

# JULIEN LABRO

ACCORDIONIST~ BANDONEONIST~ COMPOSER ~ ARRANGER



Heralded as “the next accordion star” by Howard Reich of the Chicago Tribune, Julien Labro has established himself as one of the foremost accordion and bandoneón players in both the classical and jazz genres. Deemed to be “a triple threat: brilliant technician, poetic melodist and cunning arranger,” his artistry, virtuosity, and creativity as a musician, composer and arranger have earned him international acclaim and continue to astonish audiences worldwide.

French-born Labro was influenced early on by traditional folk music and the melodic, lyrical quality of the French chanson. Upon discovering the music of jazz legends, he quickly became inspired by the originality, freedom, creativity, and the endless possibilities in their musical language. After graduating from the Marseille Conservatory of Music, Labro began winning international awards including the Coupe Mondiale, the Castelfidardo Competitions, and many others. In 1998, Labro moved to the United States, where he further pursued his musical dream. Equipped with advanced degrees in classical music, jazz studies, and composition, Labro draws from his diverse academic background and eclectic musical influences as he searches for new themes and untried concepts, transforming and developing his creative ideas into new projects.

Labro has collaborated with numerous symphony orchestras and chamber ensembles, often playing the dual roles of solo artist as well as composer/arranger. These include the conductorless Boston-based chamber orchestra, A Far Cry, Spektral Quartet, Arneis Quartet, Ensemble Vivant of Toronto, and Curtis On Tour from the Curtis Institute of Music faculty of Philadelphia. He has been a guest soloist with numerous symphonies such as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of St Luke’s, New World Symphony, the Hartford Symphony, the Arkansas Symphony, the Grand Rapids Symphony, the Cape Cod Symphony, the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and many more.

Labro’s musical journey has taken him all across North America, Europe, the Middle East and South America. Labro has performed, and collaborated with diverse artists such as Brazilian legend João Donato, big-band leader Maria Schneider, vocalist Cassandra Wilson, Lebanese oud master Marcel Khalife, pianists Uri Caine and Fernando Otero, classical Grammy-winner guitarist Jason Vieaux, saxophonists Paquito D’Rivera, Miguel Zenón, James Carter, Chris Cheek, Jon Irabagon and Victor Goines, clarinetist Anat Cohen, trumpeter Dominick Farinacci, composers Bryce Dessner, Du Yun and Avner Dorman, harmonica extraordinaire Howard Levy, percussionist Jamey Haddad, and guitarists Howard Alden, Larry Coryell, Frank Vignola, Tommy Emmanuel, and John and Bucky Pizzarelli.

After a busy summer zigzagging all across the US and the Middle East, Labro will open the 2019 season performing with jazz artists John Clayton, Lewis Nash, Ken Peplowski and Larry Fuller at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vail Jazz Festival.

Late September and October, Labro will embark on a solo tour “the Art of the Accordion” performing a solo program ranging from Bach to modern classical compositions on both bandoneon and accordion. In November, Labro will present his latest project: Julien Labro & the Chamber Collective by premiering his newest chamber work *Stationed in Ambivalence*, a 3 movements suite for bandoneon, violin, piano and contrabass. Recently commissioned by the New West Symphony, Labro’s *Canvas*, a double concerto for bandoneon, guitar, and strings will also receive its premiere later that month. In March, Labro will premiere his latest orchestral composition “*The Django Fantasy*” during the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the Berks Jazz Festival. Commissioned by the festival to celebrate their milestone (and coincidentally Django Reinhardt’s 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary) Labro has written an orchestral suite featuring a Hot Club style ensemble acting as soloist with orchestra to be premiered on March 27<sup>th</sup> with the Reading Pops Orchestra. Other highlights of the season include performances with the Buffalo Philharmonic, bagpiper Cristina Pato from the Silk Road Ensemble, a special program with long-time collaborator and Grammy winner guitarist Jason Vieaux featuring the Ceruti String Quartet and Pablo Aslan.

In his free time, Labro is working on composing a new bandoneón concerto that will be a sequel to his accordion concerto *Apricity*. To learn more about Labro, visit <http://julienlabro.com>.