



PARTICIPANTS

The Honorable Al Gore

Since his earliest days in the U.S. Congress 30 years ago, former U.S. Vice President Al Gore has been a leading advocate for confronting the threat of global warming. Mr. Gore is the author of *An Inconvenient Truth*, a best-selling book and the subject of the movie of the same name, one of the top documentary films in history. In 2007, Al Gore and the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change won the Nobel Peace Prize.

A. R. Rahman

Called the "Mozart of Madras" by Time Magazine, Indian film composer, producer, musician and singer Rahman fuses classical, Carnatic Music, Hindustani and Qawwali into a sound whose breadth and scope has won him praise from peers, directors and critics alike. A two-time Academy Award winner for the *Slumdog Millionaire* soundtrack, he is active in children's charity work and health issues.

Bindi Irwin

The daughter of beloved Australian wildlife expert Steve Irwin, Bindi Irwin is now a star in her own right, carrying forward her father's international conservation work. Host of the children's documentary program *Bindi the Jungle Girl*, she has also performed as a dancer, singer and even a rapper.

Cirque du Soleil

Cirque du Soleil is a major Quebec-based organization providing high-quality artistic entertainment. Cirque du Soleil has brought wonder and delight to almost 90 million spectators in over 200 cities on five continents. In 2009, Cirque will present 20 shows simultaneously throughout the world. The company has received such prestigious awards as the Emmy, Drama Desk, Bambi, ACE, G meaux, F lix and Rose d'Or de Montreux. Cirque du Soleil International Headquarters are in Montreal, Canada. Parallel to its live shows, social action has been "anchored in the genes" of Cirque from the start.

Claude Challe

Avant-garde artist, DJ, arranger and composer, Claude Challe's reputation in cutting-edge and underground circles is undeniable. Master of "world music"

fusion, he promotes cross-cultural dialogue through knowledge in order to move toward a more just and tolerant society.

Dr. David Suzuki

Dr. David Suzuki, Co-Founder of the David Suzuki Foundation, is an award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster. He is renowned for his radio and television programs that explain the complexities of the natural sciences in a compelling, easily understood way. Dr. Suzuki has received consistently high acclaim for his thirty years of award-winning work in broadcasting. Dr. Suzuki is also recognized as a world leader in sustainable ecology.

Élisapie Isaac

Inuk singer, composer and filmmaker Élisapie Isaac, is a proudly northern artist, deeply connected to her people and land. Her debut solo album *There Will Be Stars* reveals yet another facet of the trilingual songwriter's talents.

Empolga às 9

The musical group Empolga às 9 has been breathing life into the Ipanema Carnival in Rio since 2003. Loved by young audiences, this group performs the classics of popular Brazilian music, cleverly mixing styles such as samba, frevo, forró and funk with strong percussive elements. Empolga às 9 brings the joy and buoyancy of the Carnival wherever they go.

Fnaïre

Morocco's most popular rap group, Fnaïre's music speaks volumes to a new generation of music fans. Modern rap and underground beats co-exist with traditional Moroccan rhythms in a new genre that the group refers to as "The Traditional Rap". The message of tolerance and respect is a recurring theme in their work and their songs echo their audience's concerns and hopes for a brighter future.

Frank De Winne

Aboard the International Space Station, Belgian astronaut Frank De Winne is currently pursuing OasISS, a six-month mission focused on the importance of water to human life. The technologies and solutions developed during this mission could hold benefits on Earth. Frank De Winne flew in 2002 on a Soyuz mission to the ISS, was a member of Expedition 20 in 2009 and will be the commander of Expedition 21 in October. He is also the goodwill ambassador for UNICEF Belgium.

Garou

Quebec singer Garou has been part of the international music scene for over ten years. Following his phenomenal success in the hit musical *Notre-Dame de Paris* in France, his career took off in earnest. Since then, Garou has released numerous albums and toured extensively in countries such as Poland, Russia, Lebanon, France, Belgium and Switzerland. Garou is the recipient of a number of awards in Quebec and France.

Gilberto Gil

Gilberto Gil's groundbreaking fusion of samba, salsa, bossa nova and rock with native Brazilian folk sounds resonated with music lovers around the globe, igniting a passion for a new genre called World Music, which continues to captivate audiences decades later. One of the most influential artists in Brazilian popular music, this singer, song-writer, multi-instrumentalist, and former Minister of Culture continues to perform and lend his support to social and environmental causes.

