



News From France

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A free monthly review of French news & trends

Linked by History: July Marks National Celebrations in France and the U.S.



Every year, July brings to France and the United States the chance to celebrate each country's most important national holiday. Left, fireworks light up the sky in Washington, celebrating a nation's independence secured in part by French assistance during the Revolutionary War. Right, the Eiffel Tower on Bastille Day 2014.

From the Ambassador's Desk: A Farewell Message From François Delattre

▲ This month bears a very different schedule for me as Ambassador of France to the United States. After nearly four extraordinary years in Washington, I'm leaving — but won't be going far. I have gratefully accepted the nomination for the ambassadorship of France's delegation at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

These last years have allowed us to write an exciting new chapter of French-American history together. As I look back on my time in the U.S. capital, I believe the great things we have achieved were possible in no small part because of the involvement by thousands of francophiles like you, the readers of *News From France*.

We're living in a period when French-U.S. relations have never been stronger. Our Heads of State have interacted frequently: French President François Hollande traveled to Washington in February for a State visit, the first by a French President since 1996. U.S. President Barack Obama has visited France five times since taking office in 2009, most recently to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Allied landings on D-Day. The event, which marked the beginning of the end of World War II in Europe, would bring both France and its American friends into a new era of post-war cooperation and promotion of the democratic values we so cherish.

The imperative to defend these values today, wheth-

er in Ukraine, Africa, or the Middle East, will no doubt continue to shape the vital work that France and the United States are accomplishing together.

And the projects organized between the Embassy and its U.S. partners — from NGOs and private companies to those in local, state, and federal governments — will no doubt keep bearing fruit. One could give a few examples of these:



The Partner University Fund, a collaboration between the French government and U.S. private and corporate donors to support academic partnerships between over 80 French and U.S. institutions;

The French Tech Hub, a San Francisco and Boston-based incubator for technology and the innovations that will create the jobs, investments, and economies of tomorrow;

And our Green Embassy project, run with the D.C. City Council and local associations to promote sustainable building practices. Through these and many other examples, the future of the French-U.S. partnership looks decidedly bright.

I could say much more of course. Let me encourage you to continue to follow France's work with the United States, from the United Nations to Washington and throughout its U.S. consular network as well.

Mes chers amis, je vous souhaite tout le meilleur pour la suite — best wishes for what's next.

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Boston French Film Fest Showcases New Talent

The Boston French Film Festival took place from July 10 to July 27 at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. The event featured 21 French films and spanned drama, comedy, documentation, and animation, providing viewers a wide range of genres and themes.

The festival opened with Arnaud and Jean-Marie Larrieu's new thriller, "Love Is the Perfect Crime," and aired other films such as "Grand Central," featuring Léa Seydoux of "Blue Is the Warmest Colour" fame. The festival concluded with a showing of Marcel Pro vost's "Violette." Festival attendees had the option of half-passes to watch 10 films, or full passes to access all 21 screenings.

The 19th edition of the festival provided a platform for seasoned directors to showcase their newest projects. Many of the films came from first-time directors hoping to gain exposure from the event. The diversity of the film selections reflected the evolution of contemporary French cinema and its appeal to audiences outside of its home country.

Florida Remembers Early French Colonists

In June and July, Florida residents celebrated the 450th anniversary of the arrival of French colonists to the state's northeast coast, and the Jacksonville settlement which they founded.

A number of public and private organizations commemorated the historic event, including the French Consulate General in Miami, the French-American Chamber of Commerce in Florida, and the Florida Department of State.

Among several statewide activities honoring the occasion, the Jacksonville Museum of Science and History held an exposition celebrating the founding of the (now lost) Fort Caroline, one of the first European forts built in the United States. The exposition showcased the artwork of two 16th-century explorers who discovered the region, and allowed visitors to learn more about the relations between the Europeans and the indigenous Timucua tribe.

The anniversary also marked the occasion of a Thanksgiving feast held on June 30, 1564, between the French colonists and the Timucua tribe. The celebration is considered to be one of the first Thanksgiving feasts to take place in the United States, and predates the better-known event at Plymouth, Massachusetts, by nearly 60 years.

