

Communiqué

Press Release

The UPSTAIRS JAZZ BAR & GRILL is cooking' up something special from November 12th to the 22nd, 2015.



UPSTAIRS

20 ans qu'on en Jazz !

[Website](#) [Facebook](#)

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Source : Upstairs

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Montreal, september 2015 – 20 years ago, **JOEL GIBEROVITCH**, walked into UPSTAIRS, in downtown Montreal on Mackay Street and transformed it into a Montreal Jazz club with an international reputation. Since then, this mythical jazz club – one of the oldest in Canada – has become a beloved and unique Montreal institution and attraction. In an atmosphere that encourages listening, **UPSTAIRS** has hosted more than 500 local and international artists such as Barry Harris, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Adam Cohen, The Heath Brothers, Sheila Jordan, Jimmy Cobb, Azar Lawrence, Helen Merrill, Sonny Greenwich, Dave Liebman, Kevin Dean, Jean Derome, Robby Krieger as well as many others.

“It has been my deepest honor that Upstairs has presented thousands of live jazz shows that have touched so many people. Twenty years have passed by in the blink of an eye and I feel like it's just the beginning” says **JOEL GIBEROVITCH**, owner and artistic director of Upstairs since 1995.

To celebrate Upstairs' 20 year anniversary, **JOEL GIBEROVITCH** has programmed an 11 day stellar line-up of concerts running from November 12th to the 22nd 2015. It will feature **Jean-Michel Pilc, Ari Hoening, Edmar Castaneda, Ranee Lee, Emilie-Claire Barlow, Jim Doxas, Jim Black, Thomas Morgan, Oliver Jones, John Abercrombie, Gary Versace, Adam Nussbaum, Oran Etkin** with pianist **Aaron Goldberg** and **Houston Person** with talented and versatile pianist **Julie Lamontagne**. On November 16th Upstairs will also host a first screening of the director's cut of **Guylaine Dionne's** documentary film about UPSTAIRS. It will be a great way to celebrate two decades of music and passion. And why not pave the way for another twenty! “I was told that the first twenty years are the hardest. On the contrary, UPSTAIRS has been my most pleasant hobby of the last 18 years!” says **Chef Juan Barros**.

20 years of UPSTAIRS in 20 points!

- Jazz is alive at Upstairs with 260 unique shows annually, 363 nights a year.
- More than 500 musicians have performed on the UPSTAIRS stage. The one and only tenor saxophone player, Joe Lovano, once dropped by and performed for two hours. What a treat!
- UPSTAIRS has been selected repeatedly by the prestigious Downbeat Magazine as one of the world's 150 most important jazz clubs. It is also featured in Downbeat's 2015 international jazz venue guide.
- Nelson Symonds, now deceased, gave his last show at UPSTAIRS.



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- Trumpeter Tom Harrell's show was one of the most moving concerts at UPSTAIRS in the last 20 years.
- Singer Raneé Lee recorded a live album at UPSTAIRS that earned her a Juno award.
- Supertramp performed at UPSTAIRS.
- The piano is tuned a minimum of once a week.
- The drum set is a Yamaha Maple Custom kit, the same model that Elvin Jones used.
- Concert programming consists of 80% Quebec and Canadian artists & 20% international musicians.
- UPSTAIRS has had a close relationship with McGill University for 18 years. McGill Jazz students continue to perform at UPSTAIRS on Tuesdays and Thursdays, early in the evening, during the school year as part of their curriculum.
- The UPSTAIRS Jam Sessions on Monday nights has been hosted by drummer Jim Doxas for the past ten consecutive years.
- UPSTAIRS was the "office" of the famous journalist and "friend to jazz musicians" Len Dobbin.
- Chef Juan Barros's sauces are made with his homemade demi-glace, which he is very proud of.
- The restaurant menus are made out of real vinyl record sleeves.
- UPSTAIRS was the first off-site jazz club to be a part of the Montreal International Jazz festival.
- UPSTAIRS was the first jazz club to live stream their shows.
- UPSTAIRS is the subject of a documentary film – which took three years to film – by Quebec director Guylaine Dionne.
- Special moments for JOEL GIBEROVITCH include: Jeff Healy and his ease on stage, despite the fact that he was blind he was so comfortable and aware of his surroundings.
- Sheila Jordan, which at the age of 50 began a singing career and at 86 today continues to tour the world.

Finally, the third set is always free!

A bonus: UPSTAIRS is downstairs.