



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate diffusion  
**Sections : arts, music and culture**

**New important break through in the United States!**

**Pianist and composer Marie-Andrée Ostiguy,  
is one of 18 artists selected to perform in juried showcases at  
the prestigious “Performing Arts Exchange 2009”**

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**(Montréal, August 15, 2009)** Pianist and composer Marie-Andrée Ostiguy is one of the official selection of artists chosen to present the excellence of their work in the category “Music – Chamber & Classical” during the **32<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Performing Arts Exchange 2009**, scheduled September 23 to 26, 2009, in Norfolk, the cradle of culture of Virginia.

**Another North American Showcase for Marie-Andrée Ostiguy !**

The mandate of the jury working for the organization is to choose among the artists who represent today’s emerging trends and also show a high-level of performance in live presentations.

Marie-Andrée Ostiguy, accompanied by her musicians, the Artémuse String Quartet, is one of the 18 artists and groups selected from over 157 applications who will have the opportunity to present a showcase performance to **presenters (concert buyers) who operate in the artistic and cultural industries in 22 states in the eastern and southern United States.**

The jury was deeply touched by Marie-Andrée Ostiguy’s video presentation which featured three excerpts from her show (*Jazz Valse, Like Water and Mango Tango*) filmed in concert. Mrs Sage Crump, the director of the conference, was asked by the jury to convey their comments and inform Marie-Andrée Ostiguy and the Artémuse String Quartet that they unanimously got one of the highest scores from the jury for the following criteria:

- High caliber of musical performance
- Technical perfection
- Pure passion on the stage
- Strong personal connection with the public
- Ability to reach and touch the public
- Warmth and unison of the ensemble

- Evident enthusiasm of the artists to perform
- Uniqueness of the musical compositions
- Compositions that are both interesting and accessible to a broad public
- Innovation in presentation and promotion
- Very touching French charm

**ONLY ONE OTHER QUÉBEC/CANADIAN GROUP will share the stage with Marie-Andrée Ostiguy in this prestigious showcase** – they are The Lost Fingers, who will perform in the category “Music – Other.”

**About the Performing Arts Exchange**

The members of the jury of the 2009 edition are:

David Rowell (Florida State University); April Brumfield (Brumfield & Associates); Lori Teague (Emory University); Shay Wafer (August Wilson Center); Anthony Kelle (Duke University); Robert Smith (The Carol Autorino Center for the Arts); Stephen Barefoot (Goingbarefoot Inc.); Dennis Lynch (Shenandoah Valley Music Festival); and Kaisha Johnson (Center for Traditional Music & Dance)

The event, presented for the 32nd year, is made possible by The Southern Arts Federation in partnership with the Virginia Commission for the Arts. We invite you to visit their web site [www.southarts.org](http://www.southarts.org) to discover the history and mission of the organization, to get an outline of the event next September and the list of finalists in 2009.

Marie-Andrée Ostiguy was very touched to have been selected by a jury of such high caliber that has a high reputation within the music industry and the arts in the United States: "This unique experience gives me a lot of pride because I have the opportunity to represent Québec and Canadian culture with our southern neighbors by sharing my passion for music! My musicians and I are obviously very excited and enthusiastic about the idea of getting on the road in the United States!

**NOTE TO MEDIA :** To request interviews, contact the press attaché, Chantale Baar at (514) 992-6463.

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**Source :** Marie-Andrée Ostiguy  
**1 (888) 742-6695 (toll free)**  
[www.marieandreeostiguy.com](http://www.marieandreeostiguy.com)

**Information :** Chantale Baar  
 Communications Chantale Baar  
 (514) 992-6463  
[cbaar@communicationcb.ca](mailto:cbaar@communicationcb.ca)

