



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
OF THE GIFT OF TREES

National Cherry Blossom Festival

PERFORMING ARTS GUIDELINES
MARCH 31 - APRIL 15, 2012

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Cultural Performances during the National Cherry Blossom Festival is to celebrate the friendship symbolized by the gift of flowering cherry trees from Tokyo to Washington D.C. and to demonstrate cross-cultural exchange through a dynamic mix of American, Japanese and other cultural performing arts. This year is the 100th anniversary of Japan's gift to Washington D.C.

LOCATIONS:

- The Sylvan Theater: on the grounds of the Washington Monument (March 31 – April 15, 2012)
- Jefferson Memorial: for genre-appropriate performances (April 19 - 22, 2012)*
- Woodrow Wilson Plaza: at 13th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (April 14, 2012)**

*The on-line application will adapt to offer the Jefferson Memorial stage as an option if your genre is appropriate for the stage

** Performances that are appropriate for Woodrow Wilson Plaza are free-form, street performances, which require little to no technical assistance

HOURS: Performances will be held daily beginning at Noon Monday through Friday and 11 AM on Saturdays and Sundays, from March 31st through April 15th, rain or shine. (All hours subject to change.)

PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES: Artists are encouraged to perform family-friendly dances, demonstrations or music that are upbeat and festive - reflective of the celebratory nature of the festival. Performances should be no less than 30 minutes in length and no longer than 60 minutes. Performance time allotted to each group will depend on schedule/stage availability, diversity of programming, and appropriateness of act.

PERFORMANCE APPROPRIATENESS: The Festival is subject to strict National Park Service regulations and guidelines regarding the type of performance, type of instruments and volume levels that are permissible on park property. Acoustic musical performances are strongly encouraged. Though small drum kits are permissible, measures cannot be taken to amplify drum sounds. **Merchandise of any kind, including CDs, may not be sold.** Cultural, non-commercial performances are encouraged. Because the venue is outdoors, simple acts without many technical needs are encouraged. If you would like to discuss the appropriateness of your proposed performance, please email Sue Murphy - sue@downtowndc.org.

COMPENSATION: Performances are on a voluntary basis; no compensation is available. No monetary tips can be received.

LOAD-IN AND LOAD-OUT: Set-up will take place immediately prior to the performance, and load-out immediately following. Load-in/out assistance will be provided with special prior arrangement. **Vehicles are not permitted in the stage area** – the Loading Zone is approximately 50 yards from the stage; all gear will have to be transported by hand and/or handcarts. We can only give 10 to 15 minutes for set-up and break down. If your set-up takes longer than the time given, your performance time will have to be reduced.

PARKING: Parking is extremely limited. A parking pass (one vehicle per performer/group) may be available. The Festival cannot guarantee parking for any artist. The closest metro is Smithsonian for Jefferson and Sylvan stages on the Blue/Orange lines, and Federal Triangle for Woodrow Wilson Plaza, on the Blue/Orange lines.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Each performance group must bring its' own instruments, props, music stands, power and sound cords, etc. A sound system with technician will be provided. See "Venue Details" for more information.

SIGNAGE: Banners or signs provided by the group may be displayed at the discretion of the stage manager pending compliance with National Park Service regulation, for the duration of the performance only. You must bring your own tape or rope to hang the signage.

NEEDS: Special equipment and labor needs must be indicated on the application. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs. If your group requires special mats or ground covering (for dance/martial arts, etc.) you must provide them.

PUBLICITY: The Festival will take measures to publicize your performance, including but not limited to, on the Festival Website (www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org), the Official Festival Guide, and day of signage.

