



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

The music world converges on Québec for the FEQ's 50th!



Québec City, Wednesday, March 29, 2017 – One of the greatest rock bands of all time, **The Who**, and the delightfully original **Gorillaz** virtual band members will be headlining the 50th Festival d'été de Québec along with **Kendrick Lamar**, **P!nk**, **Metallica** and **Muse**. More than 100 new names have been added to the 50 released earlier this month, including pop star **Nick Jonas** and the Canadian indie rock duo **Death from Above 1979**.

"Québec is known as a rock music town and this genre is almost a FEQ trademark. So we needed to lay on the rock for our 50th. After Paul McCartney, in Québec for its 400th anniversary in 2008, The Rolling Stones, who came

to the Festival in 2015, we are especially pleased to bring a leader of the "British Invasion", the legendary band The Who, to Québec for the very first time. This is musical history in the making!" said general manager Daniel Gélinas.

OUTDOOR STAGES

Bell Stage on the Plains of Abraham

If you want to see **The Who** this summer, plan on coming to the FEQ, the only festival anywhere in Canada they'll be playing, for the July 13 opening show of their farewell tour. Ever since 1964, they've shaped the entire rock music scene with hits like [My Generation](#), [Pinball Wizard](#), [Baba O'Riley](#), [Won't Get Fooled Again](#) or [I Can See for Miles](#) and with their many albums.

As for **Gorillaz**, this will be their first time in town and their only show in Québec. The British band, expertly directed by Damon Albarn (Blur), brings out its fifth album, *Humanz*, in late April. A one-of-a-kind musical performance and experience to put on your agenda for July 15.

News that the **Backstreet Boys** were playing the Festival has sparked quite a buzz. Jonas Brothers fans are in for an awesome evening on Sunday, July 9, with actor, singer and multi-instrumentalist **Nick Jonas** of "Jealous" fame opening. And in one of her few 2017 shows, pop diva **P!nk** is sure to draw huge crowds on Saturday, July 8, while multiple Grammy winner **Kendrick Lamar** will give his first Festival appearance, and only show in Québec, on July 7. FEQ 2016 Emerging Artist award winners the **Dead Obies** are opening for this paragon of hip-hop.

Country pop fans will be giving a warm welcome to **Lady Antebellum**, winners of 10 Academy of Country Music awards, onstage with rising star **Kelsea Ballerini** on July 10, with **Gabrielle Shonk** opening the show.

Folk takes centre stage with the **Cowboys Fringants** and **Lisa LeBlanc**, who's slated to kick off the show on July 11. Expect both to show up with lots of friends.

Local metal bands **Voivod** and **Metalord** has been tapped to warm up the crowd at the Bell Stage for an iconic band in FEQ history, **Metallica**, in a heavy metal night to remember on July 14! Long awaited by Festival fans, UK band **Muse** wraps up the 11 intensive days of music with the rock band from Los Angeles, **Mondo Cozmo** (Joshua Ostrander) in a fitting climax to this anniversary edition.

ElectroFEQ

First up on this supercharged electro dance night is Canada's **A Tribe called Red** with their Amerindian-inspired electro *Powwow-step*, followed by the two Canadian brothers of **DVBBS**. They've had crowds up and dancing to their dynamic mix of electro, house and dubstep since their first hit *Tsunami*. Up next for Festival fans is some hard-hitting Trap&B from big-name American rapper **Fetty Wap Featuring Monty**. And taking ElectroFEQ over the top will be Australian producer and instrumentalist DJ **Flume**, fresh off his first Grammy.

Special anniversary event

The festive and nostalgic opening night will feature a **Tribute** to Québec's own iconic singer-songwriter **Richard Desjardins**. Then it's party time with **Isabelle Boulay**, who's celebrating her 45th birthday accompanied by the **Orchestre Symphonique de Québec** and other guests in this first of the special anniversary shows marking the 50th edition of the FEQ.

Loto-Québec Stage at Parc de la Francophonie

Known for magic moments and memorable encounters between festival fans and artists, this venue once again has a diversified program lined up, from folk rock with **Melissa Ethridge**, a pop-rock performance from the English band, **The Zombies** a groovy good-time show with Montréal's indie rock band **Wolf Parade**, best known for its album *Apologies to the Queen Mary*, to some heavier metalcore from **Crown the Empire** and post-hardcore with California's **Pierce the Veil**. Franco evenings feature **La Chicane**, **Michel Fugain & Pluribus**, **Matt Holubowski**, **Bobby Bazini** and **Les Trois Accords**. Electro-pop band **Men Without Hats** is back and some intense metal with **The Devil Wears Prada** and **Of Mice & Men** rounds out the slate.

