



PRESTO, MAMBO!

PROGRAM INFORMATION - US ORCHESTRAS

August 2015 – Please destroy all previous versions

The following text must be included in the concert program.

Presto, Mambo!
(A Max's Musical Misadventure)

Written and directed by Peter Duschenes
Musical direction by Alain Trudel
Artistic advisors: Lisa Griffiths and Hélène Ducharme
Puppets and masks by Claude Rodrigue, Sandra Turgeon
and Colin St-Cyr Duhamel

Performers: Peter Duschenes, Danielle Desormeaux OR
Emmanuelle Zeesman (TBC)

Stage Manager: Wendy Rockburn

(N.B. Logo must be included in program and is available on
the Platypus website at www.platypustheatre.com)

This production was co-commissioned by The National
Arts Centre Orchestra, The Vancouver Symphony, the
Edmonton Symphony and the Toronto Symphony.
(N.B. Logos of all four orchestras must be printed in the
program and are available from www.platypustheatre.com)

Platypus Theatre wants hear about your concert
experience. Use #PlatypusPrestoMambo or find us on
Facebook, Twitter (@platypustheatre) or Instagram (@
platypustheatre) and keep us in the loop!

REPERTOIRE

Excerpts from the following:

Gutiérrez	Alma Llanera Pajarillo
de Abreu	Tico Tico no Fubá
Sousa	Liberty Bell March
Bélanger, Marc	Potpourri Lavalois
Piazzolla	Oblivion

Trudel, Alain	Drum Magic
Traditional (arr. Wagler)	La Mariposa
Revueatas	Duelo from "Hommage a Federico Garcia Lorca"
Traditional (arr. Wagler)	La Bruja
Sheldon, Robert	Danzas Cubanas
Morricone	Gabriel's Oboe from "The Mission"
De Falla (arr. Chapelier)	Spanish Dance No.1 from "La Vida Breve"
Bernstein (arr. Peress)	"Mambo" from West Side Story

BIOGRAPHIES

N.B: Photographs of the actors and Stage Manager must
be included. High-resolution photographs of the artists are
available on the Platypus website at: platypustheatre.com

Platypus Theatre

Since 1989, almost one million young audience members
have been introduced to classical music through Platypus
Theatre. After more than 500 performances with more than
60 orchestras worldwide, Platypus has established itself as
one of North America's premiere music education theatre
companies. Original and engaging storylines are presented
in an intelligent and interactive way, with music always
taking the lead role. Children laugh, sing and empathize
with the characters while learning musical concepts,
styles, and much more. In 2006, one of Platypus' most
cherished productions *How the Gimquat Found her Song*
was produced for TV and went on to win several awards
including Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff
World Television Festival. In 1991, Platypus was the subject
of a nationally broadcast documentary on CTV, followed
by a PBS full-performance broadcast in 2000. During its
25th anniversary year, Platypus will premiere its eighth
original production, *Presto, Mambo!*, in partnership with
four orchestras across Canada. Other Platypus Productions
include *Emily Saves the Orchestra*, *Rhythm in your Rubbish*,
Bach to the Future, *Charlotte and the Music-Maker*, *Flicker of
Light on a Winter's Night*, and *Peter and the Wolf*.

Biographies continue on the next page...

Peter Duschenes - Writer, Director and Performer

Thousands of young classical music fans have Peter to thank for introducing them to symphonic music. He co-founded the Platypus Theatre touring company in 1989 to make orchestral music accessible for youth, and more than half a million concert-goers have benefitted from his creativity. As an award-winning playwright, Peter's writing credits include - among others - all eight Platypus productions, the television adaptation of *How the Gimquat Found Her Song* which won Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff World Television Festival in 2008. In addition to his roles in Platypus shows, he has also acted and directed with companies across Canada and the United States and is a recent recipient of a Chalmers's Fellowship from the Ontario Arts Council. When Peter isn't busy helping the Gimquat find her song, he and his wife Sarah are helping their children, Magda and Theo, find their socks.

Danielle Desormeaux - Actor

Danielle is one of the more adaptable creatures in the Platypus Theatre touring company. You can see her as the Gimquat in *How the Gimquat Found Her Song*, as Corky in *Bach to the Future*, as Emily in *Emily Saves the Orchestra* and as a hobo in *Rhythm in Your Rubbish*, a production she helped create. She is a highly-accomplished actor who has worked extensively in theatre, in film, and also as several animated characters on TV. She is also an experienced improviser and clown, and has written and created a number of critically-acclaimed works. Danielle has been a part of the Platypus touring company for 17 years but will never forget "the first time I heard a live orchestra playing on stage with me it literally took my breath away. I couldn't believe how powerful the sound was. Then I thought: Wow! Best job ever!"

Emmanuelle Zeesman - Actor

In addition to playing the role of the Gimquat in Platypus Theatre's *How the Gimquat Found her Song* and Corky in *Bach to the Future*, Emmanuelle has led audiences on many thrilling missions to defeat the horrible monster Cacopholous as Emily in *Emily Saves the Orchestra*. Her list of other theatrical acting credits is longer than she is, including her role in *Blood Brothers* for which she won the Capital Critics Circle Award for Best Actor, and her roles in off-Broadway productions of *A Christmas Carol* and *The Little Mermaid*. She is also a dynamite singer and performed across France as lead vocalist for the New Rochelle Festival touring company. Emmanuelle will never forget when the Gimquat's foot accidentally got caught in the conductor's podium and she ended the Can Can in the splits before falling to the ground.

Wendy Rockburn – Stage Manager

Want to know who and what goes where and when and how? Wendy's the one who has it well under control. Since 2005, Wendy has expertly juggled all of the details for Platypus Theatre productions, from monster's heads to lighting cues. Not only does she manage the Platypus touring company's stage, but she also works with theatres all over Eastern and Central Canada. And as often as possible, she jets off to far places to photograph the world, and has been known to skydive over the desert in Namibia or outrace a gaucho in Argentina. Her favorite part about Platypus shows is watching the kids follow every turn in the story in rapt attention. And the climax of the Gimquat still makes her cry, even after all of these years. No wonder we're wild about Wendy!