



## Community Calendar of Events

**Sept. 18 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 19 at 10:30 a.m.** – The **Orchestre symphonique de Québec** directed by **Clemens Schuldt** opens the 2024-2025 season at the Grand Théâtre with *La Pathétique de Tchaïkovski*. Award-winning Montreal pianist **Bruce Liu** will perform Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3. For details and tickets, visit [osq.org/categorie-concerts/saison-2024-2025](http://osq.org/categorie-concerts/saison-2024-2025).

**Thursday, Sept. 19 at 7:30 p.m.** – **Les Violons du Roy**, directed by **Jonathan Cohen**, celebrate their 40th anniversary with *Vivaldi et Les Violons: Quatre Saisons* at the Palais Montcalm. For details, visit [violonsduroy.com/en/programming/off-series](http://violonsduroy.com/en/programming/off-series).

**Friday, Sept. 20 at 8 p.m.** – Singer **Patsy Gallant** celebrates **70 years** as a performing artist at the Salle Albert-Rousseau (Cégep de Ste-Foy). She has won three Juno Awards and performed as Stella Spotlight in the rock opera *Starmania* in Paris for eight years. For information and tickets, visit [sallealbertrousseau.com/programmation/patsy-gallant](http://sallealbertrousseau.com/programmation/patsy-gallant).

**Sept. 20 at 3 and 8 p.m. and Sept. 22 at 3 and 7 p.m.** – **The Beatles – A Symphonic Tribute** in collaboration with the world-renowned Beatles tribute band **The Classical Mystery Tour**, the **FILMharmonique Orchestra** is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Beatles' first North American tour, at the Palais Montcalm. For information and tickets, visit [gfnproductions.ca/productions/the-beatles-a-symphonic-tribute](http://gfnproductions.ca/productions/the-beatles-a-symphonic-tribute).

**Saturday, Sept. 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – **VEQ Fall Fest** takes place in the Quebec High School gymnasium, 945 Ave. Belvédère. For details, visit [veq.ca/event/fall-fest-2024](http://veq.ca/event/fall-fest-2024).

**Sept. 21 at 3 and 8 p.m., Sept. 22 at 1 p.m.** – **Céline Symphonique**. The **Orchestre Philharmonique du Québec**, and soloists will interpret the greatest hits of **Céline Dion** at the Grand Théâtre. For details and tickets, visit [grandtheatre.qc.ca/programmation/celine-symphonique](http://grandtheatre.qc.ca/programmation/celine-symphonique).

**Sunday, Sept. 22** – **Cat owners** are invited to get their pet microchipped and registered at the **annual clinic organized by the Ville de Québec**. Microchipping and registration are offered for \$37. The event is open to Quebec City residents only, and participants must register online in advance. For more information including the exact location, visit [ville.quebec.qc.ca/citoyens/animaux/animaux-domestiques/micropucage](http://ville.quebec.qc.ca/citoyens/animaux/animaux-domestiques/micropucage).

**Sunday, Sept. 22 at 11 a.m.** – **Benefit Brunch for Mission Corail-Haïti Québec** at the Centre Mgr Marcoux, 2025 Rue Adjudant-Rivard. The cost is \$50 per adult, \$10 per child aged five to eight, and free for children under five. The Centre de santé Sainte-Claire near Corail, Haiti, was severely damaged by a magnitude 7.2 earthquake on Aug. 14, 2021. For more information, visit [missioncorail-haiti.com](http://missioncorail-haiti.com).

**Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.** – Critically acclaimed American singer-songwriter **Eli Lev** shares his songs and story at La Source de la Martinière, 201 Rue de Lanaudière. For more details, visit [eli-lev.com/bio](http://eli-lev.com/bio).

**Friday, Sept. 27 at 1 p.m.** – **Joe Lonergan of Irish Heritage Quebec** will give a bilingual tour of historic **St. Patrick's Cemetery**, 1601 Chemin Saint-Louis, weather permitting. Enter the cemetery by either access road and park near the service buildings. Please advise IHQ of your intention to attend by call-

*Note: If there is a community event you would like to have publicized, please let us know by email at least two weeks in advance ([editor@qctonline.com](mailto:editor@qctonline.com)).*

ing 418-704-3404 or email [newsihq@videotron.ca](mailto:newsihq@videotron.ca).

**Friday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.** – **Classic Movie Night** is back at **Chalmers-Wesley United Church**, 78 Rue Ste-Ursule. This month's feature film is the 1961 romantic comedy *Breakfast at Tiffany's* starring **Audrey Hepburn** and **George Peppard**. Doors open at **6:30 p.m.** with cartoons and newsreels of the day. Admission \$5.

**Friday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m.** – Virtuoso Quebec pianist **Jean-Philippe Sylvestre** plays George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and other works by Bernstein, Chopin, Liszt and Scriabin, at the Palais Montcalm. For details and tickets, visit [palaismontcalm.ca/concert-spectacle-quebec/rhapsody-in-blue](http://palaismontcalm.ca/concert-spectacle-quebec/rhapsody-in-blue).

Visit the **Voice of English-speaking Québec website** ([veg.ca](http://veg.ca)) for information about events for all ages.

