

PINESSE





FINESSE is a vibrant cocktail of six dynamic and versatile Montreal-based members.

Whether tearing up the stage with their explosive energy or holding an audience spellbound as they pour out their hearts, Finesse is always classy, always exciting and always engaging.

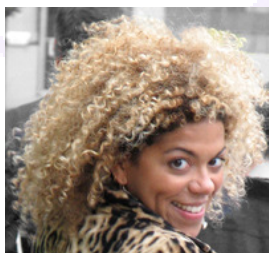
With a repertoire as diverse as it is extensive, Finesse captivates and fascinates whatever the mood: from the most laid-back lounge to highest-voltage dancefloor. The diverse musical backgrounds of its members enable Finesse to move seamlessly through a wide array of musical styles, as they cover hits from the seventies to today.

The members of Finesse have gained acclaim performing extended engagements throughout Canada, the United States, Asia and the Middle East.

They are something different,
something classy and something fresh -



JANELLE THOMAS - VOCALS



Janelle discovered her passion for performance at the age of 5 and since then has been thoroughly addicted to and energized by performing. From that young age she performed regularly with her ballet school, Mirror Image, and in later years also added jazz, Afro-Caribbean and tap to her list of dance accomplishments.

Despite having always sung, it was in highschool that she took to the stage for the first time as a vocalist, appearing in such musical comedies as *The Sound of Music*, *The Music Man* and *Guys and Dolls*. Her success there propelled her to pursue a baccalaureate in Music at Concordia University, where she studied with internationally-acclaimed jazz vocalist Jeri Brown and from which Janelle graduated in 2001 with Great Distinction in Jazz Voice. During this time she was a member of the university choir, jazz choir and Jazz Vocal Studio and after graduation traveled to Halifax to create the role of Vera for the Canadian premiere of Brown's production *Four Walls of Blues*.

Upon her return to Montreal she joined African pop group Sunroots, with whom she played a variety of festivals and clubs, in addition to participating in numerous productions as a featured vocalist and dancer with an array of groups and individuals.

In 2003 she joined the cast of *cinémashow*, a cabaret-style musical revue, as the featured Soul singer. As well as extended engagements in Canada, the show enjoyed further success at its 2-month run at Caesar's Palace in Atlantic City, NJ and on a tour of the eastern United States (September 2003 – March 2004). Her explosive energy and her versatility as an entertainer led to her resounding success with the show during the final 2 years of its run. After its close, Janelle joined Peaches n' Cream as lead vocalist, thrilling audiences at the Al-Ghazal Pub at the Intercontinental Hotel in Muscat, Oman (February – June 2006).

In June 2006, as the band made the transformation to *Finesse*, with a new look and new focus, Janelle became an even greater contributor, also assuming charge of the band's promotion. Her energetic performances set the tone for the band's tremendous success at J.J. Mahoney's at the Grand Hyatt in Seoul, South Korea (October 2006 – February 2007) and on their much-anticipated return to the Al-Ghazal Pub in Muscat, Oman (February – May 2007).

A mezzo-soprano with a three-octave range and a multi-disciplinary dance background, Janelle never fails to ignite audiences with her high-voltage dramatic performances.

FRANÇOIS DE BEAUMONT - VOCALS



François has always been an impassioned proponent of live performance. In 2001 he graduated from the University of Laval with a baccalaureate in Theatre, which he immediately followed with an intensive 3-year professional programme in Musical Theatre from the École supérieure de théâtre musical de Montréal, completed in 2004.

During his studies he participated in a number of television and film appearances, including Célébration 2003, an homage to musical theatre's greatest moments. Upon his graduation, François portrayed the role of

Herman in Sweet Charity at the Centaur Theatre in Montreal, the city's oldest and most distinguished English-language theatre.

Following his success there, he played Zach in l'Audition (a French adaptation of the musical A Chorus Line) which he also directed, as it toured throughout the province of Quebec for the remainder of that year. A member of the Artist's Union of Quebec, François also participated in various cabaret shows, such as Moulin Rouge and Duos de Noël.

2005 found him embarking on a variety of theatrical and musical projects, including writing the screenplay for the short film, Rodéo, appearing in June in Avant de s'assagir, a show of comedic songs, finishing as a semi-finalist in Performance at the Granby International Festival of Song in September, and adapting the musical comedy Code 99, for public reading, which was performed in October of that year.

