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імені Василя Стефаника
Навчально-науковий Інститут мистецтв**

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PAT ONE

для самостійної роботи студентів

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ARGENTINA

Cosquin Rock is an Argentine music festival, held annually since 2001. It is held at Cosquín, Córdoba. Important national rock singers and groups participate in the festival, along with some of the most important international rock bands, mostly of Spanish-speaking countries like Spain, Mexico and Uruguay. It is held in February during the summer holidays, and is one of the most popular music festivals in the country with more than 150,000 people attending each year.

The Buenos Aires Jazz Festival is a music festival first organized in its current form by the city government of Buenos Aires in 2002. The festival takes place in multiple venues and, in recent years, has attracted around 36,000 spectators. The Festival seeks, through its programming and its various series and activities to honor the diversity and colorful sonic palette that is at the very essence of jazz. The event has attracted internationally renowned jazz artists, among them Kenny Barron, Anthony Braxton, Michael Brecker, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Ron Carter, Herbie Hancock, Fred Hersch, Freddie Hubbard, Rosa Passos, Chucho Valdés, and Randy Weston. In the tradition of the best international festivals, the Buenos Aires Jazz offers other activities beyond the concerts: photography exhibits, film theme, conferences and open interviews with leading performers.

The Buenos Aires Carnivals an annual event that takes place during the Carnival festivities, usually at the end of February, on the streets of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The two day event features murga parades, colourful customs, water bombs and many other amusement activities. In Argentina the music genre that's synonym with carnival is called murga. Murga is a percussion-based rhythm usually performed by a marching band, live on the streets, without amplification and its dance sometimes involves complex aerial, almost acrobatic moves. Argentine murga dancers wear colourful shiny costumes that cover most of their bodies in the shape of classic gentlemen's suits, many times including top hats and other symbols of aristocracy from colonial times taken out of context.

Fiesta Nacional de la Vendimia (The Grape Harvest Festival) takes place annually in the city of Mendoza, Mendoza Province, Argentina. The first vendimia celebrations

in Mendoza Province occurred in the 17th Century, the first official Vendimia festival took place in 1936. Today it is one of the most important festivals in the country attracting large numbers of tourists to the region. It is a world renowned celebration of wine and the winemaking industry. The main event occurs in the first week of March in Mendoza city featuring hundreds of dancers and performers, the selection of a "Reina Nacional de la Vendimia" (National Vendimia Queen) and a large firework display.

The Buenos Aires Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente (BAFICI) is a international festival of independent films organized each year in the month of April, in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. BAFICI was born in 1999 and has ever since grown to become one of the most prominent film festivals in the world, placed as it is in a privileged position on the international film agenda. The Festival is renowned as an essential means of promotion for the independent film output, where the most innovative, daring and committed films can be shown. With its wide range of films including Argentine, Latin American and worldwide premieres as well as well-deserved retros, BAFICI is the greatest, most prestigious event for the independent cinema in Latin America.

Creamfields Buenos Aires is an annual electronic music festival hosted in Buenos Aires featuring DJs recognized in the worldwide electronic scene. It has seen more attendees compared to other Creamfields events in Latin America with almost 70,000 people attending its sixth edition. Names like Hernan Cattaneo, Steve Lawler, Satoshi Tomiie, Booka Shade, Deadmau5, UNKLE, Gorillaz Soundsystem, David Guetta, Gui Boratto and Roger Sanchez have headlined at Creamfields Buenos Aires. The festival has the status as one of the most important electronic music festivals of the continent and one of most popular in the entire world.

Septiembre Musical is an annual international arts festival that takes place in the province of Tucumán, Argentina. Since its inception, the festival became a cherished social and cultural event as it would receive, in successive editions, artists like Ravi Shankar, Duke Ellington Quartet Tokyo, the Camerata Bariloche, Ástor Piazzolla, Mercedes Sosa, the pianists Bruno Leonardo Gelber, Martha Argerich, Miguel Ángel

Estrella. Inspired by the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, the September Musical was originally dedicated to academic symphonic music, chamber and choral, but over the years was adding disciplines such as ballet, opera, jazz and popular genres like the folklore, tango, rock and pop.

Pepsi music festival is a major Argentine music festival, held annually since 2003. It is named after its main sponsor, Pepsi. It has been held in several places in the past including the Ferro Stadium and River Plate Stadium. The festival is the largest and longest music festival in the country with more than 200,000 persons attending in 2006, during its 10 days. The most important national rock singers and groups participated of the festival, along with some of the most notable international rock stars.

