



## Press Release

Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu (Quebec), march 15, 2024

### **Nicolas Pellerin et Les Grands Hurleurs**

#### **New Album: *Layon***

#### **Release Date: March 15 2024**

Nicolas Pellerin (lead vocals, fiddle, foot tapping)

Simon Lepage (double bass)

Louis Thibault (mandolin & foot tapping)

Philippe Girard (guitar)

With *Layon*, their sixth album, Nicolas Pellerin et Les Grands Hurleurs invite listeners on a journey into Québec's rich cultural past. It was while working on the repertoire for the album that they began to notice a common theme to all the songs: stories about people travelling and the things that happened on the way. And so they chose the name 'Layon' – a seldom-used word for a small forest or mountain trail. It's an invitation to listeners to join Les Grands Hurleurs on a path of discovery, without fully knowing where it will take you but expect there to be moments of serene tenderness intermingled with joyful celebration...

The lively opening track 'Maréchal' kicks off with Les Grands Hurleurs' trademark foot-tapping and call-and-response vocals, synonymous with the communal spirit of Québécois singing, where often a simple melody means that everyone can join in, even if they don't know the tune. 'Grande Veillée' was composed by Pellerin himself and 'Ti-Bébé' was written by Denis Violetti from the group Blues Gitan. It's a song Pellerin has loved since first hearing it almost 20 years ago. A simple yet moving ballad that addresses the theme of parental love, of the anxiety felt by being separated from your child – emotions that are universal, yet rarely explored in music. Another classic 'Vin m'endort' comes from a legend within the Québécois trad scene, Jean-Paul Guimond, who has an amazing repertoire of songs and who has been a longstanding inspiration to Pellerin.

The rest of the songs on the album come from a huge catalogue that Pellerin has collected over the years – around 900 songs in total – some given to him on cassettes or books that he's stored away for the right time. As Pellerin says, Les Grands Hurleurs are very much inspired by tradition, but they are not constrained by it and he describes their music as 'trad moderne'. What is most important to Pellerin is that when he sings these songs to an audience, they feel connected to the stories he's telling. Of course, it's during the live performance when these songs really come to life and Les Grands Hurleurs are masters at creating a party-like atmosphere. Known for embracing myriad musical styles and for their energetic live shows, Les Grands Hurleurs are dynamic exponents of Québec's vibrant trad music scene. Having performed across Canada and internationally, including showcases at WOMEX, Folk Alliance International and APAP, Nicolas Pellerin et Les Grands Hurleurs are coming to Marseille and Babel Music XP for the first time, hoping to win over more fans with their innovative and spirited music-making.

#### ► **TO LISTEN PLATFORMS:**

<https://ffm.to/layon>

#### ► **TO BUY (physical or digital):**

<https://espaceparallele.ca/produit/layon-nicolas-pellerin-et-les-grands-hurleurs/>

## Biography

Nicolas Pellerin was born and still lives in Saint-Élie-de-Caxton, a small village between Québec and Montréal in Canada. His earliest childhood memories are of family singalongs with an aunt playing the piano and uncles singing traditional songs. His father, an excellent 'foot tapper,' taught his sons when they were very young and this foot-tapping (known as *podorythmie*) is something that has become a distinctive and popular feature of Nicolas' band today.

However Nicolas didn't set out to become a musician. In fact he studied mathematics while at university and joined trad music classes just for fun, but never with the intention of making a career out of it. Once he'd caught the music bug, he formed his first group in 2003 called Les Langues Fourchues. He then played with Yves Lambert (formerly of La Bottine Souriante) for four years before founding Les Grands Hurleurs in 2009.

The name of the band ('The Great Howlers' in English) is synonymous with how they perform: their singing being like a cry from the heart. Initially Les Grands Hurleurs started as a trio, but post COVID they became a four-piece, fulfilling a desire to create a more expansive sound with their close-harmony singing and multitude of instruments. As *Songlines* magazine reviewer Li Robbins said in a review of their album, *Chouïa* (2018): '*Kudos to these talented musicians for exploring and expanding the notion of what the trad music of Québec is all about*'.

## Nicolas Pellerin et Les Grands Hurleurs on stage in Canada this summer

-June 30 Festival Chants de Vieilles, Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu, Québec

-Aug 9 & 10: Edmonton Folk Festival, Edmonton AB

-Aug 16 & 17: Bear Creek Festival, Grandes Prairies, AB

-30-

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**NEW ALBUM LAYON** by Nicolas Pellerin et Les Grands Hurleurs

**DIGITAL DOWNLOAD AVAILABLE** (for music business professional only)

Link: <https://ciedunord.com/salle-media>

Password: ciemedias

**SINGLE** "Ti-bébé" (released FEB 20, 2024):

<https://ffm.to/ti-bebe>

**SINGLE** "Vin m'endort" (released Dec 21, 2024): <https://ffm.to/vinmendort>

 <https://youtu.be/0FRwa8c9y6U>

**EPK:** <https://ciedunord.com/artistes/les-grands-hurleurs/>



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