Short Biography (454 Words)

Hailed as “the next accordion star” and “a triple threat: brilliant technician, poetic melodist, and cunning arranger" by the *Chicago Tribune*, **Julien Labro** is internationally recognized as one of the foremost accordion and bandoneón soloists of his generation. Labro brings uncommon versatility to the concert stage, moving fluidly between classical, jazz, tango, and world music. A performer, composer, and arranger, he is known for concept-driven, presenter-friendly programs that captivate audiences while pushing musical boundaries.

Labro has appeared as a guest soloist with leading orchestras worldwide, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, New World Symphony, Hartford Symphony, Pensacola Symphony, Cleveland Pops, Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, and Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, among many others. His chamber and ensemble collaborators include The Knights, A Far Cry, The MET Orchestra Chamber Ensemble, Spektral Quartet, Attaca Quartet, Balourdet Quartet, Arneis Quartet, Ensemble Vivant of Toronto, Curtis On Tour, and Camerata Pacifica. Labro has premiered compositions by internationally acclaimed composers including Bryce Dessner, Du Yun, Avner Dorman, Clarice Assad, Ethan Iverson, and Angélica Negrón. He is also a trusted performer in orchestral and ballet repertoire requiring accordion or bandoneón, with appearances alongside the New York Philharmonic and the New York City Ballet, as well as in collaborations with the Paul Taylor Dance Company. Since the 2021–22 season, Labro has partnered regularly with the Takács Quartet in a touring program featuring newly commissioned works by Clarice Assad and Bryce Dessner, commissioned by Music Accord.

A devoted admirer of Astor Piazzolla — whose music inspired him to take up the bandoneón — Labro has become a leading interpreter and re-imaginer of tango repertoire. He recorded the album *Piazzolla* with classical guitarist and Grammy Award winner Jason Vieaux and the conductorless chamber orchestra A Far Cry. His discography also includes collaborations with Grammy Award–winning vocalist Cassandra Wilson (*Another Country*), Hot Club of Detroit (*Junction*), *Infusion* with Jason Vieaux, *American Crow* with the Maria Schneider Orchestra, and *Rise & Grind* with Finnish jazz guitarist Olli Soikkeli. His long-standing collaboration with Spektral Quartet resulted in the album *From This Point Forward*, a genre-bending recording praised for its craftsmanship and expressive range, featuring guest appearances by alto saxophonist and MacArthur Fellow Miguel Zenón. In 2024, Labro received a Latin Grammy nomination for Best Classical Composition for *Meditation #1*, premiered and recorded with the Takács Quartet.

In addition to his performing career, Labro is deeply committed to music education. He regularly leads master classes, workshops, and residencies at institutions such as Princeton University, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and other universities and conservatories worldwide. In recognition of his artistic

contributions and career achievements, Labro received the Wayne State University Arts Achievement Recognition in 2025.

For more information, visit www.julienlabro.com