

## ALEX BELLEGARDE QUINTET



**B**assist, composer and multidisciplinary artist, **Alex Bellegarde** is a versatile and energetic player who creates music drawn from a wealth of sources. Along with the very talented musicians of his quintet, he proposes music infused with a rich, modern jazz sound and compositions intricately woven with Cuban rhythms, grooves and collective improvisation. ♪

**L** laureate of the **Grand Jazz Award, Festival International de Jazz de Montréal**, 26th edition, Alex Bellegarde is a prominent artist on the Montreal scene and he performs in clubs and festivals across Canada. With three albums to his credit, his release *Caminando* (Justin Time Records), received excellent press reviews and was one of Canada's *Coda Jazz Magazine's* top 10 picks for 2006. A busy player and leader of several ensembles, has also recorded albums with a wide range of local artists: Yoël Diaz, Eval Manigat, Yvan Belleau, Denis Chang and Maânouche Swing to name just a few, as well as with visiting American artists: clarinetist Neal Haiduck and pianist Taurey Butler. Passionate about Cuban rhythms, he plays Latin bass with several Montreal-based Cuban musicians and was a guest performer with his Latin Quintet at the **Canadian National Jazz Awards** in Toronto, 2008. He has also performed with legendary guest artists on visit from Cuba and the US, such as vocalist Chiquitin and percussionist Candido Camero.

**I**nfluenced greatly by bassist, the late **Skip Bey**, Alex has played with the Vic Vogel Octet and Vogel's guest the renowned saxophonist Jimmy Heath at the Montreal Jazz Festival and he has performed in many events such as Generations Jazz and L'Off Festival de Jazz... all highly representative of the Montreal jazz scene. Multidisciplinary events include: Poetry from Three Americas 2008 with Mexican poets Pedro Serrano and Andrea Montiel, JazzAmérique (multimedia), Exit Sur Scène (10 years of poetry in Quebec), Émergence Énergie (dance, poetry, painting, music), MRJ (Bravo TV). Plays in Montreal: Cornemuse by Larry Tremblay, Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui and Hamlet Machine by Heiner Müller, Cinquième Salle, Place des Arts... to name just a few! ♪



*Energetic and joyful!*

« I love the freedom of jazz and the joy of Cuban rhythms. And I'm always hopeful about music's universal ability to transcend barriers and bring people together. » **Alex Bellegarde**

ALEX BELLEGARDE

YOËL DIAZ piano

ERIK HOVE alto sax

YVON PLOUFFE drums

KIKO OSORIO congas

ALEX BELLEGARDE double bass

*Guest artist at the National Jazz Awards, April 2008, Toronto*

*Guest artist for the Governor General's Arts Awards Gala, March 2008, Ottawa*

*Laureate of the Grand Jazz Award, Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, 26th edition ♪*

→ For more information about Alex Bellegarde's projects: [www.alexbellegarde.com](http://www.alexbellegarde.com)

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**Yoël Diaz** piano ♯  
studied at the José White Music School in Camaguey, Cuba. Since arriving in Montreal he has released three albums: *Te llegó* (Cuban Time Records), *Yoël Diaz Y Su Team Timba* (Mojitos & Musica ) and *Viva la Musica Cubana* (Fleur de Lys Productions). Yoël has played in many festivals and major events across Canada and has opened for artists such as Arturo Sandoval, Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri and Ray Barreto.

**Erik Hove** alto sax ♯  
studied saxophone at McGill University in Montreal with Rémi Bolduc and with Blue Note recording artist Greg Osby in New York. Now based in Montreal, he heads a quartet and the band Soundclash, which has played extensively in New York and Montreal. He also plays with regularly with a range of jazz artists from the Montreal scene. Erik is the 2006 laureate of the François Marcaurelle Award, at Montreal's L'Off Festival de jazz.



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**Yvon Plouffe** drums ♯  
has worked on multiple projects: pop, jazz, new music, world rhythms, music for dance and film . He studied in Montreal, Los Angeles, New York, Guinea (West Africa) and Cuba and he has recorded and performed with a wide range of Quebec artists such as Karen Young, Têrez Montcalm, Roch Voisine, France D' Amour and Sylvain Cossette, to name just a few!



**Kiko Osorio** congas ♯  
is a graduate of Cuba's National School of the Arts in Havana. A virtuoso on congas, timbales and bongos he has performed at festivals in France, Mexico, Brazil and the US and he has recorded with artists such as Alejandro 'El Nino' Perez, Edwin Bonilla, Roberto Torres, Charlie D' Cali and the Montreal Jazz Big Band. Now residing in Montréal, he plays with several top Latin groups and is a regular guest at festivals and events across Canada.



**Coda - Canada's jazz Magazine** "...Recorded in one session at Studio Karisma in Montreal, *Caminando* is a completely charming debut .... Kudos all around on this one ..." Mike Chamberlain © 2006

**All About Jazz-New York** "...Caminando combines spontaneity and structure for an affair of the heart... There's a lot of land (and some sea) between Montreal and Havana. But Alex Bellegarde and his musical compatriots transcend geography on a sonic visit to the land in between..." Doug McClenagan ©2006 AllAboutJazz.com

**The Montréal Mirror** "...This is a memorable outing from this bassist's award-winning group. Try a blues or not! (8/10).." Len Dobbin

**Jazz FM Toronto** "...A fine collection of work and with time I expect two or three of these will become 'timeless' pieces in my collection!"  
Reiner Schwarz ©2006 Jazz FM 91

**La Scena Musicale** "...this album is happily eclectic in its grooves, moods and melodies ...a mature release from a young dues paying player on Montreal's effervescent jazz scene!" Paul Serralheiro ©2006 La Scena Musicale

**Wilson & Alroy-California** "... the focus here is on the compositions, and they're tasty and distinct, from the lively take on timba "La Vaca" to the laid-back "Native" to straight jazz numbers like "A Blues Or Not" and "Got Lip." While so many jazz numbers are just a bunch of notes thrown over the chord chart, Bellegarde always starts with a memorable theme: "Timba Time" is one of the catchiest things I've heard in years, with a lithe melody and fun, frisky playing all around." David Bertrand Wilson, ©2007 Wilson & Alroy's Record Reviews, USA

## QUINTET

**Caminando - Alex Bellegarde Quartet**  
Justin Time Records 2006