

**C'est Magnifique!**  
**Francophonie Cultural Festival 2014 Celebrates**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Year In Washington**

**Largest Festival Of Its Kind In The World**  
**Featuring Performing, Literary, Culinary Arts**  
**March 1 – April 15**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 26, 2014) – Beginning March 1, the nation's capital will resonate with the vibrant sounds, sights, and tastes of the French-speaking and French-inspired world when the **Francophonie Cultural Festival** — the largest Francophone and Francophile festival in the world — launches six exciting weeks of concerts, theatrical performances, films, culinary tastings, literary salons, children's activities, and more.

The events take place throughout the Washington area at the Festival's partner institutions. **For a full schedule, tickets, and information, visit [francophoniedc.org](http://francophoniedc.org).**

Celebrating the creative artistry of the French-speaking world, the Francophonie Cultural Festival is a voyage of exploration, discovery, and cultural sharing that emphasizes the diversity of the French language and cultures. Since 2001, more than 40 countries have collaborated each year to present an array of experiences all rooted in the Francophone culture — from Africa to the Americas to Asia to the Middle East.

This year, participating countries include Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Congo, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Iran, Laos, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Morocco, Niger, Québec, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, and the United States.

The Festival welcomes a myriad of artists from all cultural walks of life.

Renowned French pastry chef **Jacquy Pfeiffer** will present a delicious and educational evening with "The Art of French Pastry", which will begin with a screening of the documentary, *Kings of Pastry*, followed by a presentation and signing of Pfeiffer's new book, as well as a tasting.

The bicentennial of the birth of Adolphe Sax (1814-2014) — Belgian inventor of the iconic saxophone — will be marked with a concert by the internationally-known French saxophone combo **Ellipsos Quartet**, as well as an insightful conference with American performer and musicologist **Paul Cohen**.

**Literary salons** will feature authors from a variety of styles and viewpoints, including Iranian author **Nahal Tajadod**, a 2007 winner of the Grande médaille de la francophonie de l'Académie

Française who left Iran for France in 1977; **Jean Portante**, a native of Luxembourg who was awarded the Grand Prix d'Automne de la Société des Gens de Lettres for his entire life's work in poetry; **AJAR**, a collective of six young Swiss authors who will present a humorous look at Francophone language and culture; and an examination of the work of Martinique poet and politician **Aimé Césaire**, a founder of the négritude movement in Francophone literature.

The legendary French actress **Emmanuelle Riva** will be celebrated through a cinematic retrospective of her most powerful roles, including *Amour, Liberté, La Nuit*, and *Léon Morin, Priest*. Mme. Riva will be present at the screening of *Léon Morin, Priest*.

This year's Festival also highlights numerous **African films**, in partnership with the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center. The 2014 New African Films Festival — the largest yet held by AFI — showcases the vibrancy of African filmmaking from all corners of the continent.

**La Grande Fête**, an annual highlight of the Festival, takes place on Friday, March 21, with more than 35 embassies and organizations presenting the culinary specialties and traditions of the Francophone world. The evening features a live headliner concert by France's hypnotic psychepunk rock collective **La Femme**, recent winners of the Best Newcomer of the Year album award at the 29th Les Victoires de la Musique (the French equivalent of the American Music Awards). Earlier in the evening, Grande Fête guests will enjoy **Jomion and the Uklos**, whose musical style fuses the rhythms of Benin with an engaging bossa nova vibe.

Other musical highlights include concerts by **Cheick Hamala Diabate**, a Grammy-nominated musician from Mali in West Africa, **BéIO**, a socially-minded Haitian singer-songwriter, and Swiss jazz pianist **Claude Diallo**; a **DJ series** featuring Canadian Don Mescal, Parisian Venentin Stip, Paris born and Tokyo raised Alex from Tokyo, and global exponent Mettabbana; a photo exhibit "Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir in Lithuania" at the Embassy of Lithuania; and more.

Among the activities for children are a "**Francophone Cultural Day**" in the DC Public Schools on March 18; a concert with Belgian singer-guitarist **Andre Borbé**; workshops with storyteller **Raouf Mama** of Benin; a virtual Francophone treasure hunt for students; and an afternoon with Swiss director Samuel Guillaume exploring the making of animated movies.

In addition to the countries listed above, the Francophonie Cultural Festival is presented in collaboration with Alliance Française, Artisphere, Blues Alley, the French-American Cultural Foundation, Hillyer Art Space, Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, and the National Museum of African Art.

The Francophonie Cultural Festival is supported by generous assistance from the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), France Médias Monde, TV5Monde, and Brussels Airlines (sponsors as of February 26, 2014).

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### ***About the International Organization of La Francophonie***

The International Organization of La Francophonie represents one of the largest linguistic zones in the world. Its members share more than just a common language; they also share the humanist values promoted by the French language. Created in 1970, the organization's mission is to embody the active solidarity among its 75 member states and governments (56 members and 19 observers), which together represent more than one-third of the United Nations' member states and account for a population of more than 890 million people, including 220 million French speakers.