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FESTIVAL CHANTS DE VIELLES ANNOUNCES GRAND CONCERT LINEUP FOR ITS 22nd EDITION

April 23, 2026, Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu – Édith Butler, Le Vent du Nord, Vishtèn, Galant tu perds ton temps, Laura Cortese, Otone, Nadine et Sammy, La Belle Petite Équipe, and Los Vega - acclaimed names from the international folk and traditional music scene - will share the main stage at the 22nd edition of Festival Chants de Vieilles, in early July.

These artists from Quebec, Acadie, Europe, the United States, and Mexico will perform during the Grand Concerts on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings at the festival's main site in Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu, in the Montérégie region. Expect an immersive journey through traditional repertoires and the vibrant encounters of today's folk scene.

Friday, July 3 - 7:30 to 10:30 PM

Opening the festivities is a duo born from the musical meeting of two exceptional artists: **Laura Cortese and Bert Ruymbeek**. A California native who relocated to Boston to study at Berklee College of Music, Laura Cortese brings a percussive playing style, a powerful and sensual voice, and post-folk arrangements that are at once delicate and cinematic. A true creative force who thrives on collaboration, she will be joined at Chants de Vieilles by **Bert Ruymbeek** - accordionist and member of Flemish traditional music group Wör - a musician from Ghent, Belgium, whose energetic rhythms and lyrical playing are deeply rooted in Northern European folk traditions. Together, they weave an intimate musical tale.

Next on stage: the legendary singer, storyteller, and musician **Édith Butler**, from Paquetville, Acadie. A graduate in arts and letters and a trained ethnologist, Butler has

devoted her life to the traditions of her homeland. Her passion for history and music has led her to collect an extraordinary body of songs passed down through oral tradition, forming the heart of her stage repertoire. A recipient of countless honours, she has built an impressive discography of some 300 titles across 27 albums, earning three Platinum and five Gold records. A rare and unmissable opportunity to hear the voice often called “the soul of the Acadian people.”

Returning to Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu by popular demand, **Le Vent du Nord** makes a homecoming stop in Montérégie as they sweep through Quebec between legs of a major international tour. Since launching *Voisinages* - including performances in New York, Boston, Washington and Glasgow - the legendary Quebec quintet has been making their way up the West Coast of the United States and Canada, and Chants de Vieilles will mark the kickoff of their summer festival season. Their work is at once deeply rooted in tradition and unmistakably alive, exploring the intercultural connections between the francophone musics of the Americas: Quebec, Acadian, and Cajun. A flagship ensemble of Quebec's traditional music renaissance, Le Vent du Nord has performed over 2,400 concerts on four continents over nearly a quarter-century, released 13 albums, and earned numerous prestigious awards.

Saturday, July 4 - 7:30 to 10:30 PM

Launching the second evening of Grand Concerts, **Nadine et Sammy** are living proof that traditional music knows no borders. Raised in a family of musicians in the Gaspésie, **Nadine Landry** has devoted over 20 years to traditional music, immersed in Old-time and Cajun traditions. Equally at home on guitar and double bass, her energetic playing, powerful voice, and infectious good humour are at the heart of the duo's appeal. Minnesota native **Sammy Lind** is widely regarded as one of the most celebrated Old-time fiddlers of his generation. Co-founder of the Foghorn Stringband (of which Nadine is also a member), he has toured the world sharing his love of Appalachian and Midwestern traditional tunes - playing with both passion and deep reverence for the Old-time masters.

Between the Gascony and the Centre of France, **Otone** traces a singular path through traditional music. Carried by Thomas Fradin, Naël Tripoli, and Charles Pouységur, the trio weaves a vibrant dialogue between hurdy-gurdy, boha (Gascon bagpipe), tambourin à cordes, and diatonic accordion. Rooted in dance, these three musicians draw on the folk repertoires of Southwestern and Central France, delivering music charged with contemporary energy and collective spirit. Their sound - powerful yet refined - is music made for sharing and for trance. An invitation to travel through landscapes and timbres.

Closing the second evening, **Vishtën** - for 20 years a driving force of Acadian music - brings together deep-rooted tradition and bold innovation with exhilarating flair. Originally from Prince Edward Island and the Magdalen Islands, the group has earned an outstanding international reputation, performing on major stages across North America, Europe, and Australia. The trio - today comprising Pascal Miousse on fiddle and multi-instrumentalists Emmanuelle Leblanc and Megan Bergeron - has accumulated a remarkable string of distinctions and nominations. Their collaborative

album *Expansion*, a tribute to the unfinished work of co-founder Pastelle Leblanc who passed away in 2022, was crowned Album of the Year at the East Coast Music Awards in 2025.

Sunday, July 5 - 5:00 to 8:00 PM

La Belle Petite Équipe returns to its roots, a decade after premiering its group performance at Chants de Vieilles. Since then, the ensemble has graced festivals across Quebec and Brittany. Their show brings together songs that speak to the most universal dimensions of human experience: the hardships of labour in the lumber camps, love found and lost, uprooting, departure, and the longing for home. Drawn from Quebec, Cajun, and Breton traditional repertoires - and occasionally from original compositions - these songs move audiences and carry them far. La Belle Petite Équipe brings together Breton singer and bodhran player **Roland Brou** with Quebec musicians **Liette Remon** (fiddle, vocals, ukulele) and **Paul Marchand** (vocals, guitar, podorythmie).

For 20 years, the six members of **Galant, tu perds ton temps** have been winning over audiences across Quebec with their passion, charisma, and irresistible energy. Founded in 2003 with the goal of celebrating the traditional women's song repertoire, performed in unison or in harmony, the group has grown ever more rigorous, ever more adventurous in pushing the limits of a cappella - and ever closer as friends. As they prepare to release their new album *Sur le faite* on June 12, the festival is thrilled to welcome **Jacinthe Dubé, Josianne Hébert, Evelyne Gélinas, Isabelle Payette, Mia Lacroix, and Louis-Simon Lemieux** - brilliant ambassadors of a living, vibrant, and deeply intelligent folk tradition.

Los Vega is a group of traditional musicians who have spent nearly 25 years championing the *son jarocho* - traditional music from the villages of Veracruz, in the rural heartland of eastern Mexico. Their music achieves a remarkable balance between cultural roots, a fifth-generation family heritage, and commanding stage presence. They have performed at festivals in Mexico, China, the United States, and Canada, and have released five studio albums. In 2001, they recorded *La Bruja* for the soundtrack of the Oscar-nominated Mexican film *Frida*. Los Vega comprises **Enrique Vega Leona** (requinto and vocals), **Fredi Vega** (jarana tercera, zapateado, vocals, dance), **Raquel Palacios Vega** (jarana primera, vocals, dance), and **Sinuhé Padilla** (leona and vocals).

An array of instruments and musical worlds to discover under the stars at the next Chants de Vieilles!

More announcements coming before May 1

In addition to the Grand Evening Concerts, Festival Chants de Vieilles - true to its traditions - will present over 75 artists in a distinctive program designed to offer audiences a rich variety of quality experiences that have come to define the festival's reputation: educational and participatory activities, youth programming, interactive workshops, dance evenings, and much more.

For more information, to purchase a festival pass, or for the full programming details, follow Chants de Vieilles on social media or visit **chantsdevieilles.com**.

EARLY BIRD PASSPORT SPECIAL

A **15% discount on the weekend passport** is currently available - valid until May 1.

Thank you to the festival's partners.