

Le Grand
Continental[®]
Presented by **Celebrity Series of Boston**
Choreographed by **Sylvain Émard**

SUMMARY REPORT

Friday, May 16 – Sunday, May 18, 2014



Why *Le Grand Continental*?



In celebration of the closing of its 75th Anniversary Season, Celebrity Series of Boston presented three performances of *Le Grand Continental*®, a free outdoor public dance event created by the Montreal-based company Sylvain Émard Danse, on Copley Square Park May 16-18. This project, along with the season-opening public performance project, Street Pianos Boston, is Celebrity Series' gift to Boston as a thank you for supporting our mission for 75 years.

75 **Celebrity Series**
of Boston

Le Grand
Continental
Presented by **Celebrity Series of Boston**
Choreographed by Sylvain Émard

Recruitment

- **Celebrity Series coordinated a large grassroots campaign in January 2014.**
- **A call for participants was issued to schools, churches, community centers, and neighborhood associations across the Boston area.**
- **252 people expressed interest in participating.**
- **The recruitment video on YouTube viewed 2,500+ times.**
- **Interested participants attended recruitment sessions and auditioned for a spot in the company.**



Participants

- 110 people, ages 9 – 73, from 11 Boston neighborhoods and 25 surrounding communities.
- 59% of LGC dancers had no previous relationship with Celebrity Series.
- Most had little to some previous dance experience. Many danced publicly for the first time ever!
- Dancers included several teachers, an electrical engineer, criminal prosecutor, social worker, university administrator, medical doctor, college students, bartenders, several grandmothers, and a US Marine Master Sergeant.



Group Rehearsals

- Dancers were split into 2 groups – A & B.
- Each group rehearsed twice a week
March 10 – April 3 at Boston Latin School.



Full Rehearsals

Groups A & B came together for rehearsals twice a week April 7 – May 7 at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury.

Pictured below – choreographer Sylvain Émard visits from Montreal.



Performances

After two outdoor dress rehearsals, the group was ready to perform! Despite some wet weather that delayed the start of Friday night's performance, opening night (hosted by Joyce Kulhawik) was a splashing success.



75 **Celebrity Series**
of Boston

Le Grand
Continental
Presented by **Celebrity Series of Boston**
Choreographed by Sylvain Émard

Performances

Saturday night and Sunday afternoon performances went off without a hitch.



Attendance

Le Grand Continental welcomed a weekend audience of over 5,000 Boston residents and visitors.

75  Celebrity Series
of Boston

Le Grand
Continental
Presented by **Celebrity Series of Boston**
Choreographed by Sylvain Émard

Impact

“What has the experience meant to me? It helped me withstand some rough times in my personal life because when I was at practice I could forget all about that and just do something I loved.”

- Marie, LGC Dancer from Ashland, MA

“The most important aspect of the experience was building community among the dancers. We have too few opportunities in life to reach beyond our neighborhood and work circles to engage with others. By bringing so many people together for a common purpose, LGC demonstrated that diversity cannot be achieved by talking, it is appreciated by doing things together. ”

- Paul, LGC Dancer from Cambridge, MA



Impact

“One of the things that attracted me to this project was that it was in Boston. From the audition I saw how this project attracted people from many communities around Greater Boston. I work and live in the suburbs and found this diversity refreshing. I socialized with people who I never would have met in my regular day-to-day life.”

- Caroline, LGC Dancer from Waltham, MA



Impact



"This experience was so much fun! I had an absolute blast from the moment I stepped into the audition room. This whole process was so well planned and organized, it was effortless for me. Besides the joy of dancing and performing, along with the joyful energy of the audiences, I have met so many new people! LGC Boston is now it's own community. Thank you [Celebrity Series of Boston]! Please do more events like this and sign me up!"

