



Odyssée, a journey  
through the Asian continent

## Description

# Festival Accès Asie presents an afternoon of dance, music and ethnomusicology

**Festival Accès Asie** joins forces with the **Centre des Musiciens du Monde** to present **Odyssée**, a journey through the Asian continent, on **Sunday, May 26th**.

... musical traditions, still alive and quite diverse, from the nomadic spaces of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Qaraqalpaqstan.

*Odyssée* promises an eclectic musical event. While the dancers of the Indonesian music and dance ensemble **Giri Kedaton** present their repertoire of Balinese dances, ethnomusicologist **Frédéric Léotar** will unveil musical traditions, still alive and quite diverse, from the nomadic spaces of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Qaraqalpaqstan. All accompanied by a musical surprise where you will have the pleasure of attending a rehearsal of musicians of great talent.

## Giri Kedaton – Music and Dance Ensemble

Giri Kedaton, which means *Royal Mountain* in Balinese, got its start thanks to the donation of two Balinese gamelans from the Indonesian government to the Faculty of Music of the University of Montreal after its World Fair exhibition in Vancouver in 1986.

A series of Balinese gamelan workshops, hosting the great masters of Balinese music, quickly became a victim of its own success. In 1995, the idea of creating an autonomous and distinct ensemble out of the gamelan workshops became a reality, and Giri Kedaton was born.

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Composed of 25 musicians and 3 dancers, the ensemble has performed in numerous festivals such as the *Francofolies 2016*, the *Classica Festival*, the *Festival Traditions du Monde de Sherbrooke*, and the *Orientalys Festival*. In 2007, Giri Kedaton developed a project called *Bali X* that merges Balinese music with various other

styles such as metal, techno, pop, rock, etc.

Giri Kedaton's mandate is to showcase Balinese music and culture in Montreal, throughout Quebec, and across Canada to highlight Balinese culture and to maintain links between the Bali music community and the broader Balinese population in Montreal.



Frédéric Léotar is an ethnomusicologist who specializes in

musical cultures in southern Siberia and Central Asia where he has worked extensively since 1996. His expertise in Central Asia led him to participate in heritage inventory projects (UNESCO) and digitization of rare sound archives.

His book, *La steppe musicienne*, published by Éditions Vrin in 2014, won the prestigious Opus Prize for music book of the year, awarded annually by the Conseil québécois de la musique. In 2017, he co-founded the Centre des Musiciens du Monde, of which he has since become the General Director.

## About Festival Accès Asie

Festival Accès Asie is a Montréal-based arts festival that promotes Asian arts, cultures and histories through a diversity of artistic disciplines including the visual arts, dance, theatre, video, film, music, comedy, poetry, literature, performance, new media and culinary arts.

The Festival presents events that feature artists of Asian origin and artists whose work is inspired by Asian arts, cultures and histories. The Festival also offers cultural mediation activities, conferences and training workshops as part of its recently launched educational component. Festival Accès Asie is registered in Québec, as a non-profit organization (NPO) in the arts at the REQ.

'Festival Accès Asie is Canada's longest continuously running Asian heritage arts festival.'

Established in 1995, Festival Accès Asie is Canada's longest continuously running Asian heritage arts festival. To date, it has presented works of over 900 artists of Asian origin from more than 20 different countries including East Asia (Japan, China, Korea); Southeast Asia (Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore); South Asia (Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka); Central & Middle Eastern Asia (Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Armenia).



This year, Festival Accès Asie celebrates its 23rd anniversary edition, marking a milestone as Canada's longest continuously running Asian heritage month festival.

*Feature image courtesy of Festival Accès Asie*

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2. Centre des Musiciens du Monde
3. Festival Accès Asie
4. Frédéric Léotar
5. Giri Kedaton
6. Khosro Berahmandi
7. Odyssée

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