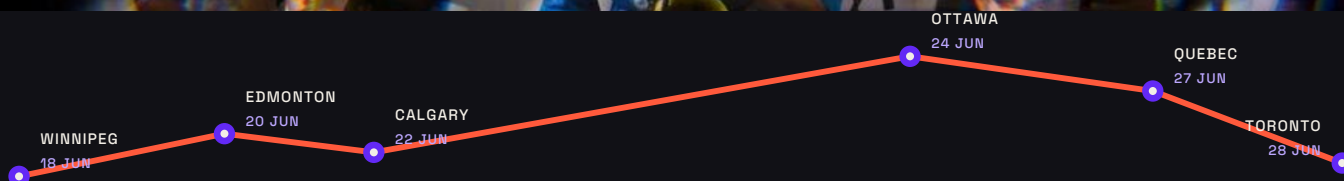


CANADA

SIX DATES. SIX CITIES. ONE LINE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.



A TRAVEL DIARY BY CHARLEY ROSE

20

AJC / JAZZ MIGRATION

ORIGINAL ARTICLE: JAZZMIG NEWS, JULY 2026

26

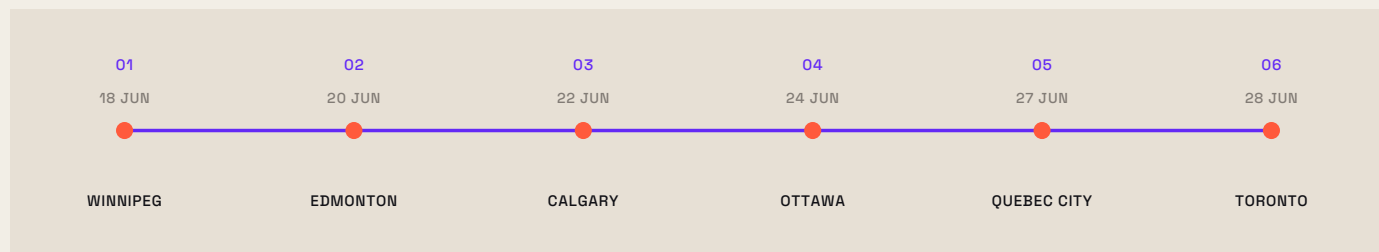
A LINE ACROSS CANADA

- *As if Thelonious Monk had met Prokofiev for the duration of a waltz.*

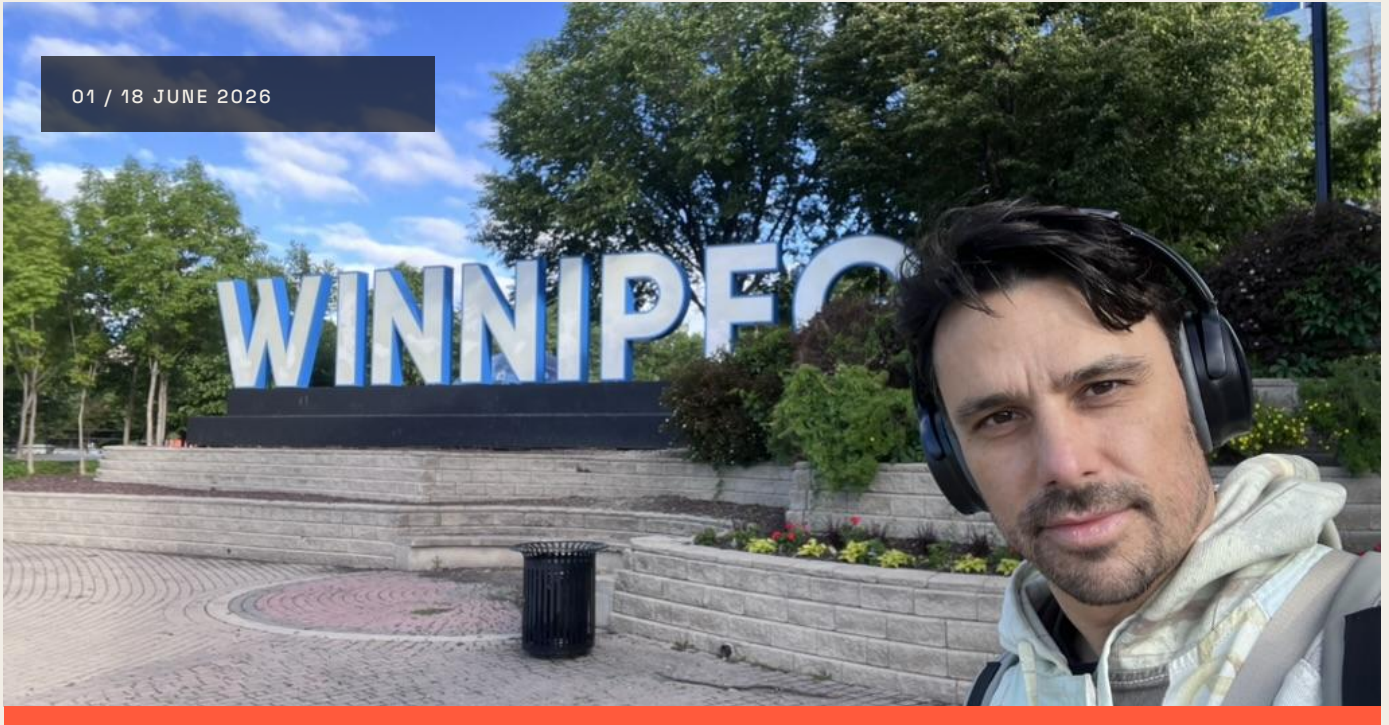
Winners of the Jazz Migration Award in 2021, the trio of saxophonist Charley Rose, pianist Enzo Carniel and drummer Ariel Tessier champions a virtuosic and playful jazz, made of deep grooves, silences, abrupt shifts and an unexpected Dadaist humour.

Last June, the trio flew to Canada for a six-date tour co-produced by AJC - from Winnipeg to Toronto, with stops in Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa and Quebec City. We asked Charley Rose to recount the journey. Here is his travel diary.

THE ROUTE



01 / 18 JUNE 2026



WINNIPEG

A NATURAL STAINED-GLASS WINDOW, MOVING DIRECTLY ONTO THE SKY.

Arriving jet-lagged, it was a bit of a struggle at first, but we still managed to get up the next morning. I went for a long walk, an hour and a half. I walked to the waterfront, then crossed to the other side of the river, where I discovered a magnificent cathedral open to the sky. There was a hole of light, with clouds passing through it. A kind of natural stained-glass window, moving, directly onto the sky. It was truly magnificent - the kind of image that stays with you and immediately makes you want to write a new theme.

The Winnipeg concert was a kind of warm-up. The line check was fairly short, the sound wasn't perfect, but the atmosphere was great. We were happy to be playing together again, happy to be there, and the audience was with us.

After that, a nice little restaurant and the first non-alcoholic craft beer of the tour: a Trans Canada Blueberry - a little play on words with the bear - and frankly, it was really good.

The next morning, another short walk. The boys went for a run and saw the city from a bit of an outside perspective. I kept walking and stumbled upon a giant skatepark. I'd never seen anything like it.



Winnipeg International Jazz Festival. Photo: Colin Corneau.



EDMONTON

YARDBIRD SUITE / EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

Edmonton was definitely one of the best concerts of the tour. We played at the Yardbird Suite, a real jazz club just like you imagine them: round tables, cocktails, a packed house, a warm atmosphere and total immersion in the crowd. The weather wasn't really on our side. It was cold, around 20 degrees Celsius, while the French were enjoying a heatwave. It was drizzling a little. But inside, it was a different story.

