



FESTIVAL  
**ACCÈS-ASIE**  
May 5<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2016

PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate release

### OPENING COCKTAIL

**Festival Accès Asie 2016**  
**21<sup>th</sup> Edition**

Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 2016  
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

**Café du Monument-National**  
1182 Saint-Laurent Boulevard

Place-d'Armes or  
Saint-Laurent metro station

Free entrance

Montreal, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Festival Accès Asie proudly opens its **21st edition** and welcomes everyone to the Opening Cocktail at **Café du Monument-National** on **Thursday May 5th, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm**. The festival also celebrates the beginning of Asian Heritage Month across Canada.

This cocktail offers a glimpse into the Festival program while toasting its 21<sup>st</sup> edition.

Musician Amir Amiri will play for this event the santur, a 72-string hammer dulcimer that lies at the heart of Persian classical music.

In addition, dance makes for a perfect companion on this occasion. Performer **Tanveer Alam** will present an excerpt from the **QuébéAsia** dance performance series, fourth edition. He will offer a glimpse into his talent for Kathak, a classical Indian dance. Finally, **Interstellaire II** and **Me Float** will join us to brighten up the event with their image compositions and their sounds.

**Khosro Berahmandi**, General Manager and Artistic Director, and his team at Festival Accès Asie are delighted to invite the public to the unveiling of this year's program, unquestionably filled with rich and diverse artistic performances.

## ARTISTS

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### Amir Amiri - Musician

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Amir Amiri ([www.amiramiri.com](http://www.amiramiri.com)) was born in Tehran, Iran, where he spent much of his youth studying the santur, a 72-string hammer dulcimer that lies at the heart of Persian classical music. He also studied classical Indian music, and with some of Iran's and India's masters, including Ravi Shankar and NusratFateh Ali Khan. Amiri arrived in Canada in 1996. Since then, he has performed his music while in residence at The Banff Centre for the Arts, a haven of inspiration to which he has returned many times. Amiri continues to work extensively as a performer, composer, musical director and consultant for numerous Canadian dance and theatre companies, orchestras, concert series and television.



©Lisa Hatz

### Tanveer Alam - Choreographer

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Captivated by performing arts, Tanveer Alam started training in Kathak at a very young age. Currently, he is refining the art of Kathak with Sandhya Desai, a former student of the Kathak guru, Padmabhushan Kumudini Lakhia. Since 2009, he has been touring all across Canada. He has performed in various events including QuébecAsia, the Festival des Traditions du Monde de Sherbrooke and the Shenkman Arts Centre of Ottawa. This year, he joins QuébecAsia, an ad-hoc collective of Quebec-based artists who explore Asian-based art forms. Choreographers Manijeh Ali, Julio Hong, Sarah Dell'Ava, Nassim Lootij, and Taala and Ishwari, also participate in this fourth edition of the collective dance performance series.



©Julien Champagne

### Interstellaire II and Me Float - VJ / DJ

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Interstellaire II and Me Float is a sound and visual project of two artists involved on Jeunesse Cosmique label and they are also curators of their radio show at CISM. They organise the event called PITCH DOWN - MTL. They are currently working on a tribute to Sun Ra to be presented for Festival Suoni Per Il Popolo.

