



Press release for immediate release

## FIMAV @ 39 – The departure of the “Mighty Oak Tree” and the “Quiet Force”

**Thursday, March 9, 2023** – The Board of Directors of Productions Plateforme Inc., the non-profit organization that oversees the organization of the Festival International de Musique Actuelle de Victoriaville (FIMAV), is announcing today, with a heavy heart and loads of gratitude, that the 39<sup>th</sup> FIMAV will be the last edition for Michel Levasseur and Joanne Vézina.

Michel Levasseur has been the general manager and artistic director of FIMAV since the very first edition in 1983, and he was a founding member of Productions Plateforme Inc. in 1982. Joanne Vézina started at the festival as a lighting designer and stage manager, before taking on an administrative role in 1991. Both will be leaving their positions at the general, artistic, and administrative departments after closing the books on the 39<sup>th</sup> FIMAV 2023. These two pillars of our organization, one often publicly compared to a “mighty oak tree” for his resistance and vigour, the other nicknamed the “quiet force” by the staff for her rigour and calm, have marked the history of Productions Plateforme Inc. and FIMAV, but also the history of Musique Actuelle and avant-garde arts. Both have contributed enormously to Quebec’s cultural dynamism and have left a mark on hundreds of event workers, in addition to having helped propel countless careers in the arts.

Producing an event of international scope outside large urban centres requires unparalleled expertise. Thanks to unfailing professionalism, a constantly renewed sense of resourcefulness and boundless creativity, the duo at the head of Productions Plateforme Inc. and FIMAV, Michel Levasseur and Joanne Vézina, are leaving an organization in excellent financial health. The President of the organization’s board of directors, Annie St-Jean, would like to sincerely thank Michel Levasseur and Joanne

Vézina “for having carried the mandate of this unique festival all these years, without any artistic compromise! The duo they form together deserves all our admiration. The values conveyed by FIMAV are forever imprinted in the hearts of everyone who have experienced the festival. Michel and Joanne have passed on their passion and their openness to diversity through their power of attraction and their rigour since 1983, with well-calculated risk management. We thank them for their authenticity and for the spark that animates them, the spark that makes us all want to attend the party. The 39<sup>th</sup> edition will certainly be a good vintage!” On this note, the members of the board are inviting artists, staff, volunteers and festival-goers to join them in warmly thanking Michel Levasseur and Joanne Vézina for their dedication over the past four decades!



## **Turning a new leaf, starting a new chapter**

The board of Productions Plateforme Inc. is actively looking for two or three individuals to take the reins of FIMAV's general, artistic, and administrative departments. "FIMAV is of immeasurable importance and relevance to the cultural landscape that forges our identity. The Board of Directors is therefore open-minded and actively looking for a succession to keep the noble mission of our organization alive," said Annie St-Jean. Those interested in taking over are asked to contact the board's transition committee at the email address [emploi@fimav.qc.ca](mailto:emploi@fimav.qc.ca).

-30-

Information, photos, interviews:  
Jordie Vézina Levasseur  
Director of Communications  
819 752-7912 | [Email](#)