



News Release  
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## **Bob Dylan, Angélique Kidjo, Harry Connick, Jr., Mike Stern and François Bourassa to be honored by the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal**

**Montreal, Thursday, May 24, 2007** — **Bob Dylan, Angélique Kidjo** and **Harry Connick, Jr.**, guitarist **Mike Stern** and pianist **François Bourassa** are the 2007 winners of prestigious prizes awarded annually by the **Festival International de Jazz de Montréal** to artists who've made extraordinary contributions to the evolution of music. This year, they'll receive, respectively, the **Montreal Jazz Festival Spirit Award, Antonio Carlos Jobim Award, Ella Fitzgerald Award, Miles Davis Award** and **Oscar Peterson Award**.

### **Montreal Jazz Festival Spirit Award : Bob Dylan**

Bob Dylan is the second artist to receive the Montreal Jazz Festival Spirit Award. With this award, created especially on the occasion of its 27th edition, the Festival wishes to showcase quality and musical innovation, as well as the author-composer-performer's undeniable influence on the international pop music scene. Legend... icon... voice of his generation—and beyond. **Bob Dylan** is one of those rare artists for whom conventional accolades will not suffice. Almost 50 years into a career, with a higher profile than he's had in decades, the man, the writing and the voice are timeless... and timely. Bob Dylan's latest, *Modern Times*, went to #1. A habitual Nobel Prize nominee for literature, he is studied in university curricula and from the orchestra seats at his concerts. **Bob Dylan and his band, Pleins feux General Motors series**, at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, PdA, **Thursday July 4, special time — 7:30 p.m.**

### **Antonio Carlos Jobim Award: Angélique Kidjo**

**Angélique Kidjo** is the 4th winner of the Antonio Carlos Jobim Award, created for the Festival's 25th anniversary to honour artists distinguished in the field of world music whose influence on the evolution of jazz and cultural crossover is widely recognized. We could say that her music is a mixture of influences from her native Benin and American R&B, funk and jazz... That she has been a repeat Grammy nominee and has worked with the likes of Dave Matthews, Carlos Santana, Peter Gabriel, Alicia Keys, Branford Marsalis and Amadou and Mariam... That her latest album, *Djin Djin*, a favourite with the critics, is a true gem. But what is most distinct about this top-rate African singer is her way of singing and of making music without boundaries: her highly palpable energy, charisma and joie de vivre make her one totally irresistible artist, endowed with a voice that is unique. Wild! **Couleurs SAQ series, Thursday, June 28, 6 p.m., at the Spectrum.**

### **Ella Fitzgerald Award: Harry Connick, Jr.**

**Harry Connick, Jr.** is the 9th artist to receive the Ella Fitzgerald Award, established in 1999 for our 20th anniversary and conferred in recognition of the versatility, improvisational originality and quality of repertoire of a jazz singer renowned on the international scene. At the early age of 10, he was already playing piano with a local jazz orchestra, and then in clubs in the French quarter. Countless piano awards later—at the ripe age of 19—already very franksinatresque in style, he released his first album on the Columbia label. But Connick also has close ties with the film world: as an actor, obviously, but also as a singer and composer. This talented crooner and pianist carries Louisiana in his heart and soul, notably in his two recent albums entitled *Oh, My Nola* and *Chanson du Vieux Carré*. A moving ode to New Orleans at **Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, PdA, Saturday, June 30, 8 p.m.**, as part of the *Pleins feux General Motors series*.

## **Miles Davis Award: Mike Stern**

**Mike Stern** will be the 14th recipient of the Miles Davis Award, created for our 15th anniversary in 1994 to honour a great international jazz musician for the entire body of his or her work and for that musician's influence in regenerating the jazz idiom. Pioneer guitarist of his generation, Mike Stern has played with the greats, including Miles Davis, Jaco Pastorius, Michael Brecker, Bill Evans, and Pat Metheny, to name but a few. He recorded his first album as band leader in 1985, and in 2006, released his 13th, *Who Let the Cats Out*. Beyond classification and forever reinventing himself, Mike Stern is a guitarist of legendary talent. As host of the first part of the prestigious *Invitation Alcan* series, he will be honouring us with a five-evening glimpse at his career, at **Théâtre Jean-Duceppe in PdA, from June 28 to July 2, at 7:30 p.m.**

## **Oscar Peterson Award: François Bourassa**

**François Bourassa** is the 19th artist to receive the Oscar Peterson Award, created on the 10th anniversary of the Festival in 1989 to salute a Canadian musician who's made outstanding contributions to jazz in this country and for the quality of his art. More and more, the international press acknowledges what we have long since known: **François Bourassa**—one of the first winners of the Grand Jazz Award (1985)—is a player to be reckoned with! Hailed in the *New York Times* in November 2005, he recently completed a studio-residency in the Big Apple. With a 7th album coming this summer, he returns to the Festival with his quartet and special guest David Binney. *Jazz Beat TD Canada Trust* series, at the **Spectrum, Sunday, July 1, at 10 p.m.**

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