

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.



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.

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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.



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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.

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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

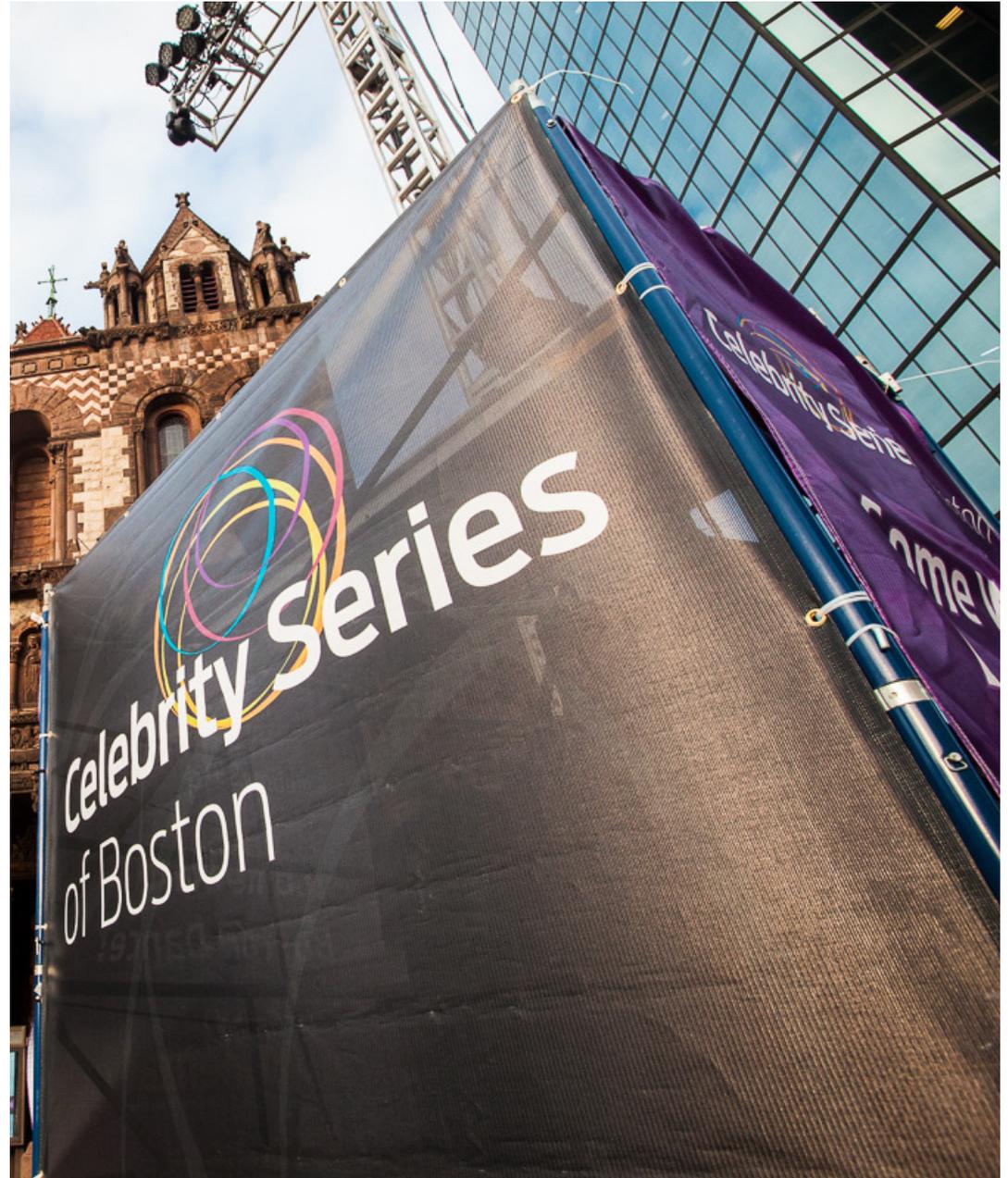


“This experience was so much fun! I had an absolute blast from the moment I stepped into the audition room. This whole process was so well planned and organized, it was effortless for me. Besides the joy of dancing and performing, along with the joyful energy of the audiences, I have met so many new 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 Emaré. It's line dancing on steroids. *May 16-18.*

617-482-6661; celebrityseries.org

Beta Release
boston.com

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'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."

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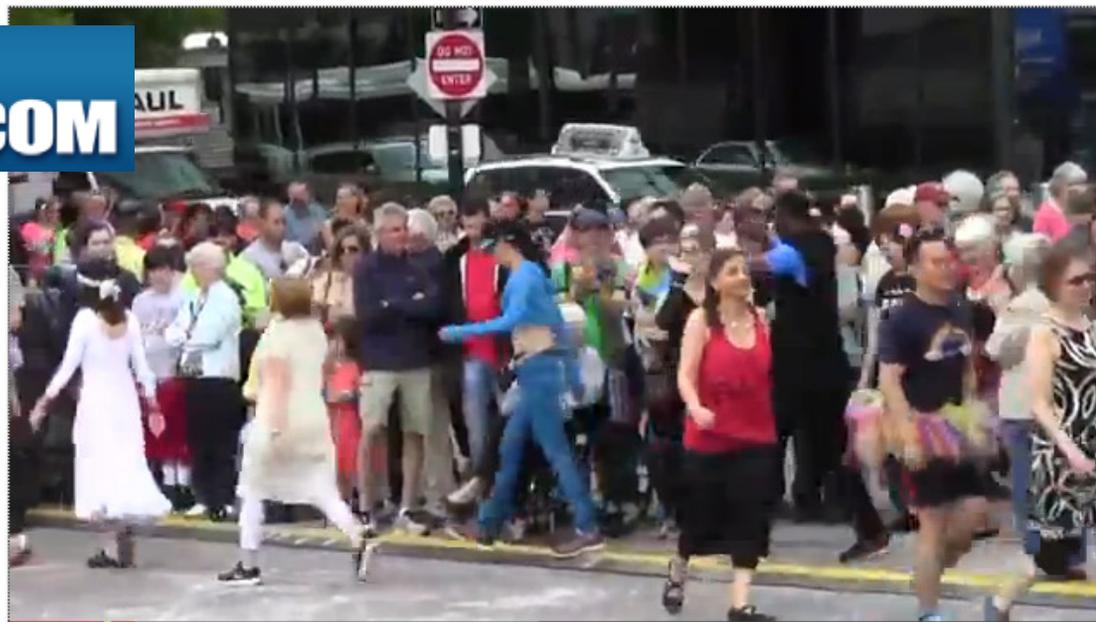
Media Coverage



[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.

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They just want to dance



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 Cavaliere
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 Gerardo
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 Zaremba
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





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