Gregory Colbert

On more than forty expeditions, filmmaker and photographer Gregory Colbert has captured extraordinary interactions between humans and animals in their natural habitat. Comprised of photographic works, films, art installations, literature, and architecture, Colbert's *Ashes and Snow* is a singular celebration of nature. The show has toured four continents and welcomed millions of visitors, making *Ashes and Snow* the most attended exhibition by any artist in history.

Hélène Ségara

French singer Hélène Séguara's interpretation of Esmeralda in the musical *Notre-Dame de Paris* earned her instant recognition. Known for her charitable work, she has been an ambassador for the association *Rêves* for the past 10 years.

Jean Lemire

Biologist and filmmaker Jean Lemire's internationally acclaimed documentaries on the repercussions of global warming have inspired millions of viewers. As part of his deep commitment to protecting the environment, his historic expeditions in the Arctic and Antarctic aboard his ship *Sedna IV* have done much to raise public awareness of the fragility of marine ecosystems.

Jean-Jacques Goldman

French singer-songwriter Jean-Jacques Goldman has become one of the most popular singers of his generation. He has written and composed for many artists, including Céline Dion and Johnny Hallyday. He is also the co-founder of *Les Enfoirés*, a group of artists that assist those in need.

Joss Stone

English R&B vocalist Joss Stone sings like a throwback to the golden era of soul, and has performed with everyone from Smokey Robinson to Tom Jones. She recently branched into acting with a role on the TV program *the Tudors*, and is known for her trademark barefoot performing style.

Julie Payette

Julie Payette was selected in 1992 by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) to become an astronaut. After various training at CSA and NASA, she worked as a technical advisor for the Mobile Servicing System (MSS), an advanced robotics system contributed by Canada to the International Space Station. She also worked as a CAPCOM (Capsule Communicator) at Mission Control Center in Houston, Texas. Julie Payette was the first Canadian astronaut aboard the International Space Station in 1999. Last July, she returned from a successful

mission where she visited the Space Station for the second time and joined CSA astronaut Robert Thirsk.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Formed in 1960 by Joseph Shabalala, South Africa's Ladysmith Black Mambazo skyrocketed to international fame after performing on Paul Simon's Graceland album in 1986. They remain one of the world's most beloved male vocal troupes, once heralded as South Africa's cultural ambassadors by none less than Nelson Mandela.

Lila Downs

Lila Downs is a Mexican singer-songwriter and a dedicated children's advocate. Her deeply personal and moving interpretations of the standards of the ranchera repertoire have earned her widespread acclaim. She was nominated for the Oscar for her contribution to the music of the film Frida.

Lorie

The career of French singer Lorie took off after her first single, *Près de moi*, came out in the late 1990s, and she has entertained music fans ever since. Lorie is also active in charitable work in France, including Arc-en-ciel, for which she is the ambassador.

Matthew McConaughey

Texas-born Matthew McConaughey is one of Hollywood's most in-demand actors. Famed for his easygoing likeability, he has starred in a string of successful relationship comedies. He is active in charitable works helping schoolchildren lead healthier lives.

Maude Barlow

Activist Maude Barlow heads The Council of Canadians and is also the co-founder of the Blue Planet Project for the protection of freshwater. In 2008, she was appointed as the United Nation's senior adviser on water issues. She is the author of *Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water*.

Maud Fontenoy

Maud Fontenoy rowed across the Atlantic in 2003 and then across the Pacific in 2005. In 2006 -2007 she sailed solo around the Southern hemisphere, against the current. An outspoken defender of the ocean, she is also vice-president of the Conservatoire national du littoral in France, and president of her own Foundation.

Michel Fugain

French singer-songwriter Michel Fugain has added his distinct artistic touch to the world of music for the past 40 years. He has written songs for artists such as Hugues Aufray, Hervé Vilard, Dalida and Marie Laforêt. A talented composer, his

name is associated with unforgettable hits in the francophone repertoire. His music is synonymous with joyfulness and hope.

Natasha St Pier

Canadian singer Natasha St Pier has been making her mark in the francophone music scene for the past 15 years. A regular of the European concert scene, she has collaborated with artists such as Pascal Obispo, Johnny Hallyday and Florent Pagny.