July 4th and Bastille Day Underscore Common Values

Symbols of Strength

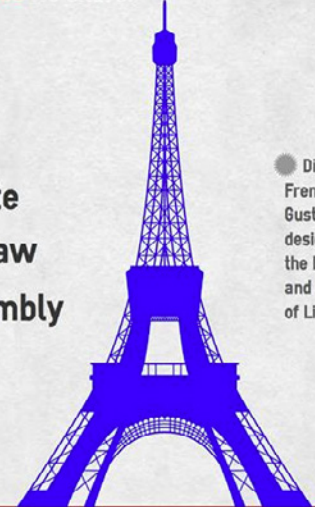
The Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower are among the most recognizable structures in the world. In July, the most important national holidays in the U.S. and France — Independence Day and Bastille Day — remind us of the **democratic values** we share.

● "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." This quotation, which appears on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, reflects another value recognized by the U.S. and France: the freedom of movement.



Equality
The right to vote
Due process of law
Freedom of assembly
Free speech

● Did you know? French architect Gustave Eiffel designed both the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty.



© Embassy of France

▲ Did you know that France and the United States share many of the same founding principles and values? As the two countries celebrated their national holidays this month, July allowed time for reflection on the themes of freedom and democracy, which continue to define both France and the United States.

July 4, the date of the American Declaration of Independence, set in motion a chain of events through which France would prove itself a staunch supporter of the burgeoning United States. July 14, called in French *la Fête de la Bastille*, provided the spark of revolution that would usher in France's modern democratic era.

American Group Gathers Funds for Chartres Expo in U.S.



The AFC has raised \$50,000 toward bringing stained glass like the Chartres rose window (above) to the U.S. public.

▲ The American Friends of Chartres (AFC), a non-profit organization that supports the famous Chartres Cathedral in France, launched a crowdfunding campaign on July 14 to restore a 20-foot high medieval stained-glass window and exhibit it in the United States. AFC board members hope to display 13th-century stained glass from Chartres to the American public for the first time.

François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the United States, called the campaign "a sincere gesture to honor the friendship between France and the United States."

Also known as Notre-Dame de Chartres, the church houses the largest assortment of stained glass from the 12th and 13th centuries in the world. It attracts each year about 2 million visitors, half of whom are Americans, and is considered a masterpiece of the French Gothic style. The structure was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979.

Founded in 2005, AFC has raised more than \$300,000 for the restoration and preservation of Chartres Cathedral. Its first project funded the refurbishment of five lancet windows in the site's south portal.

Contributors to the new project will receive a special invitation to the exhibit. The AFC has raised \$50,000 toward the future U.S. exhibition so far.

Charles Kolb, President, French-American Foundation

▲ Few figures are better experienced to run a French-U.S. non-profit than **Charles Kolb**. A former White House advisor with ties to each side of the Atlantic, Mr. Kolb, who heads the French-American Foundation (FAF) in New York City, leads programs across multiple fields of common interest to France and the United States. The result is greater understanding on both sides.

News from France caught up with him this month to learn more about his work and the FAF's mission in rapprochement between two longtime allies.

In a few words, what is your role at the FAF?

I've been the president of the French-American Foundation in the United States starting in August of 2012. My role is to oversee everything that happens here, from the fundraising, working with the board in terms of governing the organization, and making sure that all of our programs are first-class.

The FAF's Young Leaders Program counts among its alumni some of the most recognizable leaders in France and in the U.S., like French President François Hollande and former U.S. President Bill Clinton. How does the program benefit French-American relations?

The original goal of the program was to foster stronger relations among men and women who we hoped would be potential leaders in both countries. It started in 1981. Alumni of the Young Leaders program are leaders in both France and the United States in politics, business, and the entertainment world. What I've tried to do is to find ways to stimulate that network, to go back to people from our first year in 1981, and to engage them.

Other FAF programs target specific issues, like migration, sustainability, and defense. Why these fields?

One of the changes I've put in place in the last two years is to reinstate our Program Committee. That's a group of board members who advise on what we should be doing. I'd like to make sure the French-American Foundation continues to make deeper dives into substantive areas that are of interest to both countries. We will continue the work on immigration and journalism. We did two conferences, in 2012 and 2013, on cybersecurity. We will do another conference in mid-October in Washington with FAF-France on cyber issues.

