



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 or follow us on Twitter or YouTube.

REPERTOIRE

Includes excerpts from:

Bizet: Carmen Suite ("Prelude" & "Les Toreadors")
Vivaldi: The Four Seasons (Spring - 1st Movement)
Duschenes, Mario: Sad Dance
Duschenes, Mario: Awakening
Bach: Suite No. 2 (Badinerie)
Mozart: Marriage of Figaro (Overture)
Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 (1st movement)
Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4 (4th movement)
Debussy: Prelude a l'apres-midi d'un faune
Ravel: Mother Goose Suite ("Pavane de la Belle")
Ravel: Mother Goose Suite ("Le Jardin Féérique")
Lloyd Webber/Arr. Custer: Phantom of the Opera
Ellington/Arr. Custer: Sophisticated Ladies
Duschenes, Mario: Jiminy Cricket

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

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.

Samantha Bitonti - Actor

Samantha is thrilled to be joining the Platypus team for the 2022-2023 season! Combining her love of clown, puppetry, music, and Theatre for Young Audiences, Samantha is eager to bring to life your favourite characters from *How the Gimquat Found her Song*, *Presto*, *Mambo!* and *Rhythm in your Rubbish*. Samantha calls Montréal home, and loves to spend her days playing Shakespeare with Repercussion Theatre, and cultivating creativity for kids aged 4 to 99 as a drama teacher with Geordie Theatre School. It's no wonder bringing something classical to the hearts and minds of young people is right up her alley! Asking questions and getting to the heart of a story is what she's all about: believing firmly that curiosity and connection lead to joy and abundance. Samantha loves acting, singing in the car, her friends and family, her cat Tilly, and ice cream. See you at the theatre!

Colin Heath - Actor

Colin is from Victoria and he wears lots of hats. He has worn his Acting Hat since the late 70's with companies like Kaleidoscope, Story Theatre and The Belfry, then in Toronto, Sydney, Tokyo, New York and all over, with shows like *The Number 14*, *The Overcoat* and *Lord of the Rings*. He wore his Acrobat Hat when he toured with *Cirque du Soleil* to Los Angeles and Paris and all over. Later, with *Cirque* he wore his Clown Hat at Royal Albert Hall in London and in Moscow, Buenos Aires and all over. He wore his Playwright Hat when he wrote *For Art's Sake*, *Man From the Capital*, *Don Quixote* (an adaptation with Peter Anderson) and *The Apple Orchard*, for which he also wore his Composing Hat. Lately he's been wearing his Painting Hat a lot in Magog, Quebec, where he lives. His Grumpy Hat is gathering cobwebs at the back of his closet, but his new Platypus Hat feels pretty good!

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!