Nikolai Tsiskaridze

An internationally renowned ballet dancer and the Principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet, Nikolai Tsiskaridze was the youngest person ever to be named a People's artist of Russia. His performances have been acclaimed by the likes of Yuri Grigorovich and Galina Ulanova.

Patrick Buel

Patrick Buel is a highly versatile artist. Aside from his prolific career as a musician, he has been an actor for both stage and screen. A committed artist and citizen, he devotes his time and energy to various human-rights issues. Patrick Buel is the ONE DROP Foundation Ambassador in France.

Peter Gabriel

Peter Gabriel has earned a worldwide reputation for his innovative work as a musician, writer and video maker. In 1980, he founded WOMAD, bringing together traditional and modern music, arts and dance from every corner of the globe. His collaborations with artists from around the world continue to inform his art and his work on a wide spectrum of human rights and environmental issues.

Peter Lik

As a completely self-taught artist, master photographer Peter Lik started his career in Australia and soon expanded his artistic vision worldwide. Huge panoramic photographs of landscapes showcase the brilliant colors and the elegant, spiritual terrain in Nature. He has led the world of landscape photography for the last 25 years with respect, love and admiration.

Salma Hayek

A leading actress, director and producer in film and television, Salma Hayek's commitment to her work has inspired audiences around the world. She is a passionate voice raising awareness of violence against women and discrimination against immigrants and a global spokesperson for UNICEF.

Shakira

Columbian-born Shakira's signature blend of Latin, rock and Arabic sounds fueled her remarkable breakthrough into the global English-speaking audience. The prolific singer-songwriter, musician, record producer, dancer and philanthropist is a leading voice for children's education and nutrition in her native country.

Simon Carpentier

Quebec composer Simon Carpentier first made his mark writing music for commercials and picked up more than 20 Quebec and international awards between 1989 and 1997. His name appears in the credits of a dozen or so films and he has worked on numerous TV shows for a variety of networks. Simon Carpentier has also wrote the music for Cirque du Soleil shows Zumanity and Wintuk.

Tatuya Ishii

For over twenty years this award winning Iconic, singer, songwriter, artist, filmmaker and industrial designer has fascinated audiences with his extraordinary talent. Forerunner of a new artistic era, his numerous works have touched millions of fans. His brilliant and moving artistic installations have been experienced by hundreds of thousands of spectators throughout Japan and beyond. Including GROUND ANGEL in Hiroshima, an art performance he produced to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing.

Tetsuko Kuroyanagi

Tetsuko Kuroyanagi has earned international acclaim as an actress, best-selling author, television talk show host and for her tireless efforts in helping impoverished children around the world. This beloved Japanese artist and personality has received many awards for her humanitarian work. She was the first international goodwill ambassador for UNICEF.

Tiffany Speight

Tiffany Speight is one of Australia's most exciting young sopranos. She is a recipient of numerous awards including the Vienna State Opera Award, where she made her European debut. Tiffany performs regularly with the major opera companies including the New Zealand Opera, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Australian Pops Orchestra.

Touria Ikbal

Marrakesh poet, translator and Sufi researcher Touria Ikbal calls on the colliding and merging cultures of her native Morocco for the inspiration for her passionate, spiritual work.

Vandana Shiva

Vandana Shiva, a world-renowned environmental thinker, activist, physicist, feminist, philosopher of science, writer and science policy advocate, is the Director of The Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy. She serves as an ecology advisor to several organizations including the Third World Network and the Asia Pacific People's Environment Network.

Yann Arthus-Bertrand

During his travels around the world to photograph *Earth from Above*, Yann Arthus-Bertrand discovered his true calling: to showcase the beauty of the Earth through images in order to convey the importance of preserving it. He has engaged his foundation—GoodPlanet— on the path of environmental education and launched a video exhibition in 2009 at the Grand Palais in Paris entitled *6 Billion Others*. Yann Arthus-Bertrand is also the author of *Earth from Above*, a documentary series distributed in 40 countries. In 2009, he directed the film *Home*, a film addressing the state of our planet and the challenges we must overcome in order to protect it. The film was seen in 140 countries. The common thread throughout these projects is Yann Arthus-Bertrand's unwavering resolve to raise environmental awareness. This commitment has led to his nomination as Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

Zazie

Zazie is a French singer-songwriter recognized for her songs with a social message. She has won numerous Victoire awards and was named "Female Revelation of the Year" in 1993 in her native France.