- Sonya, LGC Dancer from Mattapan

Media Coverage

- Television coverage reached over 240,000 people through 6 different stories on 3 different stations - WCVB, WBZ-TV and a full-length featured story on WGBH-TV.
- Online coverage reached over 61 million people through 36 different stories in 24 different outlets, including featured stories on Boston.com, BostonGlobe.com, The Boston Herald Online, Examiner.com, BostInno, The Arts Fuse and more.
- Print coverage reached over 1.7 million people through 15 different stories in 11 different publications, including a feature article in The Boston Globe.
- Radio coverage reached over 960,000 through 3 different stories on 3 different stations, with featured stories on WBUR, WGBH-FM and RadioBDC.



Media Coverage

The Boston Globe Magazine

Arts in New England

35 Events You Won't Want to Miss

LE GRAND CONTINENTAL

The Celebrity Series' 75th anniversary season finale amasses roughly 150 participants for three performances in Boston's Copley Square of this lively outdoor dance extravaganza created by Montreal-based choreographer Sylvain Emard. It's line dancing on steroids. *May 16-18.*

617-482-6661; celebrityseries.org

Beta Release
boston.com

HOME ENTERTAINMENT MOVIES TV MUSIC EVENTS FOOD & DINING RADIOBDC BDCWIRE

'Le Grand Continental' Comes to Boston



Le Continental XL at the Festival TransAmériques 2011 (Montréal). From May 16-18, more than 100 dancers from Boston and 25 other surrounding cities and towns will gather at Copley Square Park to perform the Boston premiere of Le Grand Continental. Credit: Robert Etcheverry



For the last two months, more than 100 Boston-area residents have been preparing for their Celebrity Series of Boston debut. On May 16-18, they get their moment in "Le Grand Continental."

Le Grand
Continental
Presented by **Celebrity Series of Boston**
Choreographed by Sylvain Emard

Media Coverage

"What an innovative way to celebrate one's own anniversary. Considering the goal of Celebrity Series of Boston is 'to present world-class performing artists who inspire and enrich our community,' we'd say it succeeded."

- Enterprise News

WCVB ran video and talked about LGC on the 11 p.m. news, and **WBZ-TV** ran video on the 6 p.m., 6 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. news.



tions, and nervous jokes. Sylvain climbs on a raised platform and counts out steps to "Song of India," Tommy Dorsey's jazz masterpiece inspired by a Rimsky-Korsakov opera. Right foot forward, left, and a quick right left right left back. We add hand movements and repeat the phrase in each

The Boston Globe
DANCE
An amateur dancer's journey to Copley

By Paul Fallon | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT MAY 10, 2014



Media Coverage

BostInno

[Celebrity Series of Boston](#), the performing arts society responsible for productions and more in the city, has been celebrating its 75th anniversary over the past year, and this weekend, they went out with a bang. The massive international community dance, [Le Grand Continental](#), blew away spectators as over 100 dancers showed up in Copley Square for the city's biggest dance party yet.

[Home](#) » [News & Opinion](#) » [Local Coverage](#)

They just want to dance

BOSTON
Herald.com



Le Grand
Continental
Presented by **Celebrity Series of Boston**
Choreographed by Sylvain Émard

Dancers

Leslie Appleby
 Brad Arnold
 Samaher Baredwan
 Julie Battisti
 Jennifer Bencosme
 Carol Bliss-Furr
 Adalberto Bonilla
 Alain Bouchard
 Sydney Bumpass
 Rebecca Camerato
 Judy Carter
 Betsy Caruso
 Susan Cavalieri
 Felicia Chadbourne
 Katie Choe
 Melissa Chow
 Jennifer Coates
 Jennifer Cotter
 Brittany Crawford
 Efrain Cruz
 Amy d'Ablemont Burnes
 Diane Damphousse
 Laurel Douglas
 Catherine Doyle
 Kira Dunn
 Lee Ellenberg
 Paul E. Fallon
 Cheng Fang
 Evelyn Fields
 Julia Fiske *
 Timothy Garvey
 Hortense Gerard
 Dina Gerlovin
 Marie Gertje
 Barbara Golder
 Victoria Goodhart
 Mickey Grouse
 Claudia Gutierrez