In June 2006 he portrayed the role of Éric in the musical comedy, Une histoire à raconter, and most recently he performed Tsé l'monde qui s'donne des airs, a collection of comedic vignettes created in collaboration with the co-founders of his theatre troupe La Troupe de dos.

With his rich baritone and flair for the dramatic, François is a consummate performer with an electrifying stage presence who never fails to leave his audiences dazzled.

PHILIPPE DORÉ - *KEYBOARDS / VOCALS*



Philippe began studying piano at the age of 9. Throughout his early years he dedicated himself to his classical studies and in 1999 completed his conservatory education in Classical Piano Performance at the Chicoutimi Conservatory of Music. During this time he also pursued a collegiate degree in Music which he obtained from the CÉGEP de Chicoutimi, also in 1999. In addition to the numerous recitals he participated in as part of his academic requirements, both as a soloist and with a variety of ensembles, he also performed with his trio, Al Dente Jazz Trio, at regular performances as house band at La Bougresse, in Chicoutimi.

In 1999 he moved to Montreal, diplomas in hand, in order to deepen and enlarge his musical knowledge through a baccalaureate in composition at Université de Montréal, which he completed in 2002. Throughout his university years, he also taught extensively, both at the École des arts et musique de Rosemère and at Espace 7000 (CÉGEP Marie-Victorin, Montreal).

Having completed more than 10 years of formal education, Philippe began performing with his jazz-rock project, Frootfly, with whom he toured Canada in 2003, the culmination of which was the recording of their album, *The Frootfly*, launched in October 2003. As well, he Philippe lent his talent as keyboardist, pianist and composer to a variety of projects, ranging from studio recordings to television to theatre.

He joined Peaches n' Cream in 2003 as keyboard player and backing vocalist and, with the group, toured Asia and the Middle East performing such engagements as:

- F4 Club – Guangzhou, China (September – December 2003)
- Limelite – Macao, Macao (February – July 2004)
- Safari, Grand Hyatt Hotel – Muscat, Oman (July – October 2004)
- DD Disco – Macao, Macao (October 2004 – March 2005)
- 87 Plus, Conrad Hotel – Bangkok, Thailand (March – June 2005)
- Al-Ghazal Pub, Intercontinental Hotel – Muscat, Oman (February – June 2006).

With the transformation of Peaches n' Cream to Finesse, he assumed an even larger role in the group's new sound, taking on the lion's share of the musical direction and arrangements, as well as performing as a lead vocalist. And with Finesse, both at J.J. Mahoney's at the Grand Hyatt in Seoul, South Korea (October 2006 – February 2007) and at the Al-Ghazal Pub in Muscat, Oman (February – May 2007), Philippe did as he has always done: delight crowds with his bold, fluid keyboard stylings and inexhaustibly enthusiastic performance.

ALEXANDRE BÉLANGER - *BASS*



Alexandre has been playing bass for the past 15 years, the first ten of which he spent deep in private study with several teachers, allowing him to explore a range of styles and approaches. Not satisfied to merely become proficient on his instrument, he rounded out his education with two years of study towards a certificate in composition and arrangement from the Université de Montréal, completed in 1997.

Alexandre's eclectic tastes and wide musical scope make him a great asset for any Top 40 band, as Simplicity Orchestra discovered during from 2002-2004 when he played extensively with them, performing regularly at weddings and corporate gigs at the Palais des congrès de Montréal.

In 2005 he began traveling abroad with band High Control, playing such extended engagements as:

- Tropicana Casino – Atlantic City, NJ, USA (February – March 2005)
- Meridien Hotel – Jakarta, Indonesia (April – June 2005)
- Conrad Hotel – Bangkok Thailand (June 2005)

While in Thailand he drew the attention of Peaches n' Cream, who invited him to join them on their next engagement, and Alexandre was a major contributor to the success of the group at the Al-Ghazal Pub at the Intercontinental Hotel in Muscat, Oman (February – June 2006).

Alexandre's playing is an integral facet of Finesse's sound and progressively more sophisticated arrangements and, as such, he provided an invaluable element of Finesse's success at J.J. Mahoney's at the Grand Hyatt in Seoul, South Korea (October 2006 – February 2007) and on their return to the Al-Ghazal Pub in Muscat, Oman (February – May 2007).

