



News release  
For immediate distribution

## Three days dedicated to guitarists The next musical generation on stage at the Montreal Guitar Grand Prix

### Final auditions and free show by Charlie Hunter, at 8 p.m. at Théâtre Outremont

Montreal, Tuesday, September 26, 2006 – The public is invited to come discover and encourage Quebec's best young guitarists at the Montreal Guitar Grand Prix, presented in the context of the Montreal Musician and Musical Instrument Show (MMMIS). An entire weekend dedicated to the guitar and music making, on September 29 and 30, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on October 1, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Théâtre Outremont! Presented by Godin Guitars in collaboration with Steve's Music Store, the contest provides not only a unique opportunity for young guitarists to concretely live their musical passion on stage, but also a far-too-rare opportunity for the public to attend musical performances at no charge for three whole days, during the 10th anniversary of Quebec's *Journées de la culture*.

### A closing show celebrating the guitar!

The Montreal Guitar Grand Prix will wind down to a spectacular end with a guitar-filled evening, starting Sunday at 8 p.m. at Théâtre Outremont. The program will start with the final auditions, given by the best young guitarists in the contest. The evening will continue with a free show by tried and true guitar pros, such as eight-string virtuoso, Charlie Hunter, and as opening act, Rob Lutes and Rob MacDonald, whom we saw this summer at the MMMIS.

#### Schedule for the closing evening

8:00 p.m.	Auditions of the 12 finalists
9:30 p.m.	Rob Lutes and Rob MacDonald
9:50 p.m.	Intermission and selection, by the public, of the winner of the People's Choice Award of the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal
10:00 p.m.	Charlie Hunter
11:00 p.m.	Awards ceremony

Much more than a simple contest, the Montreal Guitar Grand Prix seeks to bring together all those who share the same passion for music, from the most timid amateurs to the craziest of the craziest guitar fans! The general public, amateurs and professionals are all invited to attend this festive event, which also serves as an enjoyable, concrete way of encouraging the upcoming generation. Our talented young people ages 18 to 29 will have a chance to perform on stage, share their love for the guitar both with their peers and the public and with the great names of the stage, the industry and all spheres related to music in general and to the guitar in particular.

### Three days of auditions

The judges' panels will consist of professionals, all of whom are passionate about the guitar. The panel for the finals will include Antoine Berthiaume, a regular at the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, Luc Fortin, president of the Guilde des musiciens et musiciennes du Québec and guitarist with the group Fortin-Léveillé, the famous and highly affable guitarist Rick Haworth, Sébastien Dufour, member of the Montreal Guitar Trio, and Daniel Lemay, a journalist at *La Presse* and big guitar fan. The preliminary auditions will take place in front of Fred Di Santo from Godin Guitars, Steve Nadeau, guitarist for the groups Venus 3 and Young Soul, and professional guitarists Jean-François Hamel and Jean-Sébastien Williams.

The judges will also be in the audience! In fact, at the 12 finalists' auditions on Sunday evening, the audience will be asked to vote on their favourite guitarist, giving this person the chance to win the People's Choice Award of the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal. The person who announces the winner and the candidate who wins the prize will each receive an XM portable radio with a one-year subscription to XM Satellite Radio, courtesy of the Festival.

In addition to having an **extraordinary experience**, the participants in the **four categories** (**electric guitar, nylon-string guitar, jazz guitar and acoustic guitar**) will share up to **\$20,000 in prizes** that would wow any guitarist worthy of the name. The prizes are offered courtesy of the MMMIS, the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal and our presenters, Godin Guitars and Steve's Music Store, and by our official suppliers, **Marshall Amplification** and **DigiTech Guitar Effects**. In addition, the MMMIS will offer **the grand prizewinner in each category a one-year loan of one of the guitars in the Ste-Cat collection**, guitars crafted by the best luthiers participating in the MMMIS for the purpose of lending concrete, free support to talented young musicians. Visit the website at [www.montrealguitargrandprix.com](http://www.montrealguitargrandprix.com) for a description of the prizes.

– 30 –

**Source:**

Festival International de Jazz de Montréal – 514 523-3378



**Media Information:**

Marie-Eve Boisvert, Media Relations Director - 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:**

Web site : [www.montrealguitargrandprix.com](http://www.montrealguitargrandprix.com)

Bell Info-Jazz Line – 514 871-1881 or toll free 1-888-515-0515