



# PRESTO, MAMBO!

## PROGRAM INFORMATION - US ORCHESTRAS

September 2019 – Please destroy all previous versions

The following text must be included in the concert program.

Presto, Mambo!  
(A Max's Musical Misadventure)

Written and directed by Peter Duschenes  
Musical direction by Alain Trudel  
Artistic advisors: Lisa Griffiths and Hélène Ducharme  
Puppets and masks by Claude Rodrigue, Sandra Turgeon  
and Colin St-Cyr Duhamel

Performers: Peter Duschenes and Danielle Desormeaux

Stage Manager: Wendy Rockburn

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

This production was co-commissioned by The National Arts Centre Orchestra, The Vancouver Symphony, the Edmonton Symphony and the Toronto Symphony.  
(N.B. Logos of all four orchestras must be printed in the program and are available from [www.platypustheatre.com](http://www.platypustheatre.com))

Platypus Theatre wants hear about your concert experience. Use #PlatypusPrestoMambo or find us on Facebook, Twitter (@platypustheatre) or Instagram (@platypustheatre) and keep us in the loop!

## REPERTOIRE

Excerpts from the following:

Gutiérrez	Alma Llanera Pajarillo
de Abreu	Tico Tico no Fubá
Sousa	Liberty Bell March
Bélanger, Marc	Potpourri Lavalois
Piazzolla	Oblivion
Trudel, Alain	Drum Magic

Traditional (arr. Wagler)	La Mariposa
Revueeltas	Duelo from "Hommaje a Federico Garcia Lorca"
Traditional (arr. Wagler)	La Bruja
Sheldon, Robert	Danzas Cubanas
Morricone	Gabriel's Oboe from "The Mission"
De Falla (arr. Chapelier)	Spanish Dance No.1 from "La Vida Breve"
Bernstein (arr. Peress)	"Mambo" from West Side Story

## 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 650 performances with more than 75 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 premiered its eighth original production, *Presto, Mambo!*, 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 - Writer, Director and Performer**

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 and is a recent recipient of a Chalmer's Fellowship from the Ontario Arts Council. 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, most recently in the far reaches of Mongolia. Wendy has also 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!