



LE GRAND CONTINENTAL®

Sylvain Émard Danse

Virée classique 2020

Pre-audition, August 10 2019 – 3:30 pm

Mix popular tradition and contemporary art. Combine highly festive line dancing with the fluidity and expressiveness of contemporary dance. When Sylvain Émard accepted the challenge of this unlikely marriage, he had no idea of the enthusiastic audience response he would unleash or of how extremely popular it would become. Created in 2009 for the Festival TransAmériques, the piece has galvanised Montreal four times and won over Canada, Mexico, United States, South Korea, New Zealand, Chile and Germany.

In August 2020, **Le Grand Continental** will take part of the **Festival Virée Classique**. For the occasion, hundreds of dancers of all ages and backgrounds will be accompanied live by musicians from the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, conducted by Kent Nagano. We are recruiting Montrealers to form this new distribution. We invite you to discover an excerpt of the most popular latter-day square dance. Show us your moves!

Crazy about dance? Like to shake things up on the dance floor? We are waiting for you on Sainte-Catherine Street, just in front of Place des Arts, August 10th at 3:30 pm.

* No registration is required to participate in the pre-audition.

CREDITS

Choreographer: Sylvain Émard

Music: Instituto Mexicano del Sonido

Professional dancers: Nicolas Labelle, Julie Siméon

SYLVAIN ÉMARD

A prolific and internationally respected artist, Sylvain Émard created his own dance company **Sylvain Émard Danse** in 1990, quickly establishing a reputation for a very original style. Highly theatrical at first, his work soon evolved into a more formal approach to dance. From his first solo piece **Ozone, Ozone** (1987) to his group work **Ce n'est pas la fin du monde** (2013) and the recent small scale dance **Le chant des sirènes** (2017), he has been exploring the territory of human nature through the force and strength of the body. His repertoire now includes over thirty original pieces that have had a resounding impact all over the world.

Renowned for his refined style and precise movement, his presentation in 2009 of **Le Grand Continental**® at the Festival TransAmériques must have come to some as a surprise. Inspired by line dancing and contemporary dance, this unique piece has featured 3,000 non-dancers in several performances across Canada, the United States, Mexico, South Korea, New Zealand and Chile, attracting some 120,000 spectators. In September 2017, **Le Super**

2022, rue Sherbrooke Est, bureau 400, Montréal (Québec) Canada H2K 1B9

1 514 598 1733 communication@sylvainemard.com sylvainemard.com

Méga Continental boasted 375 dancers in Montreal to celebrate the city's 375th anniversary in a monumental fashion.

Sylvain Émard's unique style has led to invitations to work as guest choreographer in theatre, opera and cinema. These collaborations include his joining forces with Robert Lepage in 2005 to work on the opera **1984** by Lorin Maazel, presented in London and Milan. At the behest of theater director René-Richard, Sylvain Émard is creating the choreographies for the musical *Demain matin, Montréal m'attend* at Théâtre du Nouveau Monde.

Sylvain Émard has received numerous prestigious awards, such as the Jean A. Chalmers Choreographic Award (1996). In 2011 he was named **Personality of the Week** by *La Presse/Radio-Canada* for **Le Grand Continental®**. **Sylvain Émard is also co-founder of the Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique.**