DRESSING ROOMS:

- Sylvan Theater has a dressing room. The rooms are large and have restrooms, electricity, lights, mirrors, counters, and clothing racks. The dressing room is co-ed and may have more than one group in there at a time.
- Jefferson Memorial has a 10'x10' enclosed tent. Heat and electricity are not provided
- Woodrow Wilson Plaza has a dressing room inside the Ronald Regan International Trade Center

RAIN OR SHINE: Performances will take place rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather, performances may be stopped for safety reasons at the discretion of the stage manager, sound technician, electrician, or the National Park Service. Performances will begin again according to the performance schedule; schedules may be adjusted to accommodate all performers. If your performance is stopped due to rain, we unfortunately will not be able to re-schedule your performance, unless another performer relinquishes their time slot.

STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT: While performing, the dressing rooms/tent are at your disposal for storage of music cases or props not in use. There is no security dedicated to the dressing rooms. Festival staff or sound engineering staff are not responsible for belongings left behind.

VENUE / STAGE DETAILS:

Sylvan Theater

- 44' deep x 61' wide x 3.4' high
- With roof and rear wall. No side walls.
- Sound wings, approximately 8' wide.
- One entrance via ramp at the rear of the stage, stage left. Ramp is approx. 4' wide.
- One entrance via stairs stage left
- Stairs at the front of the stage on both sides
- Hard Surface
- There is no space in front of the stage for performance. All performances must take place on the stage.

Jefferson Memorial

- 16' deep x 20' wide x 4' tall
- With roof (10' clearance from stage deck to roof bottom trim)
- With rear and side walls – for use in inclement weather, to be added/removed as necessary
- Sound wings, 4' x 8'
- One set of steps, one ramp
- Hard Surface
- Stage will face the memorial, audience will sit on memorial steps and face the Tidal Basin.

- There will be approximately 30' in front of the stage before the steps, your group may utilize this area for the performance if desired. (Generally marching bands, dance and martial arts groups prefer to use this space.) Please be aware that this space is textured concrete, and may not be suitable for all performers.

SOUND: Exact specifications subject to change, but will remain substantially similar to:

- Sound amplification to fill the audience viewing area of the Sylvan for approximately 300 people. Drums will not be amplified. We do not provide a backline.
- Gear to consist of the following or similar to:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speakers: 4 tops, 2 subs - 4 Monitors - 1 Amp Rack - 1 16-Channel Mixer - 1 effects rack | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assorted Wired Mics - All Cables and connectors - 1 CD/Cassette Player - MP3 player connection - Tech on duty during event |
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LIABILITY: If, due to accident, death, illness or other causes legally known as Acts of God, physical disability, delay of transportation services or any other similar cause beyond their control, the Performer or the Festival is forced to cancel a contract, neither the Performer nor the Festival shall be obligated to compensate for any services or expenses incurred. The National Cherry Blossom Festival, the National Park Service, their sponsors, agents, employees, and officers, will not be held liable for any loss, damage or injury to product, property or person caused by performances, demonstrations or products exhibited or by the actions of festival participants under this application.

INSURANCE: All accepted groups will be required to submit a certificate of insurance listing the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Inc. as additionally insured.

ACCEPTANCE: Groups will be selected based upon content, availability, and how the performance will contribute to the overall program. Applications will be reviewed when the general application period closes on December 23, 2011. The Performing Arts Selection Committee will notify all groups with its' decision regarding acceptance or regret no later than January 20, 2012. Those groups that apply during the Limited Application Period (January 23 - March 16, 2012) will be notified on a rolling acceptance bases, with final decisions made no later than March 20, 2012. The decision of the Committee is final. Additional specific information will be sent to accepted groups.

TIMELINE:

- Open Application Period for Interested Performers: November 3, 2011 – December 23, 2011; groups will be notified when the application is received.
- Notifications of Acceptance / Release of Initial Schedule: Friday, January 20, 2012; please do not contact the Festival following up on the status of your application prior to January 20, 2012.
- Limited Application Period (options for performance dates & times will depend upon space availability): January 23 - March 16, 2012
- Close of Limited Application Period: Friday, March 16, 2012

**If you have any questions,
please contact Sue Murphy at (202) 661-7595 or email: sue@downtowndc.org**