

# ***LES FOLKLORISTES***

*Fusion of French Canadian folk songs and jazz*



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**Audio available online at :**  
[www.reverbnation.com/lesfolkloristes](http://www.reverbnation.com/lesfolkloristes)  
[www.facebook.com/lesfolkloristes](http://www.facebook.com/lesfolkloristes)



Photo credit : Renaud Philippe

## *Les Folkloristes...*

...is a band composed of three first-class musicians from Quebec City jazz and folk music scenes: Benoît Fortier (voice), Guillaume Bouchard (double bass) and Vincent Gagnon (piano). Together, they add a unique jazz touch to the greatest Quebec folksongs.

Leaving an important place to spontaneity and improvisation, this original approach gives a second life to songs from our heritage. Les Folkloristes' repertoire includes folk music essentials and many folk-inspired 1950s songs.

Here is a glance at their repertoire :

- À la claire fontaine (traditional)
- Dans les prisons de Nantes (traditional)
- La cabane à sucre (Eugène Daigneault)
- L'escaouette (traditional)
- Papillon tu es volage (traditional)
- Quartier latin (Gilles Vigneault)
- La chanson des Pee-Wee (André de Chavigny)
- The Road to Grand-Mère (unknow composer)
- etc.

Les Folkloristes can adapt their show to suit any type of event. Upon request, other musicians can join the core trio, including a saxophonist and a percussionist.

## The musicians

### ***Benoît Fortier***

voice

Classically trained, Benoît Fortier has now led a diverse musical career for more than 15 years. A founding member of Les Chauffeurs à Pieds, he became known on the folk music scene as the band's singer and recorder player. In the last 13 years, he played with Les Chauffeurs à Pieds in the greatest national and international folk events including the Winnipeg Folk Festival (Canada), the BBC Radio Two Folk Festival (England), the Festival Interceltique de Lorient (France), the Skagen Folk Festival (Denmark) and the Port Fairy Folk Festival (Australia). Les Chauffeurs à Pieds proudly represented Quebec in the cultural programs of Ouagadougou 2004 Sommet de la francophonie and Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games.

Benoît Fortier has recorded six albums with Les Chauffeurs à Pieds, three of which received nominations for a Félix-Leclerc award in the folk album category. The band also collaborated with Richard Desjardins and Gilles Vigneault on the recording of a CD.

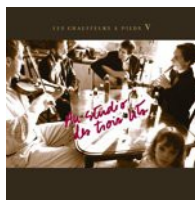
Benoît Fortier is known for his recorder virtuosity and his unique interpretation of Quebec folk repertoire. He also works as a multi-instrumentalist in numerous projects.

Albums :

Partons allons  
(2008)



Au studio des  
trois lits (2006)



Déjeuner  
canadien (2004)



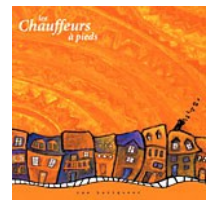
III (2002)



Frapabor &  
persoreille (2000)



Rue Lavigneur  
(1999)



### ***Guillaume Bouchard***

Double bass

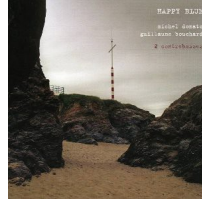
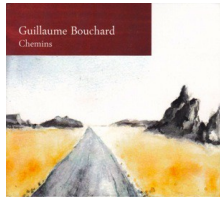
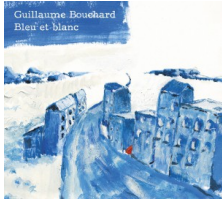
Guillaume Bouchard was born in Paris in 1977 from Quebecers parents, growing up in the middle of organs, harpsichord and violas da gamba. He began his own musical journey with a classical training on violin, switching to bass at fifteen. He started playing jazz in 1995, went on to study with Michel Donato and later had lessons with such masters as Oliver Jones and Jimmy Cobb.

He started to play in Québec and after a few visits in the United States, he established himself in France where he stayed for three years, recording with artists such as Bruno Micheli (2004), Ninine Garcia (2004 and 2006) and Michel Donato (2006).

His path now leads him between France and Canada as leader-composer and sideman. His albums *Bleu et blanc* (2011) and *Chemins* (2009) feature his own compositions in a quartet with Michel Côté, André Lachance and François Côté. He also played with Angelo Debarre, Dany Doriz, Wray Downes, Marc Fosset, Michel Lambert, Patrick Saussois, Reg Schwager and André White, among others.

Albums :

*Bleu et blanc* (2011)    *Chemins* (2009)    *Happy Blue* (2006)



## ***Vincent Gagnon***

Piano

Vincent Gagnon is one of the most popular pianists in Quebec City's jazz scene. Known for his subtle command of the keyboard, he has collaborated with the best artists in Quebec City and Montreal and performed with many international artists.

Invited at many jazz festivals, he has also performed in concert halls and jazz clubs in Quebec City and Montreal. As collaborator, his name appears on many recordings such as Annie Poulain's albums (eponym, *Saoûlée à l'autre*, *Alinéas* disques – *Jazzons Québec* disques SMC and *André Larue* (Larue du jazz, disques Effendi).

Vincent Gagnon launched his first album, *Bleu cendre*, in September 2009. At the crossroad of acoustic jazz and impressionistic music, *Bleu cendre* bears harmonious and gently contoured melodies leaving room for improvisations that form the foundation of the quintet. The album was finalist for an Opus award (best jazz album 2009-2010).

Vincent Gagnon won the Prix résidence – Ville de Québec de la Bourse RIDEAU in 2010, which gives him access to Quebec City's Palais Montcalm. He was the recipient of the Prix Étoiles-Galaxie de Radio-Canada/CBC Galaxy Rising Star Award at the 2009 Festival International de Jazz de Montréal.

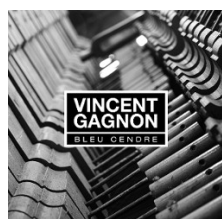
Vincent launched in 2012 his second album : *Himalaya*.

Albums :

*Himalaya* (2012)



*Bleu cendre* (2009)



## Technical requirements

Les Folkloristes normally perform as a trio, but other musicians can join the band on request (saxophone, drum, etc.).

### **Benoît Fortier :**

1 vocal mic

### **Vincent Gagnon :**

1 acoustic piano properly amplified OR 1 digital piano with 2 Direct Box

### **Guillaume Bouchard**

1 mic for double bass

## Stage plot