The concert was incredible. People were shouting, applauding, and we ended with a standing ovation. We played for about two and a quarter hours, without rehearsing a single song. We played tracks from Dada Pulp and some from the upcoming album, *Au Ciné*. The club's atmosphere had something very David Lynch-esque about it. It almost reminded us of *Twin Peaks* - the bar where the musicians play at the end of each episode in season three. A truly wonderful evening.

And then we felt that something had really resonated: we almost sold out of all the CDs. I brought 35, and we sold 24 that evening alone. For a club, after a concert, that's pretty amazing. It's gratifying, because it isn't just applause in the moment: people leave with the music, with a piece of the story under their arm.

That evening, we also went to the jam session taking place at our hotel. We met lots of young musicians from the city, who played incredibly well and had fantastic energy. We jammed for three or four songs, then went back upstairs to bed. It was simple, lively and very jazzy in the best sense of the word: you arrive in a city, play your set, then meet the local scene around a few standards. We also met the festival director, himself a saxophonist, who gave us a very warm welcome.

24 / 35

CDS SOLD

2H 15

ON STAGE

01

STANDING OVATION

CALGARY

IRONWOOD STAGE AND GRILL / JAZZYJC



We took the bus from Edmonton, about a three-hour drive. On the bus, we met Zyco, a Quebecer of Serbian origin, completely crazy - maybe a fantasist, definitely funny. He had a serious case of ADHD and kept us entertained for two hours with one outlandish anecdote after another, all delivered with that lovely accent we love. He definitely made a lasting impression on the tour. We talked about him the whole time.

Calgary is supposed to be the city of blue skies, but it greeted us with clouds and a welcome chill. At night, it dropped to 7 degrees Celsius. The concert was at the Ironwood Stage and Grill, a rather unique venue: a fantastic grand piano, a great drum kit, but a full-on stage-and-grill vibe. People were eating, the air was filled with the smell of grilled chops, and in the middle of it all, you were playing your music. Normally, the line-up is more rock or pop, but the owner, a seasoned veteran from Nova Scotia, loved the show. He told us he'd seen 300 concerts a year for over 40 years in the business.



DETAILS MATTER

- *The kind of detail that speaks volumes about the welcome and the care given to artists.*

We also had a technical hiccup: our adapters were acting up, and Enzo couldn't plug in properly. The festival director went and bought him a power cable so he could connect directly to Canadian power. It was a very kind gesture - the kind of detail that speaks volumes about the welcome and the care given to the artists.

The evening went very well. The Alliance Française of Calgary was there with a small team, as a partner of the concert with JazzYYC. They stayed for both sets, and the atmosphere was truly wonderful.