Another project I've undertaken is conducting a luncheon series, with speakers like Edmund Phelps, a Nobel laureate in economics. If you look at the top five countries in the world in terms of the size of their economies, it's the US, China, Japan, Germany, and France. Of those five, it's France and the U.S. that have the most in common.

What are some of the events your organization has put on recently?

We hosted my former boss, U.S. Rep. and OMB Director David Stockman, (Michigan). Dave wrote a book in 2013 called *The Great Deformation*, about some of the monetary and fiscal issues the U.S. has been wrestling with going back to 1971. I was actually interning at a bank in France when President Nixon took the dollar off the gold standard. I remember that moment very well.

The second example I would give you is the salon we hosted a few months ago for Pascal Lamy, the former Director General of the World Trade Organization. He talked about his new book, *Quand la France se Réveille* (*When France Wakes Up*).



© French-American Foundation

Finally, I'll conclude with Ken Adelman, who was head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under Ronald Reagan. I invited Ken, who had just written a new book about Reagan's 1986 weekend in Reykjavik, Iceland, with Mikhail Gorbachev, to speak at a forum on diplomacy at our gala last month. It was a great opportunity to go back to one of the Americans who had been in the first class of Young Leaders in 1981. So I think we've brought some world-class people into our network.

Can you shed light on any of the FAF's forthcoming programs?

We're starting a program addressing the evolution of philanthropy in France and the United States. We had Guy Sorman speak a few months ago at a lunch when his book, *The American Heart*, came out. That lunch prompted me to reach out to Brian Gallagher, head of United Way Worldwide, and invite him to speak at an FAF forum to be held this September on French and U.S. perspectives in charitable giving.

In partnership with the Library of America, I'm also trying to take a look at the way in which Pléiade, the French publishing house, has inspired the very successful Library of America here in the United States. The Cyber Conference on October 14 and 15 will focus on identifying and prosecuting cyber criminals and will also look at balancing privacy with security here. We will do this with the patronage of Interpol and, with FAF-France.

About the future: What opportunities await those in France or the United States willing to form partnerships like the ones supported by the FAF?

I think that our values, institutions, and common interests are very much linked. Ambassador Delattre speaks eloquently about these values when it comes to military preparedness for the evolving threat of terrorism. The United States and France have a very strong common interest in the future success of the Eurozone. So it's a series of issues that will continue to be important for France and the United States. This special relationship is very important to both countries, and I hope it will continue to grow stronger. 🇫🇷

What You Didn't Know about Tour de France 2014

The 101st Tour de France took place from July 5 through July 27. Did you know that, for the first time this year, the famous cycling race began in Leeds, England, and combed through the English countryside for three stages until it reached London? The British capital was last visited by the Tour de France in 2007.

The cyclists then rode through France, where the race concluded nearly three weeks later in its time-honored run down Paris's Champs-Élysées.

The race is the most prestigious cycling event in the world, covering over 2,100 miles of French and European hills, mountains, pastures, and city streets. It is also the world's most popular cycling race, attracting roughly 3.5 billion viewers in over 180 countries.

Along the race course itself, over 12 million spectators travel an average of 80 miles to stand along the routes and wait, sometimes for hours, to watch the cyclists zoom by.

The race's winners and losers are often determined by razor-thin margins. The closest finish was in 1989, when American Greg LeMond beat Frenchman Laurent Fignon by only eight seconds.

Rock Opera Pays Tribute to French-American Roots

On July 4, an audience in Nantes, on France's Atlantic coast, got a taste of the original rock opera "La Caroline" at the University of Nantes Theater. A French-American production, the show honored one of the earliest moments in the two countries' shared history.

Written by Jennifer Chase with music by John E. Citrone, "La Caroline" commemorates the 450th anniversary of French settlement in the U.S. The production tells the story of the of Fort Caroline, the first French colony in the modern-day United States. Founded by explorer René de Laudonnière in 1564, Fort Caroline was constructed on what is currently Jacksonville, Fla., a sister city of Nantes.

The show highlighted the opera's week-long collaborative workshop, where cast members and production staff worked with French student performers. Artists from France and the U.S. had the opportunity to share insight about theater, music, and dance.

Sponsors of the production include the Alliance Française, the Jacksonville Historical Society, the University of North Florida, among others "La Caroline" will make its U.S. debut when it premieres on October 15 at Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History.

