



News release  
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Behind the cameras at the 25th Festival International de Jazz de Montréal

## Amérimage-Spectra: 2004 television productions for jazz lovers

Montreal, July 12, 2004 – Between June 29 and July 11, the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal was the scene of many extraordinary musical coming-togethers and the Amérimage-Spectra television-production company was on-site to record some of these marvelous shows. Among the concerts recorded during the Festival were three large-scale outdoor shows and 16 indoor events, including the eight intimate-setting concerts in the Cool Concerts/Tempo Planet series. In all, 19 shows were either broadcast live, aired on a slightly delayed basis or recorded for broadcast in the coming months, thereby increasing the Festival's international exposure while contributing to its continued funding.

### The Festival on TV: just like being there !

A total of five shows were aired live or on a slightly delayed basis. The first concert broadcast, on the Télévision Française de Radio-Canada network, was the Diana Krall show at the Bell Centre on June 29. The lovely singer delivered an intense, memorable performance to the delight of a crowd of 11,000 plus some 200,000 viewers. Next up were outstanding shows by Johnny Clegg, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Lorraine Klaasen on June 30 on TV5 Québec-Canada, followed by The Funk Brothers with The Four Tops July 4 on Canal Indigo and Viewer's Choice Canada. On July 10, host Grégory Charles invited Radio-Canada viewers to take front-row seats for the Festival's closing concert starring Oscar Peterson and Oliver Jones. The CBC Television and Radio-Canada viewers were treated to *Soleil de minuit* on Sunday, July 11. This megashow celebrating, respectively, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Festival and the 20<sup>th</sup> of the Cirque du Soleil and featured such stars as Youssou N'Dour, Daniela Mercury and Jorane, along with the voices of Cirque du Soleil. Thanks to Amérimage-Spectra and the different broadcasters involved, viewers across Canada were able to enjoy all these great shows, which are to be rebroadcast in the coming months on television networks in Canada and in various parts of the world, including Germany, Japan and the U.S.

### Outstanding artists and quality programming

Other shows were also recorded for later TV broadcast: Ron SexSmith, opening for Diana Krall (ARTV and Global), Galactic and Three Guitars (ARTV and Bravo!), and Ramatou Diakité and Youssou N'Dour (also on ARTV and Bravo!). In addition, the Cool Concerts/Tempo Planet series of concerts recorded for CoolTV and MusiMax showcases Brian Auger, Jeri Brown, Dessy DiLauro, David Amram, Robin Nolan, The Three Crooners and Bettye LaVette. Broadcast dates will be announced soon.

### High-definition productions

At this year's Festival, Amérimage-Spectra recorded four shows using multi-camera high-definition (HD): The Funk Brothers, Chick Corea (July 2), the meeting between musical giants Oscar Peterson and Oliver Jones, and *Soleil de minuit*, co-produced with Cirque du Soleil. Responding to ever-growing worldwide demand, these shows take their place in a catalogue of HD programming begun three years ago. In addition to satisfying the requirements of broadcasters such as Japan's NHK, which airs HD programming around the clock on one of its five networks, these recordings represent a true investment in the future. Indeed, with HD technology likely to be generally accessible in homes in the not-distant future, Amérimage-Spectra and Le Festival International de Jazz de Montréal will be positioned to offer different markets an excellent collection of concerts in HD format, thereby meeting future quality standards.

From the beginning, Festival International de Jazz de Montréal organizers have demonstrated boldness and vision in the field of television production. One of their missions has been to preserve a record of jazz performances for the enjoyment and benefit of as many people as possible for as lengthy a period as possible. Already in 1980, the Festival's first year, then-uncommon stereophonic recording technology was employed. Today, the same recordings can be transferred onto other technological media, providing music

lovers with superior quality. The same will certainly be true of the HD recordings, which will allow for a longer period of distribution and commercialization of video documents, some of which will be made available on DVD.

### Amérimage-Spectra: 10 years of passion in television production

Amérimage-Spectra has secured itself a choice position in international markets and is regarded as Canada's leading independent producer of TV programming devoted to the performing arts. The production house has to its credit more than 400 hours of recordings of all kinds (music, dance, circus arts and documentaries). Over the years, in recognition of their high-quality work, Amérimage-Spectra's professionals have received many honours, including the Rose d'Or de Montreux and a Banff Television Festival award for excellence. \*

Amérimage-Spectra president Pierre L. Touchette produces the firm's major television productions, while Alain Simard holds the positions of board chairman and producer. Executive producer is Luc Châtelain, vice-president of the film-and-television division of L'Équipe Spectra. In 2004, Pierre Séguin, Alain Chicoine, Jocelyn Barnabé, Clodine Galipeau and Rafaël Ouellet have directed the different programs produced by the company, while Ginette Gauthier, Joanne Dorion and Pascale Hardy have shared production-management duties, ably assisted by a large team headed by Raymonde Crête.

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Source:

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\*List of prizes and awards available upon request.