



News release  
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**More jazz magic lights up the Festival program!**  
**James Taylor, Katie Melua,  
Dee Dee Bridgewater**  
and the stunning reunion of  
**Return to Forever with Chick Corea,  
Stanley Clarke, Al Di Meola and Lenny White**

**Montreal, Thursday, March 13, 2008** — If the first concert announcements promised a vintage **29th edition** of the **Festival International de Jazz de Montréal**, get ready for the next legendary artists on the 2008 roster! It is the Festival's great pleasure to welcome the immortal **James Taylor**, new darling **Katie Melua** in a **grand opening concert**, the luminous **Dee Dee Bridgewater**, and a stunning reunion of the legendary **Return to Forever** featuring **Chick Corea, Stanley Clarke, Al Di Meola** and **Lenny White**! Shout it from the rooftops: when the stars align for this musical event presented by **General Motors** in collaboration with **Rio Tinto Alcan**, from **June 26 to July 6, 2008**, Montreal is the centre of the jazz universe! **Tickets for these concerts go on sale this Monday, March 17 at 10 a.m.**

**New stars added...**

**Return to Forever with Chick Corea, Stanley Clarke, Al Di Meola and Lenny White** — **Friday, June 27, 7 p.m.**, Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, PdA (*Pleins feux General Motors series*)

*A reunion 25 years in the making!*

It's a reunion that already qualifies as the jazz event of the year! When **Chick Corea** (piano), **Stanley Clarke** (bass), **Al Di Meola** (guitar) and **Lenny White** (drums) reform the group that blazed through '70s jazz-rock and announce their intention to tour, the jazz world returns the salute! According to founder Chick Corea, the quartet has one goal: take songs from four classic albums that altered the musical landscape, and play them until that landscape shakes! And when the musicians of **Return to Forever** make that promise, the heart of the jazz world skips a beat!

**James Taylor and his Band of Legends** — **Sunday, July 6, 7:30 p.m.**, Bell Centre

*The folk icon returns to Montreal for the first time in 11 years!*

James Taylor, fresh from celebrating his 60th birthday, assembles a "big band" of musicians who have marked his career and embarks on a North American tour that brings him to the Festival. For those who missed the last 40 years of pop music, it's an opportunity to discover the masterpieces that put James Taylor in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Fans will swoon anew to the unmistakable voice behind *How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You)*, *Carolina On My Mind*, *Fire and Rain* and, of course, *You've Got A Friend*, and discover what a singer of this magnitude can do with classics from the eternal songbooks of Chuck Berry, Big Mama Thornton and Junior Walker.

**Katie Melua — opening concert — Thursday, June 26, 7:30 p.m., Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, PdA (Pleins feux General Motors series)**

*Her first major North American concert!*

1984: **Katie Melua** is born in Georgia, SSR. 2003: the world bends an ear to her first single, *The Closest Thing To Crazy*. 2005: now a British citizen, she is the top-selling female artist in the UK for a second consecutive year. 2006: she is the top-selling European female artist *in the world!* 2007: her 3rd album, *Pictures*, confirms her global star status, bewitching millions of fans with her remarkably warm voice. 2008: the Festival welcomes Katie Melua and her new songs with a special opening concert—her first major North American performance! An irresistible concert event!

**Dee Dee Bridgewater, Red Earth: A Malian Journey — Thursday, June 26, 6 p.m., Théâtre Maisonneuve, PdA (Voix du monde series)**

*A luminous groove!*

The Festival darling explores new horizons, traveling the red earth between her native Memphis and Bamako, the capital of Mali. A quest for identity and a return to roots make for perhaps her most luminous album, and one that floored the critics. It's a full-colour show fusing jazz and traditional Malian music, with 10 musicians onstage. Those lucky few who've caught her onstage speak of a kind of magic... and a transcendent groove!

## ...to a shining jazz galaxy

Add the above concerts to those already announced as part of the 29th program of the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, tickets already on sale (visit [montrealjazzfest.com](http://montrealjazzfest.com) for info): **Aretha Franklin / Steely Dan / Leonard Cohen / Saxophone Summit with Joe Lovano, Dave Liebman and Ravi Coltrane / Coral Egan / Omara Portuondo / Charlie Haden Quartet West / Ladytron**, as well as the *Battle of the Bands* featuring the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** and the **Tommy Dorsey Orchestra**. And don't forget the all-new *Guitarmania* concert series, part of the Montreal Guitar Show from June 26 to 29 (visit [montrealguitarshow.com](http://montrealguitarshow.com) for info): **Erik Mongrain / Michel Haumont and Jean-Félix Lalanne / Jordan Officer / Antoine Dufour / John Jorgenson / Jake Shimabukuro / Andy McKee / Don Ross / Martin Taylor / Gareth Pearson / Jim Hall and Pierre Bensusan**.

### Tickets go on sale this Monday, March 17 at 10 a.m.

Tickets for these new shows go on sale this Monday, March 17 at 10 a.m. and will be available at the main box office at **Métropolis** (59 Ste. Catherine St. E.). Tickets for concerts presented at Place des Arts will be available at Métropolis as well as **Place des Arts** (175 Ste. Catherine St. W.) at 514 842-2112 or [laplacedesarts.com](http://laplacedesarts.com) and from **Admission**, at [admission.com](http://admission.com) or at 514 790-1245. Tickets for the James Taylor concert at the **Bell Centre** will be available at **Admission**, at 514-790-1245, or at [geg.ca](http://geg.ca).

The **complete indoor concert program** for the 29th edition of the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal will be announced on May 6, while the **program** for the **free, outdoor concerts** will be made public on June 3. To get the jump on the crowd, sign up for the **Spectra Newsletter** and have the scoop on the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, the SIMM and the Montreal Guitar Show emailed to your inbox. For further information, call the Bell Info-Jazz Line at **514 871-1881**, toll-free at **1 888 515-0515**, or visit [montrealjazzfest.com](http://montrealjazzfest.com).

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Festival International de Jazz de Montréal — 514 523-3378

**Media Information:**

Marie-Eve Boisvert, Senior Director — Media Relations — 514 523-3378, ext. 5666; [marie-eve.boisvert@equipespectra.ca](mailto:marie-eve.boisvert@equipespectra.ca)

Greg Kitzler, Press Attaché — 514 523-3378, ext. 5622; [greg.kitzler@equipespectra.ca](mailto:greg.kitzler@equipespectra.ca)

**Public Information:** Bell Info-Jazz Line — 514 871-1881 or toll free 1 888 515-0515; [montrealjazzfest.com](http://montrealjazzfest.com)