

PRESS RELEASE



WIL-MAR NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: **GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION/INTERVIEWS**
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RE: **PERFORMER INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE**
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UPDATES: WWW.WIL-MAR.ORG

Sixth Annual La Fête de Marquette

La Fête de Marquette 2011 Celebrates French Music and Culture At
South Dickinson & E. Washington Location!

The stars will be on display at La Fête de Marquette à La Rue Dickinson this summer. A truly stellar group of performers who span the globe from the Sahara Desert to the Arcadian Prairie will be arrayed for your enjoyment at the intersection of E. Washington Ave and South Dickinson St. Madison, WI. In its sixth year the free music event, which attracts thousands, celebrates French culture and benefits the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, will be staged from July 7 - 10th. The French-themed event occurs on or near Bastille Day (July 14th), the French national holiday.

Musicians from throughout the French-speaking world including North and West Africa, French-speaking Canada, Europe, and the Caribbean will perform throughout the weekend. Artists with roots in the New Orleans, Cajun and Zydeco traditions will again perform primarily on Sunday, Le Jour de Louisiane.

It is hard to recall any Madison music event that could boast a more spectacular or more diverse cast of musical characters. Anders Osborne, Cyril Neville, Rosie Ledet, Glenn David Andrews, Walter "Wolfman" Washington, The Lost Bayou Ramblers and Papa Grows Funk are some of the heavy hitters from Louisiana. While BÉLO, Maraca, Bombino and Baloji are some of the global celebrities, set to converge on our fair city. De Temps Antan and Raz-de- Marée are two of the finest Quebecois groups from that culturally rich province. See the artists and performance times attached for more details.

Because of the incredible, vibrant dance tent sessions last year, La Fete organizers have established a new large tent dedicated to Quebecois and Cajun dance. La Tente De Danse will offer a wall-to-wall dance floor with a stage for live music and callers and dance instruction. Quebec's Raz-de-Marée (Tidal Wave) and Cajun phenoms Ryan Brunet et Les Malfacteurs (The Outlaws) will keep the tent buzzing. There will be a small ticket fee to support this new venue. To find out more and get tickets in advance, got to <http://www.wil-mar.org>. La Tente De Danse is sponsored by RP's Pasta and Wisconsin Public Radio.

To complement this stellar French World musical lineup there will be incredible food and drink from a host of vendors including— Baraka's, Nattspil, Lao Laan-Xang, Smokin' Cantina, authentic Cajun cuisine from Double S BBQ, Southern Style Seafood delights from HMI Catering, Jamerica, Gail Ambrosius Chocolatier, Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream and many more.

The Willy Street Co-op (presenter of the Fête) kicks off the celebration with its annual membership meeting Thursday evening, July 7th. Featured that night are New Orleans' Papa Grows Funk boasting OffBeat Magazine's pianist -of -the- year, John Gros, in the lead. The incredible guitarist Bombino from Niger will show folks why he is taking the world by storm and reminding people of a Tuareg Jimi Hendrix.

The Willy Street Co-op's Annual Meeting & Party is open to the public after 7 pm or become a Co-op equity-paying member (for just \$10!) at the event and get a FREE Dinner (including beverage) gifts and chances to win prizes.

Another of the festival highlights will be the Sunday morning Acoustic Café Breakfast with a live stage show hosted by 105.5 Triple M's Jonathan Suttin and Kitty Dunn. The Café runs from 9 am to 11:45 am and will feature memorable acoustic performances by Quebec's Raz-de-Marée and Louisiana's Lost Bayou Ramblers. A wait-staffed breakfast of scrumptious quiche prepared by State Street's Barakas is the featured menu item and served to your table by East High School French students and participants of Wil-Mar's Teen program.

The Great Festival Auction, sponsored by Don Miller Subaru, will once again be an enjoyable fundraiser for the Wil-Mar Center. This year's silent auction will feature dozens of items found in a family garage. Heartland Credit Union will sponsor the annual La Fete Connects Raffle. The grand prize is a trip to Paris (or anywhere else a \$2,500 travel voucher will get you) and \$500 in spending money.

The vintage, 1930s-era Ferris Wheel (which was just added last year) will be back and provided a perfect escape (if needed) with picturesque views of the Capital dome and Fête de Marquette's colorful grounds.

La Fête's music director, Bob Queen, claims this year will trump all previous years in terms of quality, quantity and diversity of musical acts. "These are all world -class groups. Some are making their first trip to this country or region. Anders Osborne is not to be missed. He is playing with his own band (Sat. last) and then joining a group of legendary New Orleans players in a grand finale on Sunday. Glen David Andrews is Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews' 6'4" older cousin who may supplant his cousin on this year's stage. Critics have compared Andrews James Brown and Prince. Baloji from Belgium and The Congo is no slouch and his big band will be playing Millenium Park in Chicago and Central Park's Summer Stage (NYC) on his first U.S. tour."

A detailed schedule and descriptions of all performers may be found at <http://www.wil-mar.org>. La Fête de Marquette is a rain or shine event as thousands of square feet of tents and a covered main stage provide shelter for artists and visitors alike.

To maintain La Fête as an admission-free event, patrons are encouraged to bring camp chairs and leave the coolers at home AS A NO CARRY-IN POLICY WILL BE ENFORCED. Please also leave the pets at home. Event proceeds will benefit the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center programs. To find out more, please contact Gary Kallas at Wil-Mar at (608) 257-4576

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