



News Release
For immediate distribution

Félix Stüssi & Give me Five **Wins the 2007 General Motors Grand Jazz Award** The Galaxie Rising Star Award of the CBC goes to **Marianne Trudel**

Montreal, Saturday, July 7, 2007 — The **Festival International de Jazz de Montréal** in collaboration with **General Motors Canada**—partner and presenter of the event for the 8th consecutive year—are today pleased to be awarding the **General Motors Grand Jazz Award** to **Félix Stüssi & Give me Five**. The combo was deemed best of ten other jazz artists and ensembles who took part in the pan-Canadian competition. The jury wanted to acknowledge the talent of all ten finalists who were of an impressively high caliber. The jury also made a special mention of the trio of the contrabassist **Brandi Disterheft**.

And for the 4th year in a row, the **Galaxie Rising Star Award of the CBC** was bestowed for the best composition, the 2007 prize going to **Marianne Trudel** for her piece **Sur la route**.

Félix Stüssi & Give me Five was officially awarded the 2007 General Motors Grand Jazz Award at a press conference, at **1 p.m. today** in the **Salon Mont-Royal du Hyatt Regency Montréal**. The band will again be presented their prize when they perform just before the closing show of this year's fest, starring Oliver Jones, Susie Arioli and I Musici, **tonight at 8 p.m.** in the **Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier** at **Place des Arts**. But they'll also be giving a **free outdoor concert tonight at 6 p.m.** on the **Scène General Motors** if you want to catch them then.

Félix Stüssi & Give me Five

This spring, Swiss-born adoptive Montrealer **Félix Stüssi** launched *Give Me Five*, a genuinely appealing debut album that synthesizes his many sources of inspiration. A veteran musician and bandleader, Stüssi gives us five accompanied by his quintet, Alex Côté and Bruno Lamarche (saxophones), Clinton Ryder (acoustic bas) and Isaiah Ceccarelli (drums). Comparable to a painter possessing a unique palette of delirious colours, unafraid of creating new tones at once modern and ingrained in tradition, this musician, proficient in ethnomusicology, has found, in the heart of this quintet, the ideal cohorts in launching oneself into the purest of creations.

2007 General Motors Grand Jazz Award

The General Motors Grand Jazz Award entails:

- The **General Motors Grand Jazz Award 2007** trophy, plus a **\$5,000 cash prize** from **General Motors of Canada**;
- An exterior show on the **Scène General Motors, Saturday, July 7 at 6 p.m.** within the context of the *Gammes General Motors* series PLUS an appearance as opening act for the closing show starring Oliver Jones, Susie Arioli and I Musici **at 8:00 in Place des Arts**, as part of the *Pleins feux General Motors* series;
- An invitation to appear at the **2008 Festival International de Jazz de Montréal**, all expenses paid by the Festival (transportation, hotel and fees)
- 50 hours of studio time (plus mastering) at **Studio Karisma**;
- A licensing deal for the production and distribution of an album on the **Justin Time label**;
- An invitation to appear at the **Festi Jazz International de Rimouski, 2008** edition.

Galaxie Rising Star Award of the CBC

This is the 6th year that Galaxie, The Continuous Music Network of the CBC, has been associated with the General Motors Grand Jazz Award. This year's **Galaxie Rising Star Award of the CBC** is going to **Marianne Trudel**, composer of **Sur la route**, considered by the jury to be the best composition presented in this

year's contest. In addition to a **\$5,000** grant, the winner will have his music played on one or many jazz channels offered by Galaxie. By encouraging these upcoming stars, Galaxie is fulfilling one of its heartfelt objectives.

A springboard for Canadian jazz ensembles

Created in 1982 by the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, the Grand Jazz Award has become a springboard for local musicians with bright futures in jazz. Every summer, the awarding of the Grand Jazz Award has increasingly drawn the interest of the general public, as well as observers of the national and international jazz scenes, giving that last big boost to groups or artists on the verge of general recognition.

As in previous years, 10 Canadian groups or artists were in competition for the General Motors Grand Jazz Award 2007. Besides the winners, competing this year were: **Antoine Berthiaume** (Québec), **Brandi Disterheft** (Colombie-Britannique), **Hutchinson Andrew Trio** (Alberta), **Jodi Proznick Quartet** (Colombie-Britannique), **Quinsin Nachoff** (Ontario), **Stacie McGregor** (Ontario), **The Adrian Vedady Quartet** (Québec) and the **Trio Jean Félix Mailloux** (Québec).

The 2007 jury was comprised of: **Ralph Boncy** (programmer for *Latino Tropical* at Galaxie, The Continuous Music Network of the CBC, and musical director of Couleur Jazz 91.9); **Jean-Pierre Leduc** (A&R and artistic director for Justin Time Records); **Becca Pulliam** (producer, WBGO FM), **Martin Roussel** (musician and representative of the Festi Jazz International de Rimouski), and **Martin Auguste** (musician).

Take note that the leader of the last year's winning band, **David Virelles**, gave a free exterior concert last Wednesday, July 4 at 6 p.m. as part of the *Les Gammes General Motors* series.

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