

Patrick Watson – Career Bio (May 2025)

EN - LONG CAREER BIO

Patrick Watson composes, performs, and records his albums with his long-time bandmate and collaborator and multi-instrumentalist **Mishka Stein** and **Olivier Fairfield**. The Canadian artist reached gold and platinum status in multiple countries (including five certified gold albums in Canada), and his shows sell out around the world. Over the course of his career, Patrick has retained the uncanny ability to coexist in mainstream pop-culture spaces and on the avant-garde fringes. Patrick's songs have been featured in primetime crowd-pleasers like *Grey's Anatomy* and *This Is Us*, as well as in multiple arthouse films from Denis Villeneuve (Polytechnique), Wim Wenders (Perfect Days), and Philippe Falardeau (C'est pas moi, je le jure!) and more. He's an artist who's as comfortable performing impromptu pop-up shows on the train tracks in a Quebec mining town as he is leading the BBC Orchestra at London's prestigious Barbican. He's an in-demand composer with over 15 film scores under his belt. He was awarded the prestigious inaugural Impact Award at the 2024 Canadian Sync Awards. Watson's viral single *Je te laisserai des mots* became the first francophone song to accumulate 1 billion streams on Spotify.

His international profile has been raised by media appearances in several key markets. He's been featured on billboards in New York's Times Square, performed at an NPR Tiny Desk Concert, and was called "an outstanding storyteller" by legendary All Songs Considered host Bob Boilen. Patrick has also made TV appearances on Taratata (France 2), France TV Info La Matinale, and hosted an episode of BBC Music Life Podcast in the UK with guests Weyes Blood, Flume, Caroline Shaw, and more.

Patrick Watson's 2006 Polaris Music Prize-winning breakthrough, *Close to Paradise*, is a defining document of the fabled post-Y2K Montreal indie scene, a magical memento of an era when rent was still cheap and creativity was pouring out of every storefront gallery space on the Plateau. But as much as he seemed to embody the whimsical spirit of the flaneur roaming the depanneur-lined streets of Montreal, Patrick has since amassed an expansive and eclectic body of work—from the art-folk odysseys of 2009's *Wooden Arms* to the cosmic synth-washed songcraft of 2015's *Love Songs for Robots*, to his latest *Better in the Shade*, featuring the beautiful piano anthem *Ode to Vivian*.

But whether you discovered Patrick Watson through your local indie record shop, a movie soundtrack, a social-media video, a European music festival, his hit collaboration with Cinematic Orchestra (2007's "To Build a Home"), or through his appearance alongside Patti Smith and Michael Stipe at the 2021 Pathway to Paris all-star benefit concert, his music has a similar effect on all who enter his kaleidoscopic sound-world. The songs of Patrick Watson transform your everyday surroundings into your own imaginary wonderland, translating stress and sorrow into joy, and helping you find peace within the chaos of modern life.

EN - SHORT CAREER BIO

Patrick Watson composes, performs, and records his albums with his long-time bandmate and collaborator and multi-instrumentalists Mishka Stein and Olivier Fairfield. The Canadian artist reached gold and platinum status in over multiple countries (including five certified gold albums in Canada), and his shows sell out around the world. Over the course of his career, Patrick has retained the uncanny ability to coexist in mainstream pop-culture spaces and on the avant-garde fringes. Patrick's songs have been featured in primetime crowd-pleasers like *Grey's Anatomy* and *This Is Us*, as well as in multiple arthouse films from Denis Villeneuve (*Polytechnique*), Wim Wenders (*Perfect Days*), and Philippe Falardeau (*C'est pas moi, je le jure!*) and more. He's an artist who's as comfortable performing impromptu pop-up shows on the train tracks in a Quebec mining town as he is leading the BBC Orchestra at London's prestigious Barbican. He's an in-demand composer with over 15 film scores under his belt. He was awarded the prestigious inaugural Impact Award at the 2024 Canadian Sync Awards. Watson's viral single "Je te laisserai des mots" became the first French song to accumulate 1 billion streams on Spotify.

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FR - LONG CAREER BIO

Patrick Watson compose, interprète et enregistre ses albums avec ses collaborateurs de longue date, les multi-instrumentistes **Mishka Stein** et **Olivier Fairfield**. L'artiste canadien a atteint le statut or et platine dans plusieurs pays (incluant cinq albums certifiés or au Canada), et ses concerts affichent complet à travers le monde. Au cours de sa carrière, Patrick a conservé une capacité incroyable à coexister dans les hauts lieux de la culture populaire et dans les marges de l'avant-garde. Les chansons de Patrick ont été entendues dans des séries rassembleuses telles que *Grey's Anatomy* et *This Is Us*, ainsi que dans plusieurs films d'auteur signés par des cinéastes comme Denis Villeneuve (*Polytechnique*), Wim Wenders (*Perfect Days*) et Philippe Falardeau (*C'est pas moi, je le jure!*), entre autres. Un auteur-compositeur-interprète autant à l'aise lors d'une performance impromptue sur un chemin de fer dans une ville minière québécoise qu'avec le BBC Orchestra au célèbre Barbican de Londres. Watson est d'autre part un compositeur prisé qui a plus de 15 musiques de films à son actif. Il a d'ailleurs remporté le tout premier prestigieux prix Impact aux Canadian Sync Awards en 2024. Son extrait viral, « Je te laisserai des mots » est devenu la première chanson francophone à cumuler 1 milliard d'écoutes en continu sur Spotify.

Son profil international a été rehaussé par des apparitions médiatiques dans plusieurs marchés clés. On l'a vu sur des panneaux à New York, il a offert une performance dans le cadre des Tiny Desk Concerts de NPR, et il a été décrit comme « un remarquable conteur » par le légendaire animateur de All Songs Considered, Bob Boilen. Patrick a également participé aux émissions Taratata (France 2) et La matinale France Info, et il a animé un épisode du balado Music Life de la BBC au Royaume-Uni avec ses invités Weyes Blood, Flume et Caroline Shaw.

Gagnant du Prix de musique Polaris en 2006, l'album *Close to Paradise* de Patrick Watson est une œuvre clé de la mythique scène indie montréalaise des années 2000, un artéfact magique d'une époque où les loyers étaient encore abordables et où la créativité jaillissait de chaque espace artistique sur le Plateau. Mais autant qu'il semblât incarner l'esprit bohème du musicien qui flâne à travers les rues bordées de dépanneurs de Montréal, Patrick a surtout travaillé à la création d'un répertoire vaste et éclectique – des aventures art-folk de *Wooden Arms* (2009) aux chansons cosmiques propulsées par les synthés de *Love Songs for Robots* (2015), jusqu'à son plus récent album, *Better in the Shade*, qui inclut le sublime hymne au piano *Ode to Vivian*.

Que vous ayez découvert Patrick Watson par l'entremise de votre disquaire indépendant local, d'une trame sonore de film, d'une vidéo sur les médias sociaux, d'un festival de musique en Europe, de sa populaire collaboration avec The Cinematic Orchestra en 2007 (« To Build a Home ») ou de ses apparitions aux côtés de Patti Smith et Michael Stipe lors du concert bénéfice Pathway to Paris en 2021, sa musique a un effet similaire sur toutes les personnes qui entrent dans son monde sonore kaléidoscopique. Les chansons de Patrick Watson transforment les lieux de la vie quotidienne en votre propre pays des merveilles, remplaçant le stress et la tristesse par la joie, et vous aidant à trouver un peu de sérénité à travers le chaos de la vie moderne.