Jeanette Gutierrez
 Isana Hampton
 Valerie Hampton
 Melanie Heazel
 Chu Huang
 Maggie Huff-Rousselle
 Marian Ingegneri
 Veronica Jaimes
 Sonya Joyner
 Barry Kahn
 Toby Kaminkow
 Janet Katz
 Tracie Konopinski
 Lindsay Caddle LaPointe *
 Jan Larson
 Kristy Lavigne
 Vicki LeFevre
 Gail Leichtman
 Fenny Lin
 Susan Livingston
 Anayte Lopez
 Samantha Lozzi
 Sasha Krumholz Lynn *
 Hannah Mahoney
 Irina Mara
 Virginia Mara
 Stefanie Marroquin
 Rene Martin *
 Katie Maxim
 Christine McCarron
 Michelle Merry
 Shirley Milfort
 Zarmik Moqtaderi
 Peggy Mullen
 Josephine Nesbitt
 Pui Sze Ng
 Andrea Novelle-Ruddy
 Gustavo Novelle-Ruddy

Caroline Nudelman
 Melody Pao
 Gabriela Perez
 Mary Ellen Reardon
 Ruth Sacks
 Margo Saulnier **
 Ingrid Schorr
 Shekia Scott
 Jerri Shaer
 Gurumoorthy Shanmugham
 Einat Shetreet
 Maria (Masha) Shukhman
 Bettina Siewert
 Sandra Simpson
 Cathie Skinner
 Ann Smith
 Samirah Smith
 Rosalba Solis
 Annie Tang
 Ann Tolkoff
 Marie Turley
 Ryan Valente *
 Karin Vander Schaaf
 Keiana Walker
 Sheree-Monique Watson
 Cary Williams
 Tamara Wilson
 Mike Witt
 Saleia Woodhouse
 June Xie
 Sandra Yuan
 Mary Zarembo
 Vicki Zelski *

•Rehearsal Assistants
 **Company Manager

Thank you!

A huge thank you to all of the dancers, staff, sponsors, partner organizations and supporters who helped make Le Grand Continental® such a success! Celebrity Series is proud to have worked with these talented and committed individuals and organizations:

- A Tent for Rent
- Advanced Lighting and Production Services
- Alan Boyer
- Andrew Andrews
- Back Bay Association
- Back Bay Neighborhood Association
- Bergsten Music
- Boston Conservatory
- Boston Dance Alliance
- Boston Latin School
- Boston, Parks & Recreation Department
- Callanan & Klein Communications
- Chris Hudacs, lighting designer
- Christani Pal, LGC volunteer
- Christine McMahon, Wharf Partners
- Church of the Covenant
- City of Boston, Mayor Martin J. Walsh
- Colin Thurmond, DJ
- Consulate General of Canada in Boston
- Friends of Copley Square
- Gabrielle Scheff, master electrician
- Greg Echelberger
- Janet Howes, stage manager
- Jaques Aubuchon
- Jill Costello
- Joe Levendusky, production manager
- John Driscoll, audio - Bergstens
- Julia Fiske, rehearsal assistant
- Lindsay Caddle LaPointe, rehearsal assistant
- Margo Saulnier, company manager
- Marr Companies
- Mass Farmers Markets' Copley Square Farmers Market, in Boston
- Park Plaza Hotel
- Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center staff
- Rene Martin, rehearsal assistant
- Rep. Cory Atkins
- Roberttorresphotography.com
- Rosalba Solis and La Pinata
- Ryan Valente, rehearsal assistant
- Sam Cournyn
- Sasha Krumholz-Lynn, rehearsal assistant
- Sylvain Emard Danse
- Sylvain Emard, choreographer
- The Dance Complex, Cambridge
- Tim Stone, production assistant
- Trinity Church
- Peter DiMuro, rehearsal director
- Quebec Delegation in Boston





75th Anniversary
Celebrity Series
of Boston

Le Grand
Continental
Presented by **Celebrity Series of Boston**
Choreographed by Sylvain Émard