

2nd Annual Jazz Mass at the Red Roof



Artist Martine Fourcand, singer-songwriter Dawn Tyler Watson, Soloist Raneé Lee and Prof. Norman Cornett.
Photo by Myer Randolph

GEOFF MCLARNEY

The Church of St John the Evangelist's historic Red Roof was the setting for an exceptional multimedia celebration of faith and art this summer, featuring some of Canada's finest talents. Some 160 people turned out to the second annual Jazz Mass on July 2. The event was buoyed by the success of last year's inaugural Jazz Mass, which developed out of conversations in the parish about how to engage with the thousands of visitors to our neighbourhood during the summer festival season.

This year's Jazz Mass was held in conjunction with several events on a jazz theme. An exhibit of paintings by artist Martine Fourcand entitled "The Spirit of Jazz in Living Colour" was curated by Prof. Norman Cornett and presented during late June and July in the nave of the church.

This year's celebration of the *fête nationale* was especially significant. Bishop Mary celebrated as we welcomed Zoë Stonyk, a member of the Jazz Mass planning team, through baptism. The bishop confirmed her along with Janet Best, the official parish and diocesan photographer, whose videography would ensure the Jazz Mass is recorded for posterity.

At the same time, we said farewell to Fr Alain Brosseau, our associate priest, who took the initiative in organizing the first Jazz Mass. Bishop Mary led us in commissioning him for his new ministry as a chaplain at BFC Valcartier outside Quebec City. In a moving conclusion, all present were invited to join her in laying hands on him. Along with the soft launch of the exhibit,

the day was a fitting prelude to the Jazz Mass the following weekend.

Thanks to Prof. Cornett, who is well connected in the arts communities, we were honoured to welcome two award-winning Montreal artists to the Jazz Mass itself. Soloist Raneé Lee sang "Beautiful Love" and "You Must Believe in Spring" during the offertory and communion. During the homily, singer-songwriter Dawn Tyler Watson related her thoughts on God as love and church as community to the epistle from St John's first letter.

Our celebrant for the day was Mother Wendy Telfer, herself an avid jazz fan. A hearty reception was served by our own indomitable Sheila Fletcher Garner, during which parishioners and visitors enjoyed the Fourcand exhibit. The third annual Jazz Mass is set for July 1, 2018. Come and join us!