5:00 p.m. on weekends. Enter through the Wolfe-Montcalm Avenue facing the Museum and head for the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand.



Edwin Bélanger

The Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand, built in 1991-1992 and inaugurated in 1993, was named after a personality closely connected to the musical scene of the Quebec area. A violinist, viola player, conductor, arranger, composer and teacher, Captain Edwin Bélanger enjoyed a rich, wide-ranging career. Born in Montmagny on November 18, 1910 and deceased January 14, 2005, he ruled over the destinies of great orchestras like the Cercle Philharmonique de Québec (which he founded in 1935 and directed for 7 years), the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec (1942-1951) and La Musique du Royal 22^e Régiment (1937-1961), which earned him a highly desirable international reputation under his leadership.



www.plainsofabraham.ca

(Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand index tab in the Activities and Exhibitions section)

<http://www.facebook.com/edwinbelangerbandstand>



Info-line: 418 648-4050
(concerts of the week)

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Information and Interviews:
Nathalie Allaire, Communication Assistant
418 648-4801, nathalie.allaire@cbbn-nbc.gc.ca