Visit the **Morrin Centre website** ([morrin.org](http://morrin.org)) for information about more literary, artistic and educational activities for everyone.



## Local captain looks back on Transat triumph

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In a stunning show of endurance, Quebec's Atlas Ocean Racing (AOR) won the Gerry Roufs class of the 2024 Transat Québec-Saint-Malo, which set sail from Quebec City on June 30.

Led by skipper Gilles Barbot, the team of amateur sailors aboard the Volvo 70 completed the 2,845-mile journey in 14 days, 18 hours, 13 minutes and 50 seconds, arriving in Saint-Malo, France, just after 4 p.m. local time on July 15. Their course covered an actual distance of 3,294.62 nautical miles due to navigational adjustments.

The diverse crew, including Quebec sailors Julie Bégin Larouche and Andrée-Anne Chevalier, defied stereotypes of ocean racing, explained Barbot, who sat down to speak with the *QCT*. Barbot praised Chevalier's determination and courage, in training and in competition, given her role as a single mother and business owner.

AOR was born in 2014, inspired by Barbot's earlier endurance projects, including

cross-Canada cycling trips. He noted, "Seeing the emotion in people's eyes after completing those journeys inspired me to take it further." The vision behind AOR was to focus on creating authentic human experiences through sailing, with racing becoming a natural evolution in the team's quest to refine their skills.

A key milestone for AOR came with the acquisition of *Il Mostro*, a legendary Volvo 70 yacht that had placed second in the world circuit. Competing with such a high-calibre vessel seemed like an impossible challenge for a group of amateurs, but Barbot and his team pulled together the necessary resources through shared ownership. "People said it couldn't be done," Barbot recalled. "We proved them wrong." This allowed AOR to transition to an approach where dedicated amateurs could compete at a high level through teamwork and discipline.

Sailing across oceans is a lot like venturing into space, Barbot explained. It's an adventure into the unknown – but unlike a solo journey, it's always done as a team. Once you're out there, you're discon-

nected from everything – no cell phones, no roads, no signs, just the vastness of the ocean. "Every trace you create disappears instantly, and each mile you cover is a fresh path," he said. For him, this is the allure of the ocean and sailing – it's not just about competition, but about the human experience. When you win, it's because you've learned from past mistakes, grown and gotten better through perseverance.

"Being out on the ocean serves as a reminder of our existence, showing us how fleeting our presence is compared to the life thriving in the sea." The crew often encountered whales – a reminder of their interconnectedness with the natural world. "Mother Nature humbles you, both individually and as a team," Barbot said.

He said AOR's partnership with clothing and sports equipment brand Helly Hansen played a crucial role in their success. Barbot credited the brand for supporting the team's goals from the outset. "They partnered with us not just because of where we were, but where we wanted to go," he said. He emphasized how essential the right equipment



Photo by Richard Mardens

Members of the Atlas Ocean Racing team gather aboard *Il Mostro*, as they prepare for the Transat Québec Saint-Malo in June. Little did they know that they would come home victorious.

is for the crew's safety and performance, especially in harsh conditions.

Looking to the future, AOR aims to expand its Atlas Racing Program, training new sailors for both national and interna-

tional competitions. Barbot underscored the long-term commitment required, noting that the journey to success begins years before the race itself. For AOR, the experience is about more than just

winning; it's about the power of teamwork, discipline and passion, as ordinary people achieve extraordinary things. For more information on Atlas Ocean Racing, visit [equipeatlas.com](http://equipeatlas.com)

## Club Musical de Québec offers six new musical destinations

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The Club Musical de Québec begins its 2024-2025 season in early November, when the patience of music lovers will be rewarded with a musical journey around the world. For its 133rd season, the club is offering a series of concerts

worthy of the world's greatest cities, at the Palais Montcalm in Quebec City.

Beginning on **Nov. 5**, Greek violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** will present a concert with a selection of Bach's sonatas and partitas for solo violin.

On **Nov. 28**, the **Israeli Chamber Project**, a group of musicians based in the United States and Israel, who perform on unique combinations of

string and wind instruments including harp and piano, will draw inspiration from Stravinsky's ballet *Petrushka* and other masterpieces. The next day, Nov. 29 (not a part of the Club Musical subscription) the group will perform at L'Anglicane de Lévis.

On **Dec. 14**, the **Tallis Scholars** vocal ensemble from Great Britain will offer a program of Renaissance polyphony with

1,000 years of song from 12th-century works by Hildegard von Bingen to the music of Estonian composer Arvo Pärt (1935-).

On **March 10, 2025**, French pianist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** will perform some of his contemporary works along with creative collaborations with some of the leading composers of the present day.

The **March 26, 2025** con-

cert will see the long-awaited return of Swedish clarinetist **Martin Fröst**, French viola player **Antoine Tamestit** and Israeli-American pianist **Shai Wosner**, who unite their immense musical talents to present a program focusing on dance and its roots in folklore.

On **April 26, 2025** the Club Musical welcomes American baritone **Thomas Hampson**, a pillar of the international voice

community, who will illustrate his commitment to both the lieder and melody repertoire, accompanied by German pianist **Wolfram Rieger**.

For further details and to reserve tickets for some or all of the above concerts, visit [clubmusicaldequebec.com](http://clubmusicaldequebec.com).