Americans Get Creative in Celebrating Bastille Day



In "The Storming of the Bastille," a painting by Jean-Pierre Houël, viewers can imagine the chaotic first moments of what would spark the French Revolution. The act of overtaking the structure, a prison and a symbol of misgovernment by the French monarchy, would ultimately lead to the democratic system France enjoys today.

Apart from the usual celebrations, soirées, and restaurant events, Bastille Day, France's largest national day which is celebrated every July 14, saw some new and creative shows of enthusiasm in the United States. The holiday marks the 1789 storming of the Bastille prison in Paris that sparked the French Revolution and France's transition to democratic government.

Headlining the list of this year's festivities were three events in different American cities. The East Town Association in downtown Milwaukee hosted its annual Bastille Days Festival, which featured a 43-foot Eiffel Tower replica. Perhaps the most original event took place in Philadelphia, where a former prison hosted its own reenactment of the storming of the Bastille. Washington residents struck a more somber tone with a joint Bastille Day and D-Day 70th anniversary commemoration organized by the Comité Tricolore, an association for French nationals in the United States, and hosted at the Embassy of France. Other entertainment throughout the country provided a festive air for guests and helped bring to the United

States the spirit of France, its history, and the values that define it today.

Eiffel Tower in Milwaukee

The largest French-themed outdoor festival in North America, Bastille Days in Milwaukee attracted over 200,000 visitors from July 10 to 13. Constructed by local engineering students and stagehands just days before, a 43-foot replica of the Eiffel Tower greeted the celebrants and provided hourly light shows. The opening night of the festival also featured a "Storm the Bastille 5K" run/walk, which took 5,000 participants through the streets of Milwaukee and its historic Third Ward.

Over the next few days, spectators gathered downtown at the city's Cathedral Square Park to join in activities like cooking lessons and wine tastings. The picturesque location invited guests to enjoy live music, traveling entertainment groups, and a market, all in the midst of Paris's most famous landmark.

In addition to the organized festivities, street performers and minstrels came out to entertain the attendees. Many of the best restaurant vendors in Milwaukee also served French cuisine and delicacies to the public. The variety of activities makes Bastille Days one of the most distinctive and interesting celebrations of the French holiday in the United States.

Philly Storms the Bastille

The Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, a former prison, and the Bearded Ladies, an experimental cabaret troupe, hosted a Bastille Day celebration open to the public on July 12. The main attraction of the event comprised an hour-long spectacle that re-enacted the storming of the Bastille and other notable events of the French Revolution.

Dozens of actors impersonating French revolutionaries 'stormed' the walls of the penitentiary and then captured Marie Antoinette. Numerous satirical gags about the French Revolu-



Clockwise from top left: An Eiffel Tower replica graces the Milwaukee skyline, where “Bastille Days” attracted over 200,000 visitors; would-be peasants throw candy to the masses in Philadelphia; a reveler stops for a photo at the French Embassy in Washington; and French delicacies tempt attendees at an LA Alliance Française party.

lution and its main historical figures added another layer of comedy and fun to the performance. The combination of song, dance, and reenactments provided historical background intended to amuse the audience. The theatrical performance featured appearances by Edith Piaf, Napoleon, Joan of Arc, Benjamin Franklin, and a somewhat more dubious period actor dressed as a baguette.

After the reenactment, guests roamed about Fairmount Avenue to observe the France-themed entertainment and taste French food and drinks courtesy of local restaurants. The penitentiary reopened for twilight tours as well, offering guests a glimpse inside of the historic building. The combination of lighthearted theatrics and the unique venue gave attendees a new appreciation of French history.

D-Day: France Remembers

The Comité Tricolore, a Washington-based association of French-American groups, organized an

event paying tribute to D-Day and Bastille Day on July 11. Held at the Embassy of France in Washington, the evening treated guests to live music from the Doc Scantin big band, which played oldtime swing and jazz music, and Chouchou, a cabaret-style lounge group, as well as a fundraiser supporting the Comité Tricolore’s philanthropic activities. Over 20 of Washington’s finest restaurants were also on hand to provide delicious French cuisine, accompanied by an open bar and cocktails for the visitors.

