

## **Arabesque: Arts of the Arab World**

**February 23-March 15, 2009**

Unwrap the cultural treasures of the Arab world in this Kennedy Center international festival showcasing the varied cultures of the 22 Arab nations that represent the Arabic-speaking world. From the Arabian Gulf to the Levant to North Africa-this region of the world is the birthplace of human civilization and features extraordinary diversity in geography, traditions, landscape, religion, and contemporary aesthetics. In cooperation with the League of Arab States, the three-week festival brings together artists, many of whom are making their U.S. debut, in performances of music, dance, and theater, as well as exhibitions featuring art installations, fashion, a soundscape, cuisine, a marketplace, and much more. Discover the evolution of art forms born from the cradle of human civilization. Experience an amazing breadth of culture that spans both eons and continents.

For full festival calendar, visit:

[http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/festivals/08-09/arabesque/arab\\_calendar.cfm](http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/festivals/08-09/arabesque/arab_calendar.cfm)

### **Among events featuring Moroccan Artists:**

- February 25 2009 at 6:00 PM – Free - Millennium Stage Performance:

#### **Chabab Al Andalous Rabat Orchestra with Bajeddoub Mohammed and Ronda Bahae**

- Feb 25, 2009 at 8:00 PM, [Eisenhower Theater](#) - \$18.00 - \$35.00

#### **Bachir Attar & the Master Musicians of Jajouka**

Led by Bachir Attar, Morocco's Master Musicians of Jajouka play music that is "an evocation of sustained ecstasy. It is chaotic, cacophonous, sometimes at war with itself. And it is utterly intoxicating" (*Newsweek*).

- March 4, 2009 at 6:00 PM - Free Millennium Stage Performance:

#### ***Voices of Marrakech*, featuring B'net Houariyat**

- March 8, 2009 at 6:00 PM – Free - Millennium Stage Performance:

#### ***Hayha Music* featuring Hoba Hoba Spirit**

Making their U.S. debut, this reggae, rock, and *gnawa* (a mixture of African, Berber, and Arab religious songs and rhythms) band is based in Casablanca, Morocco. Hoba Hoba Spirit is one of the region's hottest groups.

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## *La Grande Fête de la Francophonie*

More than 35 countries will join together at the Embassy of France for a cultural extravaganza showcasing arts and crafts, food specialties, and cultural traditions of the francophone world, all accentuated by intoxicating live international music – including the famous Haitian group Tabou Combo -- , dances and a variety of other performances. It's like having your own one-night-only, worldwide passport!

The Grande Fête is part of a month-long festival, which includes international films, concerts, seminars and children's programs organized in partnership with the Smithsonian Associates. This event always sells very quickly – so get your ticket now at [www.francophoniedc.org](http://www.francophoniedc.org) and take a sneak peek at the complete program.

WHAT: La Grande Fête de la Francophonie

WHEN: March 6th 2009

WHERE: La Maison Française (4101 Reservoir Road, NW – Washington, DC 20007)

INFORMATION: Online at [www.francophoniedc.org](http://www.francophoniedc.org)