AUSTRALIA

The Big Day Out is the name of a series of huge outdoor music rock concerts, held in five cities. Currently it is held in Sydney, Gold Coast, Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth during the height of the Australian summer in January. Due to increasing popularity of the event, in some years a second Sydney show has been held. The line-up features some of Australia's best live rock bands plus emerging artists. It has featured seven or eight stages (depending on the venue) accommodating popular contemporary rock music, electronic music, mainstream international acts and local acts. Since its inception in 1992, Big Day Out has attracted a large range of artists, with headlining acts including Nirvana, Blink 182, The Strokes, Muse, Violent Femmes, Iggy Pop and the Stooges, The Ramones, Soundgarden, Rammstein, System of a Down, Limp Bizkit, Rage Against the Machine, The Prodigy, Marilyn Manson, Foo Fighters, Metallica, Tool, Neil Young and Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Splendour in the Grass is an annual Australian music festival that is held in July at Belongil Fields, outside of Byron Bay, Australia. The event started as a one day gathering but has evolved into a three day event. Splendour in the Grass is generally considered the country's largest winter music festival and won the FasterLouder Festival Award for 'Favourite Line Up' in 2009. It attracts a large number of visitors from interstate. The festival often draws together one of the highest quality line-ups of the year. Boots are a necessity, with the huge site pretty susceptible to Glastonbury-esque mud. The 2012 line-up included Jack White, Explosions In The Sky, Ben Howard, Bloc Party, Miike Snow, Smashing Pumpkins, The Kooks and many more. There is also an art program held across the festival which exhibits a collection of works ranging from street art and sculpture to performance and monumental installations.

Melbourne Festival is one of Australia's flagship international arts festivals and one of the major multi-arts festivals of the world, in terms of quality of work, innovation of vision, and scale and breadth of program. The festival runs for 17 days in October. Each Festival brings an unparalleled feast of dance, theatre, music, visual arts, multimedia and outdoor events from renowned and upcoming Australian and International companies and artists to Melbourne. Venues range from Melbourne's

Botanic Gardens to intimate Fitzroy theatres to Southbank's Arts Centre and imposing Federation Square.

Soundwave is an annual music festival held in major cities around Australia. The festival is held at RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane; Sydney's Olympic Park; Flemington Racecourse; Adelaide's Bonython Park and Perth's Claremont Showground. It features a number of international and Australian music acts, from various genres including rock, metal and punk. It features a number of international and Australian music acts, from various genres including rock, metal and punk. The festival has been headlined by Deftones, The Offspring, Nine Inch Nails, Faith No More, Iron Maiden, and System of a Down and Slipknot.

Experience the city's unique style and energy along with theatre, music, dance and visual arts at the Sydney Festival in January. The first Festival took place in 1977 and it has since grown to become one of Australia's largest annual cultural celebrations with an international reputation for modern, popular and intelligent programming. Every January Sydney transforms into a bold cultural celebration based on the highest quality art and big ideas. See hundreds of Australian and international artists perform at iconic venues across the city including Sydney Theatre, CarriageWorks, the City Recital Hall and Sydney Opera House. The program is kaleidoscopic in its diversity, from burlesque circus to New York rap; from contemporary dance to family programs. In all, the program comprises around 300 performances and around 100 events performed by over 1,000 artists in at least 20 venues each year. The diverse three-week program kicks off with Festival First Night, a boisterous street party across multiple precincts and stages. Sydney Festival's audacious contemporary programming positions it at the forefront of arts practice in Australia and up there as one of the most wonderful festivals in the world.

The youngest and most dynamic national screen event, the Adelaide Film Festival was established in 2002. Every second February, Adelaide becomes Australia's centre for daring cinema. The 11-day Adelaide Film Festival, hits town on alternate years to the Adelaide Arts Festival. This film festival features more than 150 films from 49 countries and more than a few hotly-anticipated world premieres. Adelaide Film

Festival grows each year peaking with a total audience of close to 60,000 in 2011. See brand-new Australian films or work your way across the world at international screenings. Explore a healthy range of film genres, from family to film-noir, crime to comedy. The festival also features a range of special events, from competitive picnicking to movie-making courses.