The soiree’s atmosphere honored the 70th anniversary of the Allied landings at Normandy and France’s most important national holiday. The Comité Tricolore collaborates with the Francophone community in Washington and seeks to promote French-American community engagement. Its volunteer staff organizes charitable events to assist the area’s disadvantaged residents and promote French culture.

The group’s July 11 occasion recognized the history of freedom in France and the United States and celebrated the enduring partnership between

the two countries. All who attended shared in the spirit of liberty, democracy, and friendship between France and the United States.

In addition to the traditional picnics, parades, and barbecues celebrating Bastille Day in the United States, Americans this year found creative ways to honor the French national holiday. In Milwaukee, a 43-foot replica of the Eiffel Tower stood over many thousands of people as they joined together for live music, dancing, and family activities at the Bastille Days 2014 Festival. Philadelphians chose an unorthodox venue in the Eastern State Penitentiary to stage a reenactment of the storming of the Bastille in the spirit of the French Revolution. The Comité Tricolore in Washington organized a soirée to honor the freedom that Bastille Day and D-Day represent for France. The events across the U.S. reflect a deep and growing American interest in French culture, history, and values. Expect 2015 to feature similarly exciting Bastille Day attractions. 🇫🇷

Startups Link French, U.S. Technology Scenes

In the past several months, joint initiatives by the French and U.S. governments seeking to foster collaboration in technology have gained momentum due to increased profits and high-profile visits by French government leaders. French startups including Critéo and Scalify run operations in Silicon Valley, Calif., expanding economic opportunities in both countries.

The trend follows recent efforts by the French government to partner with U.S. companies and technologists. In February 2014, French President François Hollande traveled to San Francisco to inaugurate the French Tech Hub, a business incubator. Fleur Pellerin, France's Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, Tourism Promotion and French Overseas, and Axelle Lemaire, Minister of State for the Digital Sector, visited New York in June to support France's startup activities.

Jérôme Lecat, the CEO of Scalify, keeps two-thirds of his employees in France while maintaining a strong presence in San Francisco, taking advantage of both business locations. Critéo, a Paris-based data and advertising firm, launched its initial public offering on the NASDAQ stock market last October. Having offices in California and France allows French startups to grow in U.S. markets while encouraging partnerships on both sides of the Atlantic.

U.S. Students Take Part in Paris Human Rights Program

From July 6 to 16, four American students traveled to Paris to attend LabCitoyen. Organized by the Institut Français and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, the conference engaged 100 young French speakers in discussions about human rights through workshops, conferences, and debates.

College students from Atlanta, Chicago, New Orleans, and San Francisco represented the U.S. during LabCitoyen. The four scholars underwent a competitive selection process conducted by the Embassy's Cultural Service, which evaluated the candidates' commitment to human rights, diplomacy, and French language.

Participants discussed the rise of intolerance and discrimination with a special focus on the status of human rights in the digital age. Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs, spoke at the event, reaffirming the key role that young people play in the defense of human rights.

Inaugurated in 2013, LabCitoyen seeks to promote French language as a tool to talk about contemporary issues.

NEST Conference Gathers the Best in French, U.S. Science



The Networking Event in Science and Technology (NEST), an annual conference held at the Embassy of France in Washington, brings together French and U.S. administrators, scientists, and researchers for best practice exchanges.

▲ The Embassy of France hosted a special gathering for the best French and American minds in science and technology during the annual NEST conference, held on July 1. NEST's two-part conference celebrated the 50th anniversary of Inserm, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research. A public research institute founded in 1964, Inserm operates under the joint authority of the French Ministry of Health and the French Ministry of Research.

The Networking Event in Science and Technology, (NEST), organized by the Embassy's Office for Science and Technology, honored members of each country's scientific community, whose researchers are essential in helping form lasting bilateral relations and increased knowledge sharing between the two countries in the respective fields.

François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the United States, provided remarks welcoming participants to the conference.

Inserm, which was at the heart of the molecular medicine revolution, has long served as a leading authority on scientific and medical innovation, and is active most notably in the areas of cancer, genetics, immunology, neurology, and research. It remains one of the most important centers of research in Europe, with international cooperation agreements signed with countries throughout the world.

The organization includes two Nobel Prize-winning scientists, and contributes over 10,000 publications each year to the medical and technological field.