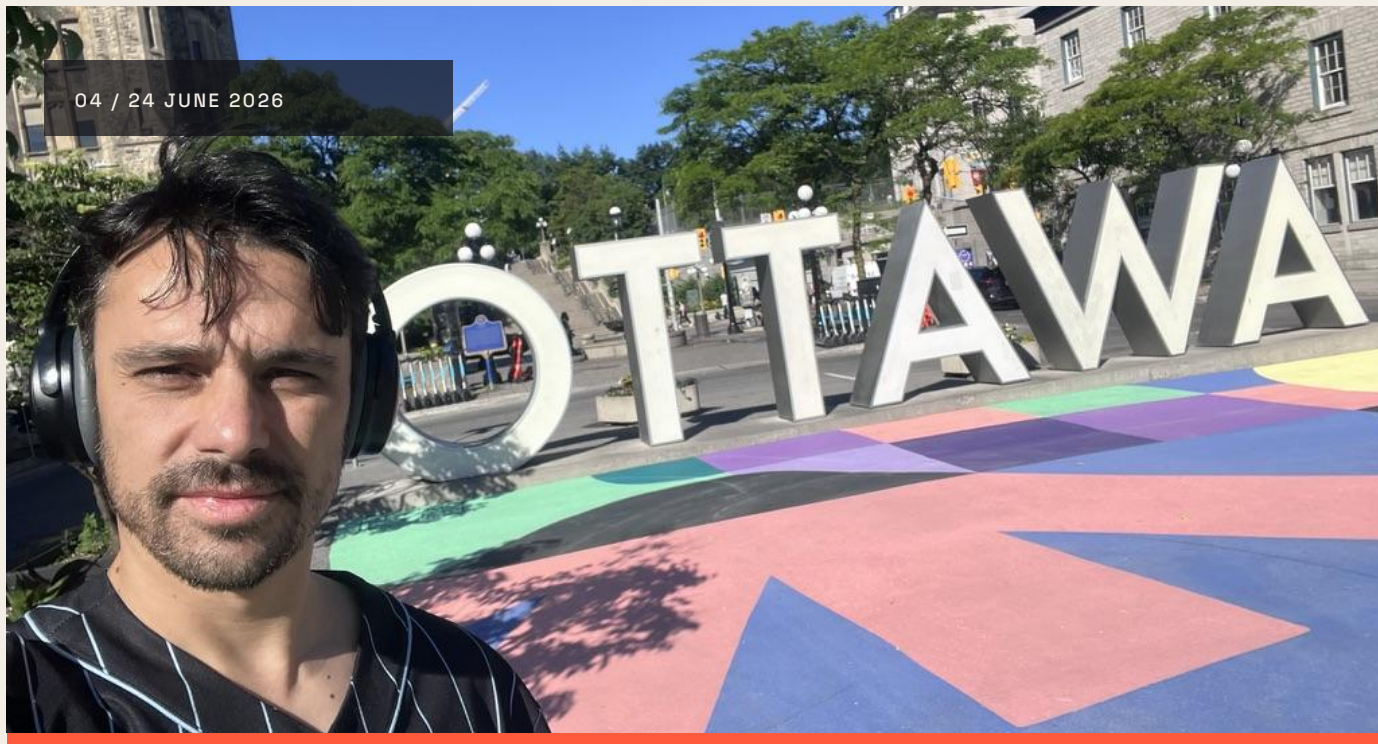
Finally, the owner led us up to his office. We climbed a small ladder to reach it, and there was what he called the Wall of Fame, where musicians come to sign the walls. He explained that it had started quite innocently at the back of the room, but as the years went by, the signatures moved closer to his office - and became more obscene. The artists had really let loose. It was quite colourful. In short, another very nice evening.

WALL OF FAME



After the concert at the Ironwood Stage and Grill.

04 / 24 JUNE 2026



OTTAWA

YOUTH SUMMIT / NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE / FOURTH STAGE

Upon arrival, a lovely evening was in store: a short outing, mussels and fries in a very nice bar. Ottawa made a very good impression on us. A green city, with lots of water, pleasant and very easy to live in.

The next morning, before the concert, we participated in the Youth Summit. We spent an hour with young students, the musicians of tomorrow, and it was a truly wonderful experience. They were already playing incredibly well, with great listening skills, a great mindset and genuine curiosity. It's always precious to feel that kind of energy: young people who are just starting out, who are searching, who are eager, and with whom you can share a bit of music, their journeys and their questions, without any pretence. It set the tone for the day.

Next, we prepared for the concert and headed to the National Arts Centre, to the Fourth Stage. A beautiful venue, fantastic sound, amazing staff and lovely dressing rooms: we were treated like royalty. We were opening for Stéphane Wrembel, a French guitarist living in New Jersey, whom we discovered later that evening. I ended up having a few beers with him and his violinist, who were very friendly.

We also had a fantastic concert, in front of about 150 people. Great energy. I had the pleasure of seeing my friend Ethan Cohn again, the double bassist with whom I studied at the Jazzcampus in Basel, and who had also done the Focus Year a year after me. We met the festival director, also a saxophonist, who gave us a very warm welcome. Another great evening.

150 PEOPLE / GREAT ENERGY

- Charley Rose and his ensemble were one of the artistic highlights of this year's Ottawa Jazz Festival. Their music was innovative, energetic and deeply engaging, earning an enthusiastic response from our audience. Beyond the concert, their work with our Jazz Youth Summit students was exceptional - thoughtful, inspiring and delivered with genuine generosity. They left a lasting impression on everyone involved.