Snowbombing is a popular week-long winter sports and music festival held annually in the spring at the Austrian ski resort of Mayrhofen. Since 2005, the Tyrolean resort of Mayrhofen in Austria has hosted the festival which has evolved into Europe's biggest snow and music festival. Originally a DJ and electronic dance music-themed event, live acts were added to the bill in 2008, reflecting the resurgence of indie/rock music. The events format is designed to combine winter sports (primarily snowboarding) with on-piste and après-ski music performances and themed parties in unusual locations. The event has a reputation for its imaginative and humorous elements; traditional Austrian cultural references are embraced and given a contemporary/surreal twist. With around fifty pools and saunas within easy reach, and a backdrop of breathtaking alpine scenery, Snowbombing regards itself as a festival which, in addition to music, additionally offers luxury and comfort.

Vienna Festival is a cultural festival that takes place every year for five or six weeks in May and June. Vienna has become an undisputed cultural metropolis, and the Wiener Festwochen has evolved into an innovative event based on international co-operation. It offers a modern and multilingual program that covers the whole range from tradition to avant-garde, with a rich variety of plays, music dramas, concerts, performances, lectures, installations, films and video shows. The traditional inauguration of Vienna Festival takes place in Vienna's City Hall Square with an open air event with free admission. Each year a series of cultural events which combine the highest artistic standards with socially relevant issues and objectives are presented to the public. Vienna Festival is not only a reflection of the city's infatuation with art but also provides an opportunity to open the door to other worlds and cultures.

The Vienna International Film Festival, or Viennale, is a film festival taking place every October since 1960 in Vienna, Austria. Traditional cinema venues are Gartenbaukino, Urania, Metro-Kino, Filmmuseum and Stadtkino. The program of the festival includes galas, special events and celebrations, as well as discussions and meetings between international guests and local visitors. At the end of the festival, the Vienna Film Prize is awarded. The festival features a collection of new films from all over the world, as well as national and international premieres. Apart from new feature

films in various film genres the festival focuses on documentary films, short films, experimental films and crossover productions.

Since 1998, the world's most colourful event has taken place every year in Austria. Today it is the biggest annual event of the body painting culture and community. Tens of thousands of visitors admire the wonderful work of the participants every year. During the main days, artists from 40 nations worldwide compete. The festival lasts a week, of which the first four days consist of over thirty special workshops and lessons run by the WBF Academy, and the last three days consist of the actual festival event in the body paint city, which is open to the public without prior reservation. The festival event is open for both adults and children, and many families come there together. The artists compete in many categories: brush and sponge, airbrush, and special effects are World Champion titles. The WBF Institute of Sound is the community music project that developed through the World Bodypainting Festival. Every year the festival brings together international musicians, specialists in electronic music and technicians from many different countries and cultures.

The Vienna Jazz Festival started in 1991. It is a fixed point on the international festival scene and a milestone for Austria and Vienna's cultural landscape. The Vienna Jazz Fest is a modern, urbane festival with an international reputation which places it as one of three most important Jazz festivals in the world, a factor which has only boosted Vienna's position as an attractive travel destination. In the past it has been attended by 60,000 spectators. Venues include the Museumsquartier, the Stadthalle Wien, the Wien Energie Fernwurme in Spittelau, designed by Hundertwasser, and the Vienna State Opera as the central venue, among others. Some concerts are freely accessible, such as those at the Town Hall Square. Alongside classical music, waltzes and opera, the city also offers a rich landscape of Jazz, Blues, Soul and World Music. The Vienna Jazz Fest is proof that the Austrian capital is also a true metropolis of Jazz and other forms of popular music.

The Donauinselfest is an annual open-air free music festival. It is usually held in mid-June in Vienna. This annual outdoor festival lasts for three days. The Donauinselfest is Europe's biggest open air event, soon expected to reach the 3 million

visitors. Every year the Danube Island turns into Europe's largest festival arena. The Danube Island becomes one large festival ground with numerous stages, food and drink stalls. There are 21 different areas. These are spread out over a 6.5 kilometre area. The Vienna Symphony Orchestra performs one of its open air concerts on Monday evening after the pop events. Top Austrian bands as well as internationally recognised musicians ensure first class entertainment throughout the Donauinselfest festival weekend. Plenty of stars have performed in the past: Falco, the Bloodhound Gang, Tocotronic, the Kelly Family and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

The Linzer Klangwolke (Linz Cloud of Sound) is an open-air multimedia musical event held each year since 1979 in early September in the Linz Danube Park in the Austrian town of Linz. It is organized by the Austrian broadcasting company Österreichischer Rundfunk and the Brucknerhaus. The Cloud of Sound currently consists of three concerts of modern music, supplemented by visualizations. The series starts with modern music staged with lasers, video projections, fireworks, ships, cranes and balloons. The concert attracts an audience of about 100,000 spectators. The classic Cloud of Sound is the opening concert of the Brucknerfest, performed without visualization.

