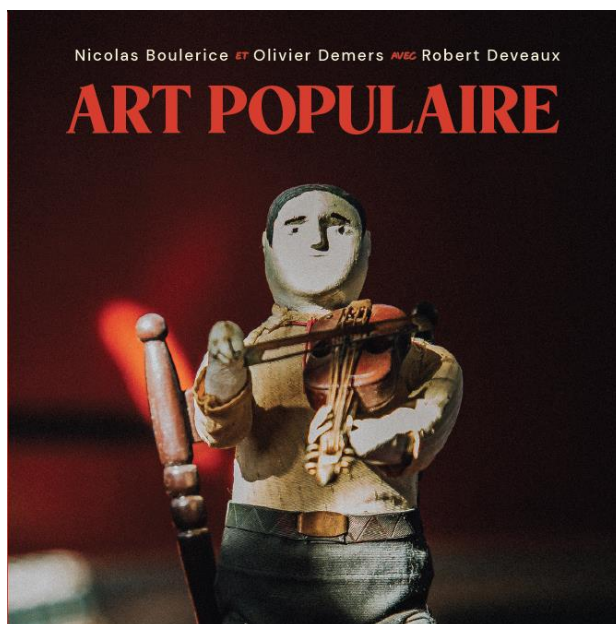




**New album *Art populaire* by duo
Nicolas Boulerice and Olivier Demers
with Robert Deveau out June 30**

A collection of traditional songs from Acadia and Quebec



Montreal, June 19, 2023 — The duo formed by **Nicolas Boulerice** and **Olivier Demers** is rooted in a longlasting friendship. It was born in 1996 while both were studying music in college. Later, the two expanded the format to become the quartet now known worldwide as Le Vent du Nord. Demers and Boulerice met **Robert Deveau** one day at an *open mic* session. Deveau, a traditional Acadian music scholar and enthusiast, is considered by them as one of the great guardians that keep that tradition alive. The three of them quickly

struck a friendship and, in time, the idea of inviting Robert for a special project grew. That is how the new album *Art populaire* (“popular art”), coming out next June 30, came to be.

With this project, the duo wishes to pay tribute to the Acadians, their memories and the work of Robert Deveau without whom many of these songs would quickly be forgotten. “Francophones in Canada, like those throughout America, share a history and a culture. The people of this country have often been driven by the idea of resistance, so that their language and their identity may survive. Despite the great cultural proximity of these nations scattered over the continent, real moments of exchange between these peoples are few and far between; here is one,” explains Nicolas Boulерice.



The Boulерice-Demers duo began their explorations more than 25 years ago. This third album features traditional songs from Acadia and Quebec in the most stripped-down form. An old repertoire presented as simply as possible, with three voices, two violins and a hurdy-gurdy. In short, drone music, without any real modern accompaniment...

There will be a release show on Saturday, July 1st, 4 p.m., at the Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue Church in Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu, as part of the Chants de Vieilles Festival.

Art populaire credits

Nicolas Boulерice: vocals, hurdy-gurdy, drum

Olivier Demers: violin, mandocello, jaw’s harp, foot tapping, vocals

Robert Deveau: vocals, violin

David Brunelle: harmonica (track 11)

Daniel Roy: flageolet (track 5), vocals (track 11)

Charles-Émile Beaudin: sound recording

Jean-François Vézina and Olivier Demers: recordings

Olivier Demers with Nicolas Boulерice and Robert Deveau: mixing

Mark Busic at BUsic studio: mastering

Nicolas Boulerice and **Olivier Demers**: production

Executive production and label: La Compagnie du Nord, Geneviève Nadeau

Graphic design: Kariboo Marketing, Gabrielle Malboeuf

Photos: Noémie Martineau

About Robert Deveaux

Robert Deveaux is a singer, a violinist, and a bearer of Acadian traditions from the Cape Breton region. He seeks to revive the old French folk songs of his area that were brought from France and to strengthen ties with other (albeit scattered) French-speaking communities that share a common heritage thanks to their same origins. Most of his work experiences since the age of 15 have revolved around music, either in the traditional Cape Breton fiddle-and-piano style or in Acadian music.

About Olivier Demers

Olivier is a violinist by training, a reformed fiddler and a passionate guitarist. He first played chamber music, then moved on to jazz. His great versatility led him to work with several artists (Le Cirque du Soleil, La Bottine souriante, Väsen, Michel Faubert, Breabach, Dervish, etc.). He has been dedicating his life to traditional folk music for the past 24 years. Demers is a founding member of Le Vent du Nord (over 2,000 shows around the world, ten albums, two Félix Awards, two Juno Awards, two Canadian Folk Music Awards, *Best Traditional Folk Band of The Year in North America* at the 2007 Folk Alliance Conference 2007, etc). He was also part of the MontcorbieR trio and is one half of the Boulerice-Demers duo (two albums, including the best Canadian traditional folk album in 2006 with *Un peu d'ci, un peu d'ça*). Olivier is also a studio creature, with credits on more than 70 albums, either as a musician, coproducer or producer. He is very active in the hidden side of traditional folk music as a co-founder and organizer of *La Veillée de l'avant Veille* (25th edition in 2022), the Chants de Vieilles Festival, and the record company Roues et Archets. He was a co-instigator of the Albion sessions in Joliette.

About Nicolas Boulerice

Nicolas Boulerice was born into a family that loved words and Quebec culture. He first studied jazz piano, then hurdy-gurdy building and playing. In 1997, he joined the group Ad vieille que pourra with whom he started his career as a musician on the North American folk scene. Inspired by his grandmother's songs, he quickly immersed himself in Quebec traditional folk music. Since then, he has thoroughly explored the Quebec repertoire, to which he has added his own compositions. In 2002, he co-founded Le Vent du Nord. The band has performed over 2,200 concerts and released 12 albums. In 2015, he released *Maison de bois*, his solo debut, and won the CALQ award for Creator of the Year – Montérégie Region. "Maison de bois" expanded into a triptych project. The second installment, *Maison de pierre - confiné aux voyages*, came out in the fall of 2020 and won

Conseil Montérégie's Patrimoine Award. He is a co-founder of the La Veillée de l'Avant-Veille concerts in Montreal (25 editions) and La Compagnie du Nord (production and management), in addition to being president of the Festival Chants de Vieilles, which is held in his town, Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu (19 editions). When planets align, he goes on stage with his father for *Carnets de notes*, a poetry and song show. Boulerice's first poetry collection was published by Éditions Triptyque in the fall of 2021, and he also participated to an authors' collective for a book dedicated to the great French singer-songwriter Georges Brassens edited by Normand Baillargeon and published by Leméac. Furthermore, he co-signed with Baillargeon a preface to the book *En montant la rivière*, about the history of traditional Quebec song, published by Mémoire d'encrier in 2023. Boulerice is also active as a lecturer, introducing the public to Quebec traditional folk music, the hurdy-gurdy or the turlutte.

OUT JUNE 30, 2023

Online store: www.espaceparallele.ca

Pre-save link: <https://ffm.to/artpopulaire>

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