



**Press Release  
For immediate release**

## **The 2010 DC Francophonie Festival Kicks Off with the Grande Fête**

*The 10th Annual Edition of a Popular Washington Tradition*

**Washington DC, March 5** – An evening of international culinary specialties and live music known as the Grande Fête launches the 2010 DC Francophonie Cultural Festival at 7pm at the Maison Française (4101 Reservoir Road, NW). Over 35 Washington embassies, governments and associations will present their traditional dishes and cultural heritage in celebration of the diversity of the French-speaking world.

The evening will begin with a performance by singer/songwriter *Nikolas Metaxas* of Cyprus, who's music was released by Sony Greece and hit the #2 spot on the iTunes Greece Top Ten. The Grammy nominated group *Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys* will take the stage by storm with authentic Cajun French music from the backwaters of Southwest Louisiana. Band frontman Steve Riley is nominated for Best Accordionist in Offbeat Magazine's 2009 Best of the Beat Awards, and David Greely is nominated by Offbeat for Best Cajun Album and Best Fiddler.

During the evening a raffle will be held for two roundtrip tickets to Tahiti, courtesy of [tripmasters.com](http://tripmasters.com). Proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross for reconstruction efforts in Haiti.

Information and tickets: [www.francophoniedc.org](http://www.francophoniedc.org).

General admission: \$30

General admission with \$10 Haiti relief: \$40

Benefactor (Guest name will appear on the Francophonie website): \$50

Benefactor with \$10 Haiti relief: \$60

### **About the DC Francophonie Festival:**

Each year in March, more than 35 French-speaking Embassies, governments and institutions in Washington partner with the Smithsonian Associates to present a series of films, concerts and activities that reflect the diversity of the francophone world. The goal of this non-profit festival is to bring cultural activities to the Washington community that educate the public and improve cross-cultural understanding.

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### **Links:**

DC Francophonie Festival  
[www.francophoniedc.org](http://www.francophoniedc.org)

Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys  
[www.mamouplayboys.com](http://www.mamouplayboys.com)

Nikolas Metaxas  
[www.nikolasmetaxas.com](http://www.nikolasmetaxas.com)