

competitors. Sunwing was the pioneer to open service in smaller markets such as Bagotville, Val d'Or, Sept Îles and Mont Joli, eliminating the necessity of customers to travel to Montreal or Quebec City for their all-inclusive holiday. The model was so successful that Sunwing used it in other provinces.

Colin Hunter and Sunwing across Canada – Aided by his son Stephen Hunter and a talented group of travel executives, Colin built Sunwing from scratch; not through acquisition. The more than 3,000 Canadian new jobs created, and the company's purchasing power have both had significant and positive impacts on the Canadian economy. From a modest start almost twenty years ago, Sunwing Travel Group now offers direct flights from 33 international and community airports across Canada to more than 45 locations in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America and Florida.

Under Colin's initiative, Sunwing was the first, and still remains the only Canadian leisure airline to offer direct flights from smaller regional markets across the country. Canadians from dozens of small communities no longer have to make their way to major international airports to get on international flights. In doing so, Sunwing improved their standard of living and created additional revenues for these smaller Canadian communities and their airports.

Through his vision, business acumen and leadership by example, Colin Hunter has been the architect of an immensely successful Canadian company that has benefitted thousands of Canadians. At the same time, the company has earned positive international reputation as an ambassador for Canada. The family-directed corporate philanthropic initiatives would not have been realized without the determination and drive of



Having been a Champion boxer in India, Colin rekindled his skills with Deano Clavet at The Legends Boxing Club in Laval

this founding entrepreneur. Colin Hunter has created employment, built a true successful Canadian business and is giving back to communities in Canada and abroad through the Sunwing Foundation.

During the pandemic, Colin and his Quebec VP Sam Char went ahead with the construction of a new, eco-friendly operations centre building in Laval that serves as the Quebec Regional Office and Canada-wide reservation services, call centre, training, customer service, group reservations, human resources, marketing, sales, finance, fraud prevention and to meet the needs of Canadian travellers in both official languages.

Born in Bombay and a proud Canadian citizen since the mid seventies; Colin's inspiring story and determination to succeed, his sense of social responsibility and generosity in giving back to the community is an example for all Canadians.

Renaissance Man: As a jazz crooner in his leisure time, Colin Hunter has performed at such renowned concert halls as Roy Thompson Hall in Toronto, Montreal's Place des Arts (for the Montreal International Jazz Festival), Le Capitole in Quebec City and some other major halls and venues across Canada and internationally.



Colin is usually accompanied by JUNO Award winner pianist Joe Sealy (left)

This secondary 'career' started almost by accident. While preparing to record Frank Sinatra's *Come Fly With Me* to play onboard the company aircraft prior to takeoff, Colin learned that the studio and musicians had a 3-hour minimum fee. Encouraged by the session producer, Colin decided to use the full three hours prepared 11 songs for the session. He and the band were able to record all of them; giving Colin the material for his first album of American Songbook hit songs. With the help of JUNO Award winning pianist Joe Sealy, Colin still continues to perform to the public in his leisure time.

This second career has flourished and Colin was invited to perform as a soloist during a benefit performance with the internationally renowned Montreal Jubilation Gospel Choir. Having recorded thirteen albums of material mainly from The American Songbook; he is a true 'renaissance man'.

Additionally, Colin operates with his spouse Joan, Jazz Bistro, a top-rated venue in Toronto's Theatre District, where jazz musicians from Canada and beyond can perform on a nightly basis.

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- Sept. 11 **Christian Blackshaw** piano
- Oct. 2 **Los Angeles Piano Trio** piano trio
- Oct. 23 **Talich Quartet** string quartet
- Nov. 13 **Rachel Barton Pine** violin
- Dec. 4 **Calidore String Quartet** string quartet
- Feb. 12 **Lukas Geniušas** piano
- Mar. 5 **Alban Gerhardt** cello
- Mar. 26 **Elias String Quartet** string quartet
- Apr. 16 **James Ehnes** violin
- May 7 **Pacifica Quartet** string quartet
with **Anthony McGill** clarinet

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