The conference focused particular attention on the French-American collaborations that Inserm was instrumental in fostering. While Inserm continues to maintain an active presence in the United States, several notable partnerships include the creation of a training workshop at Harvard Medical School, and the implementation of an Inserm research team at the Baylor Institute for Immunology and Research in Dallas, as well as at the University of California-Irvine.

The partnerships enable critical discussions and information sharing, which are essential to the improvement in modern medicinal practices.

Mireille Guyader, representative of Inserm in the United States, and Minh-Hà Pham, Scientific Counselor for the Office of Science and Technology at the French Embassy, organized the seminar and gave the introductory speech to welcome the participants. Pascal Griset, historian, professor and co-author of the book *Au Coeur du Vivant — 50 Ans de l'Inserm*, gave a detailed analysis of the history of Inserm as it evolved over the decades to respond to the different health challenges that France and the world faced. Thierry Damerval, Inserm's Deputy Director-General, followed Mr. Griset's speech and opened the discussion, "What is Inserm today?"

Other notable speakers included Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and 2009 winner of the Inserm International Prize, and George Koob, Director of the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse and director of an Inserm International Associated Laboratory.

The day featured a workshop which highlighted the organization's commitment to research in health and life sciences. It also provided a forum through which French and American researchers and students could attend high-level scientific meetings in order to present new research and exchange information.

The first part of the event came to a close with a Signature of Cooperation Agreement between Inserm and the Embassy of France on the Chateaubriand Fellowship in Science. The award aims to build and strengthen existing French and American collaborations by providing grants and encouraging exchanges for doctoral students conducting research.

The second half of the conference centered on a brief scientific lecture given by Nathaniel Comfort of Johns Hopkins University, called "How personal is personalized medicine? The hope, hype, and history of the current revolution in healthcare."

The day concluded with a reception and networking event that allowed the administrators, entrepreneurs, scientists, and researchers with the opportunity to come together and exchange best practice information.

France: The World's Top Destination for Study Abroad

▲ As the start of the new school year approaches and many students are looking into study abroad opportunities, numerous reports show that France consistently earns top marks as a host country for international students.

In its latest findings, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) rated France as the third-largest host country for internationally mobile students worldwide, following the United States and the United Kingdom. In 2013, France welcomed nearly 289,000 international students, or nearly 8 percent of the world's total student population pursuing coursework away from home.

The trend reflects France's longstanding emphasis on providing top-rate education, as well as specific educational groups, which work together to create exchange opportunities, like that which runs the Chateaubriand Fellowship. The program, which is financed by the French government, welcomes American doctoral students each year who are interested in conducting research in France.

The statistics released by UNESCO come at a time when increasing international mobility for students stands as a major priority for policy makers in both the United States and France. During his visit in May, Laurent Fabius, France's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development, promoted The Transatlantic Friendship and Mobility Initiative with John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State. The program aims to double the number of U.S. students going to France and the number of French students coming to the United States by 2025.

"The United States and France believe student mobility contributes to our strong alliance and is essential to expanding global knowledge and economic growth," the



French schools like the Sorbonne (above) attracted nearly 289,000 foreign students last year, according to UNESCO.

U.S. Department of State said in a report released after the May 12 meeting between the French and American leaders.

"This initiative is underpinned by our two countries' shared vision of academic independence and freedom," it said.

In light of the strong numbers and firm commitments between France and international partners, French universities are likely to see even more international students arrive in the future.

Hawaiians Perform at Parisian Summer Music Festival

▲ Hawaiian artists performed in numerous venues in Paris at the 25th annual Paris Quartier d'Été Festival. The festival began on July 10 and runs until August 11, and features a variety of acts intended to expose French audiences to new musical genres and emerging artists.

The festival, which began in 1990, promotes exotic and unique musical acts from across the globe to perform in the open spaces of Paris for the city residents and tourists. The festival also provides an opportunity for performers to showcase their talents to a wider audience in one of the largest cultural hubs in the world. This year's festival included artists from Colombia, Guyana, India, Japan, South Africa, and South Korea.

The 2014 iteration of the festival introduced three Hawaiian acts to Paris: Makana, Taimane, and Philippe Krouk and the Ukulele Boudoir group. The performers played in several locations during the course of July, including the Luxembourg Gardens, Belleville Park, and the Quai Branly Museum.