For whatever the musical style, Alexandre's unshakeable sense of the funk is fundamental to his playing, making him a driving force and integral part of Finesse's rhythm section.

MARTIN ALLARD – DRUMS/VOCALS



Martin began drumming at the age of 13 and was soon winning accolades at both provincial and national levels of MusicFest from 1992 – 1995. He also appeared at the Montreal International Jazz Festival in June 1997 and 1998 accompanying celebrated local musicians Normand Lachapelle and Ceril Beaulieu.

Martin pursued his passion for drumming with a collegiate degree in Popular Music from CÉGEP de Lionel Groulx and throughout his studies, participated in a number of jazz and classical recordings with stage bands Le Triolet and Harmonie, as well as placing second with his own band, La Groovathèque, at the provincial collegiate competition, CÉGEP en spectacles, in 2001. Outside of his academic environment, he performed jazz and funk at a wide variety of restaurants throughout Montreal, and with various rock and R'n'B groups at bars and nightclubs around Quebec.

Immediately after graduation in 2003, Martin accepted a contract with Royal Caribbean Cruise Line aboard the Explorer of the Seas, originally as a drummer with their Latin and Cuban bands, but eventually also singing both lead and back vocals, in addition to drumming, for one of their Top 40 bands (July 2003 – March 2004).

Martin then returned home to Montreal to record and produce an album of his own compositions, an intensive labour of love that occupied most of his energy for the following year. However, during that time he also founded a 7-piece Top 40 band, Groove-City, dedicated to playing rock and R'n'B, and in early 2006 Martin took them on the road to Thailand, where they performed to great acclaim at 87 Plus at the Conrad Hotel in Bangkok (February – May 2006).

Following their success in Asia, Groove-City moved on to the Middle East where they thrilled audiences at Jimmy Dix at the Mövenpick Hotel in Dubai, UAE from June – September 2006. Prolonging his Middle Eastern success, Martin joined Jetstar, with whom he performed at Rockwell Café in Abu Dhabi, UAE from November 2006 – April 2007.

Not only a talented drummer, Martin is also a gifted singer and multi-instrumentalist, playing various types of percussion, as well as bass, guitar, and keyboard. But it is his dynamic and incredibly alert performance as drummer that inevitably keeps audiences riveted.

FÉLIX FRÉCHETTE - GUITAR/VOCALS



Félix's began studying guitar at the age of 12, where his highschool provided the ideal training ground for his voracious appetite for all things musical. During this time he augmented his formal education with a variety of jazz and pop performances, including opening at the Festival des Fromages for celebrated Quebec artists such as Jean Leloup and Kevin Parent, and participating in the Heritage Festival in New York in 2000, where his jazz combo placed 3rd.

Félix furthered pursued his musical education, studying jazz guitar at the CÉGEP de Sherbrooke, from which he graduated with a collegiate degree in Music in 2003. During his years there he was a cornerstone of the school's Big Band, as well as several smaller combos. In 2001 his former highschool invited him to join them as a guest artist as they performed at the prestigious IAJE (International Association for Jazz Education) in New York.

Not only an accomplished jazz guitarist, Félix has also performed extensively throughout Quebec with several rock and pop groups such as Rockin' on the Edge (a tribute to Aerosmith), Les Bons Yables, and as guitarist and musical director with Adréline (a tribute to Éric Lapointe) and blues band, Blue Scale.

In August 2006 he joined Finesse, his electrifying guitar skills, rock-solid back and smoky lead vocals making him the perfect addition to the group. He began wowing audiences internationally, first at J.J. Mahoney's at the Grand Hyatt in Seoul, South Korea (October 2006 – February 2007) and then further at the Al-Ghazal Pub at the Intercontinental Hotel in Muscat, Oman (February – May 2007).

A dynamo onstage, Félix brings his unstoppable energy and intensity to Finesse's frontline, mesmerizing audiences with his explosive playing and infectious enthusiasm.

FINESSE

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Muscat, Oman	InterContinental Hotel & Resorts	February 22, 2007 – May 24, 2007
Seoul, South Korea	Grand Hyatt Hotel	October 16, 2006 – February 17, 2007
Muscat, Oman	InterContinental Hotel & Resorts	February 3, 2006 – May 31, 2006

Contact Us:

[HTTP://FINESSEBAND.TRIPOD.COM](http://finesseband.tripod.com)
[FINESSEBAND@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:finesseband@hotmail.com)