PETR CANCURA / EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

05 / IN TRANSIT

QUEBEC CITY



The next day, we headed to Quebec City.

We took the train, going through Montreal - that'll be for another time, lol. There were a few minor hiccups along the way, including a two-hour delay, but we worked with the guys during the trip, so all was not lost. Upon arrival, we were greeted by Claude, a great guy, super friendly, who took us to the Laval University hotel.

They were student rooms, but super comfortable and surrounded by greenery. Definitely the most peaceful night of the tour. The next day, a classic tour problem arose: Ariel left his keys in his room, which locked itself as soon as we closed the door. A real mess for a while, but Claude came to the rescue and sorted it out.

On the day of the concert, it happened again: after returning the keys, Ariel realised he'd left his wallet on the bed. The keys had already been dropped in the mailbox; everything was supposed to be over. A brief moment of panic - but once again, everything worked out.

LARC

LAVAL UNIVERSITY / FESTIVAL QUÉBEC JAZZ EN JUIN



The concert in Quebec City took place in the magnificent LARC studio, run by Serge Lacasse at Laval University. Soundcheck was at noon. The venue was superb, the sound magnificent, and the staff were lovely and incredibly attentive. The festival director was incredibly kind and took excellent care of us. The concert was wonderful, with very positive feedback.

After selling the last of the CDs, we headed straight to the airport to catch our flight to Toronto.

- *The venue was superb. The sound was magnificent.*



Inside the LARC control room at Laval University.



TORONTO

FINAL STOP / TORONTO JAZZ FESTIVAL

Photo: Pine.ah

The flight went well. In Toronto, we stayed at Tartu College, on the 18th floor, with a breathtaking view of the city. Very nice. A quick World Cup match with friends, then off to bed.

The next day, we took a short walk around town, then played that evening on the open-air stage. It was really great: a huge crowd, fantastic sound despite a very short soundcheck, and a fantastic atmosphere. Everyone was really into it. We also had the chance to meet people from the Institut français and the Alliance Française of Toronto, who thoroughly enjoyed the concert.

TARTU COLLEGE / 18TH FLOOR

A HUGE CROWD / A NEW SOUND

- The Toronto Jazz Festival aims to present the best in local, national and international jazz and jazz-related music, and to reflect in its programming the sound of jazz from at home and around the world. The Charley Rose Trio was therefore a perfect fit for our 2026 line-up. Their performance was of the highest artistic quality, and their unique line-up of sax, piano and drums provided our audiences with an outstanding opportunity to hear something new and different - a sound they might not otherwise experience in the Toronto market. And, based on audience reaction, it's clear that the music resonated! It was a pleasure to have the Charley Rose Trio wrap up this tour in Toronto.

JOSH GROSSMAN / TORONTO JAZZ FESTIVAL

EPILOGUE

WHAT REMAINS

After that, a nice little evening and a restaurant to conclude the tour properly.

The next day, our last stroll through Toronto. Enzo and I went up the CN Tower. The view was magnificent, overlooking the entire city and Lake Ontario, which stretches as far as the eye can see. Even from that height, you can't see the other shore, the lake is so vast. It's quite incredible to realise.

And then the return trip with friends. Everything went very well.

Overall, what struck me most was the warmth of the people. They're incredibly friendly, laid-back and welcoming. The festival organisers are very personal and pleasant, with a real focus on the artists. The food is also excellent: you can easily find great vegetarian and vegan options, as well as cuisines from all over the world. The craft beers are delicious. There may still be some progress to be made on the wine - but coming from a Frenchman in love with his terroir and born in the Bordeaux region, I think we weren't really expecting anything else.

C.R.

A GREAT TOUR. GOOD PEOPLE. WE'LL BE BACK SOON.



CHARLEY ROSE MUSIC

STAY IN TOUCH

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BOOKING

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