Each artist brought a unique element of Hawaiian music culture with them. Makana is a young musician known for his skills as a slack-key guitarist, a technique indigenous to Hawaii. Taimane Gardner applies her ukulele talents to multiple genres of music such as classical, classic rock, and flamenco. Her past work also includes film scoring.

In addition to the musical program, the Halau Hula O Manoa Ecole-Compagnie, a Hawaiian dance school in Paris, and the France-Hawaii Association provided hula



Taimane Gardner, whose stage name is simply Taimane, played in Paris as part of a Hawaiian music revue in July.

dancers and tips on how to hula dance for audiences throughout the festival. Both organizations seek to promote Hawaiian culture in France through the arts.

French Art, Theater Makes a Splash in Texas

Texans enjoyed two of France's artistic masterpieces, when works from Molière and Matisse headed to the Lone Star State for the summer.

From June 25 through July 18, residents and visitors to Dallas enjoyed Molière's classic play, *Tartuffe*, organized by Shakespeare in the Park. The play marked the second non-Shakespearean performance in the troupe's 43-year run. Raphael Parry, Director of the Dallas-based group, explained that *Tartuffe* was chosen for the similarity in humor and wit to Shakespeare's own plays.

"While showcasing Shakespeare is one of our primary objectives, we understand the importance of exposing our audiences to other brilliant works, too," Mr. Parry said.

Meanwhile, "Matisse: Life in Color," an exhibition which took place at the San Antonio Museum of Art, treated visitors to one of the finest collection of works by Henri Matisse. The exhibition, which runs until September 7, features more than 80 paintings, sculptures, and other works that span the entire career of the renowned French artist.

NY Arts NGO Brings French Piano Virtuosi to U.S.

The French Consulate General in New York City hosted a public recital on July 11, featuring the 2014 winners of The French-American Piano, Inc. competition, as they completed a two-week tour of the United States.

Mathieu Acar, Maroussia Gentet, and Natianaël Gouin won the coveted award from the organization, which promotes piano excellence between France and the United States. The three performers underwent a competitive selection process at the Paris Conservatory in May.

In recognition of their talents, each of the performers was awarded substantial grants, which covered round-trip transportation costs from Paris and accommodations in New York City during their stay. The competition also allowed them to participate in the 2014 International Keyboard Institute and Festival, and the McKenzie Piano Competition in New York, which took place July 12 through 28.

The French-American Piano, Inc., is a New York-based non-profit which focuses exclusively on pianists and their music. It promotes cultural exchange, education, and networking between France and the United States. The program, which is in its first year of operation, will award 10 young French pianists over the next three years.

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Embassy Screens Alain Resnais Film Retrospective



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Taken from "Last Year at Marienbad," this still suggests the artistic sensibilities of director Alain Resnais. The Embassy's Cultural Service and the National Gallery of Art organized two screenings of the late director's work in D.C. this month.


▲ In homage to late French director Alain Resnais, the Embassy of France in Washington screened two of his films on July 16 and 23. The first showing featured "Last Year in Marienbad," while the second presented "Private Fears in Public Places." The Embassy's Cultural Service and the National Gallery of Art organized the tribute. Both films were shown in French with English subtitles.

Viewers attended the July 16 screening of "Last Year in Marienbad," a 1961 New Wave modernist piece. New Wave (or *Nouvelle Vague*, in French), came into mainstream French filmmaking in the early 1960s. Long takes, tight budgets, and improvised dialogues characterized New Wave cinema, and gave it the feel of a documentary.

One of Mr. Resnais' first feature films, "Last Year in Marienbad," follows leads Giorgio Albertazzi and Del-

phine Seyrig, who star as a couple struggling to discover whether they have shared a romantic history. The surrealist film, which challenged conventional narrative construction, mingles past and present and fact and fiction in an indistinguishable tangle.

The following week, local filmgoers enjoyed the 2006 comedy "Private Fears in Public Places." Adapted from English playwright Alan Ayckbourn's 2004 play of the same name, the film comprises more than 50 short scenes depicting the interwoven lives of six Parisian characters. The film garnered strong praise from both French and American critics following its release.

Mr. Resnais passed away in March at the age of 91 and was hailed as one of the most innovative filmmakers of his time. With a career spanning 60 years, he produced and directed dozens of critically acclaimed pictures. 

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