



Concert of the year



Jazz album of the year

## Marie-Josée Simard, Yves Léveillé et François Bourassa

### Three colours of jazz, and far more

*Marie-Josée Simard is a classical percussionist who flirts with jazz, while François Bourassa and Yves Léveillé are jazz pianists who know their classics. The album, *En trois couleurs*, presents a unique meeting of three prominent local musicians. Throughout *En trois couleurs*, released by Atma, the music wanders joyfully and adroitly from improvisation to written passages, from blue note to b-flat major. The compositions (most written by Bourassa, Léveillé or Simard, along with some Alberto Ginastera and Mike Manieri works) make the piano's scintillating colours leap out into impressionistic, contemporary tableaux. They also provide Marie-Josée Simard the opportunity to constantly renew the character of her contribution by changing her instrument for each piece. Whether she plays tubular bells, bongos, a marimba, a vibraphone, a bamboo bugle, a crystallophone or one of her many other instruments, the percussionist's contributions to the group are essential and drive the music towards exciting new soundscapes.*

Frédéric Cardin, ICI musique (Radio-Canada) February 6, 2015

### En trois couleurs: what's being said about it

*The onstage results knocked me completely off my feet. Marie-Josée Simard, a classical soloist who is little known in the Montreal jazz scene, excels at toying with improvisation in a completely astonishing way. From tubular bells to various types of vibraphones, marimbas and other unusual instruments, listeners that evening were given plenty to marvel at. Playing it by feel, you say? Simard weaves like a cat between her instruments and the two masterful pianists accompanying her, contributing her own compositions while sublimating theirs. Thanks must be given to the fantastic touch of Yves Léveillé and François Bourassa. This second portion would warrant much more discussion...*

Marie-Ève Boulanger, CAMUZ, mars 2014

*...It's very personal, very well-executed, I didn't think I would enjoy the album to this extent... The three of them are wonderful musicians!*

Ici Radio-Canada première

Samedi et rien d'autre, February 14, 2015, Edgard Fruitier, CD reviewer