Indie rock fans won't want to miss **The Strumbellas** – 2016 FEQ award winner – along with some great local talent: **Harfang** and **Groenland**. Two big international names wrap up the program: chart-topping hip-hop phenomenon **Migos**, and the funky vibes of **DNCE** headed by Joe Jonas, with **Arkells**, one of Canada's leading alt rock bands, opening.

Special anniversary event

A double landmark for the final evening of the Festival: the 50th anniversary of the Festival and the 15th anniversary of the popular TV show Belle et Bum. A surprise party you won't want to miss!

"The program for this anniversary year reflects our aim to offer a more urban sound and break out of genres. This is why the openers for some shows can be an unexpected and sometimes surprising contrast with the headliner. We wanted to spark change, be open to all musical genres and encourage discoveries," explained program director Louis Bellavance.

Hydro-Québec Stage at Place D'Youville

50 years are a great reason to celebrate! And that's why the Festival d'été de Québec is offering its fans the impassioned, eclectic music of **Pink Martini** in a special show open to everyone free of charge, right where it all began at Place D'Youville.

World beat still takes top honours on this stage: a reggae night is planned with Bob Marley's grandson, **Jo Mersa Marley**, and the popular Jamaican artist **Jessie Royal**, plus ska with **The Beatdown**, Afrobeat by **The Souljazz Orchestra**, the perfect blend of folk and blues from **The Barr Brothers** and their Malian friends **Bassekou Kouyaté & Amy Sacko**, the upbeat sound of **Pat Thomas & Kwashibu Area Band**, Chicano rock with **Los Lonely Boys**, the magnificent African duo **Amadou et Mariam** and to wrap it up in style, the hard-driving rhythms of **Ben l'Oncle Soul**.

Festivalgoers will be pleased to see that outstanding showman **Yann Perreau** is back, as is **Bernard Adamus**, who will preside over the FEQ Awards night.

Special anniversary show

Another important anniversary will be celebrated at this symbolic venue for the FEQ: the 80th birthday of **Michel Louvain** and the 60-year career of this remarkable artist, who's inviting some friends to sing with him.

The Fibe Stage at the Cœur du FEQ, Place de l'Assemblée-Nationale

The Cœur du FEQ has put together a super program of pop and urban sound with names to discover like **Brisa Roché**, **Heat**, **Geoffroy** and **Zagata**, rock with **The Dizzy Brains**, **The Beaches** and **The Dirty Nil**, and a slate of indie bands featuring **Common Deer**, **The Atomics** and **The Wooden Sky**.

INDOOR SHOWS

Impérial Bell

There are so many top names it's hard to list them all. The 11 days of the Festival get off to a powerful start with electro hip-hop powerhouse **DJ Shadow** accompanied by French dance music duo **Acid Arab**. The first Friday will be jazz central with **Leyla McCalla**, **Tony Allen (Tribute to Art Blakey)** and the **Gypsy Sound System Orchestra**. Franco nights have lined up an original and varied mix of popular genres and artists: **Avec pas d'casque**, **Les Sœurs Boulay**, **Orloge Simard**, **Fred Fortin** and **Caravane**. Also at this venue, a great lineup including the Canadian rock duo **Death From Above 1979**, and **BROS**, catchy soul-folk-rock by Ewan and Shamu Currie, the smooth sound of singer and musician **Andy Shauf**, haunting folk music by **Foy Vance**, electro rock with the American band **Phantogram** and Seattle punk band **MxPx** in their only Canadian appearance at the FEQ.

Special anniversary show

A tribute to Bob Walsh, the great Québec bluesman who died a few months ago, will be presented on closing night in honour of his many past appearances at the FEQ.

District Saint-Joseph

District Saint-Joseph is the place to keep on partying every evening during the Festival from 10 to 11:30. The program will be released at a later date.

L'Anti Bar & Spectacles

Celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Festival get underway at 5 p.m. at L'Anti so festivalgoers can fill up on music early! Lots of shows are scheduled before and after the shows presented at most of the other venues. Two of the artists who will be burning up the stage: **Aut'Chose**, a Québec rock band on the scene since 1974 and **Yonathan Gat**, a multidisciplinary New York musician with a psychedelic punk rock sound.

The indoor shows are presented by Groupe Voyages Québec.

"With a lineup of this scope, we have something to celebrate as we look back at how far we've come since 1968. Over the course of these 50 years, so many partners, friends and collaborators have helped us build the Festival. This is why the board of directors and the team wanted to invest more this year to offer an anniversary worthy of the name. This is our way of saying thank you to everyone involved and to the thousands of festivalgoers who have always been there for us," said the board chairman, Alain-Jacques Simard.

The Festival d'été de Québec wishes to thank all its public and private sector partners for their contribution to the realisation of this event.

The 50th Festival d'été de Québec will be held from July 6 to 16, 2017.

The Festival d'été de Québec is presented by Bell in collaboration with Coors Light.

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