



# HOW THE GIMQUAT FOUND HER SONG

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

(August 2014 – please destroy all previous versions)

The following text must be included in the concert program:

Platypus Theatre's  
HOW THE GIMQUAT FOUND HER SONG

Written by Peter Duschenes  
Stage direction and puppet design: Peter Duschenes and  
Meredyth Babcock  
Originally produced by Michael Duschenes

Performers:  
Gimquat: Danielle Desormeaux  
Wizard: Peter Duschenes

Stage Manager:  
Wendy Rockburn

(N.B. Logo must be included in program and is available on  
the Platypus website at <http://www.platypustheatre.com>)

Platypus Theatre wants to hear from you! Leave a comment  
at [platypustheatre.com](http://platypustheatre.com) or follow us on Twitter or YouTube.

## REPERTOIRE

Includes excerpts from:

Bizet	"Les Toreadors" from Carmen Suite
Bizet	"Prelude" from Carmen Suite
Vivaldi	"Spring" from The Four Seasons (1st Mvnt)
Duschenes, Mario	Awakening
Bach	"Badinerie" from Orchestral Suite No. 2
Bach	Chorale from St. Matthew Passion
Mozart	Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
Beethoven	Ode to Joy
Brahms	Lullaby
Offenbach	Orpheus Gallop
Duschenes, Mario	Jazz
Ravel	"Le Jardin Féérique" from Mother Goose Suite
Ravel	"Pavane de la belle" from Mother Goose Suite

## INSTRUMENTATION

Six musicians: flute, trumpet, percussion, keyboard, violin,  
and cello.

## BIOGRAPHIES

N.B: Photographs of the actors and Stage Manager must  
be included. High-resolution photographs of the artists are  
available on the Platypus website at: [platypustheatre.com](http://platypustheatre.com)

### Platypus Theatre

Since 1989, almost one million young audience members  
have been introduced to classical music through Platypus  
Theatre. After more than 500 performances with more than  
60 orchestras worldwide, Platypus has established itself as  
one of North America's premiere music education theatre  
companies. Original and engaging storylines are presented  
in an intelligent and interactive way, with music always  
taking the lead role. Children laugh, sing and empathize  
with the characters while learning musical concepts,  
styles, and much more. In 2006, one of Platypus' most  
cherished productions *How the Gimquat Found her Song*  
was produced for TV and went on to win several awards  
including Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff  
World Television Festival. In 1991, Platypus was the  
subject of a nationally broadcast documentary on CTV,  
followed by a PBS full-performance broadcast in 2000.  
During its 25th anniversary year, Platypus will premiere  
its eighth original production, *Latin Beats, Heroic Feats*,  
in partnership with four orchestras across Canada. Other  
Platypus Productions include *Emily Saves the Orchestra*,  
*Rhythm in your Rubbish*, *Bach to the Future*, *Charlotte and  
the Music-Maker*, *Flicker of Light on a Winter's Night*, and  
*Peter and the Wolf*.

Biographies continue on the next page...

**Peter Duschenes, Artistic Director and Writer**

Thousands of young classical music fans have Peter to thank for introducing them to symphonic music. He co-founded the Platypus Theatre touring company in 1989 to make orchestral music accessible for youth, and more than half a million concert-goers have benefitted from his creativity. As an award-winning playwright, Peter's writing credits include - among others - all eight Platypus productions, the television adaptation of *How the Gimquat Found Her Song* which won Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff World Television Festival in 2008. In addition to his roles in Platypus shows, he has also acted and directed with companies across Canada and the United States. When Peter isn't busy helping the Gimquat find her song, he and his wife Sarah are helping their children, Magda and Theo, find their socks.

**Danielle Desormeaux - Actor**

Danielle is one of the more adaptable creatures in the Platypus Theatre touring company. You can see her as the Gimquat in *How the Gimquat Found Her Song*, as Corky in *Bach to the Future*, as Emily in *Emily Saves the Orchestra* and as a hobo in *Rhythm in Your Rubbish*, a production she helped create. She is a highly-accomplished actor who has worked extensively in theatre, in film, and also as several animated characters on TV. She is also an experienced improviser and clown, and has written and created a number of critically-acclaimed works. Danielle has been a part of the Platypus touring company for 17 years but will never forget "the first time I heard a live orchestra playing on stage with me it literally took my breath away. I couldn't believe how powerful the sound was. Then I thought: Wow! Best job ever!"

**Wendy Rockburn – Stage Manager**

Want to know who and what goes where and when and how? Wendy's the one who has it well under control. Since 2005, Wendy has expertly juggled all of the details for Platypus Theatre productions, from monster's heads to lighting cues. Not only does she manage the Platypus touring company's stage, but she also works with theatres all over Eastern and Central Canada. And as often as possible, she jets off to far places to photograph the world, and has been known to skydive over the desert in Namibia or outrace a gaucho in Argentina. Her favorite part about Platypus shows is watching the kids follow every turn in the story in rapt attention. And the climax of the Gimquat still makes her cry, even after all of these years. No wonder we're wild about Wendy!