BARBADOS

Holder's Festival is a arts festival is now held annually in Barbados during March and April at Holder's House, an old plantation mansion set in extensive grounds, just inland from Sandy Lane Bay, Barbados. This stately house has been in existence for

over 300 years and is an interesting mixture of English and Barbadian vernacular. The grounds are extensive and lovely with mature tropical trees and shrubs. Founded in 1993, the Holders Season is established as the premier cultural event in the Caribbean. Acclaimed nationally and internationally, the season is a celebration of opera, music and theatre. The production always plays to capacity and its high artistic standard draws audiences from around the world. Classical concerts and opera are performed in period costumes in the open air under the mahogany and palm trees with quality actors, singers and musicians. 1997 saw the re-staging after 170 years of *Inkle and Yarico* - an eighteenth-century opera about a traditional Barbadian legend that was once all the rage in London's West End - as well as a concert by Luciano Pavarotti and a festival of calypso music with contributions by top performers from Trinidad and Barbados. Other unique or one-off performances have included the world première of a new opera by Stewart Copeland.

After the first English settlement at Holetown in 1627, Barbados remained a British colony until achieving independence from Britain on November 30th 1966. That first independence ceremony was accompanied by the raising of the Barbados National Flag, and playing of the National Anthem for the first time. November 30th is celebrated as Independence Day and is a national holiday in Barbados. National Independence Festival of Creative is a festival organized by the National Cultural Foundation, held annually to commemorate the independence of Barbados. The festival showcases the artistic talents of Barbadians. This festival encourages Barbadians of all ages to match their talents in the fields of music, singing, dance, drama, writing, fine art, photography and arts and crafts. The festival runs throughout the month of November and culminates with a gala presentation in which the finalists are featured. Other independence celebrations run throughout November and include sports competitions, fairs, community events and religious services.

Crop Over is a traditional harvest festival which began in Barbados, having had its early beginnings on the sugar cane plantations during the colonial period. Beginning in June, Crop Over it runs until the first Monday in August This Festival sets itself apart from the avalanche of other Caribbean Festivals with its strong historical nuance

paying homage to Barbados' rich past. And even with such a distinct Barbadian cultural root, the Festival draws all people under one cultural umbrella for the ultimate party experience. Crop Over appeals to the die-hard party enthusiasts as well as the old and young! The event will include the participation of a myriad of artists from across the island. Vendors will serve-up a variety of island cuisine, from cou cou and flying fish to comforts and sugar cakes. Other elements of this diverse event include the greatly anticipated Farmers Market, The Craft Marketplace, The Urban Village, Steelpan Workshops, Bajan Fashion, ensuring that throughout the event there is something happening. The Folk Choir Concert is a celebration of Barbados' colourful folklore, portrayed through various scenarios, and featuring the harmonious and talented voices of the island's renowned folk singers and dramatists. This will be complimented by the pulsating rhythms of dancers and drumming ensembles, in a superb show of musicianship and iconic imagery.

The Barbados Jazz Festival celebrates the best in international and local jazz talent, it has quickly become a major annual Caribbean event. It is a jubilant affair that attracts a cast of talented musical maestros to the streets of Bridgetown who play for hours every night in festivity. Patrons attending the Barbados Jazz Festival were treated to the delights of all-star performances. Artists such as Harvey Mason & Diana Jarrett, David Burnett & Dwane Husbands, James Blunt & Kite, Angie Stone, Glenn Lewis, Nexcyx, Chrisette Michele and many more graced the stage. Unfortunately the Barbados Jazz Festival has not been held since 2010.

The Holetown Festival takes place in Holetown, Barbados, and celebrates the arrival of the first settlers in Holetown on February 17, 1627. The week-long celebration occurs every year during mid-February and includes a number of activities which showcase the culture and traditions of Barbados. The festival highlights local arts and crafts. Events also include folk singing and dancing, sports and games, street parades, markets, and food stalls that offer traditional Barbadian cuisine.

The Oistins Fish Festival is a folk festival founded by Lady St John, wife of the late Member of Parliament Sir Harold St John in 1967, in the constituency of Christ Church, Barbados. The committee is being assisted this year by the National Cultural

Foundation to celebrate the founding of the Charter of Barbados, which was signed in this fishing Village of Oistins. The festival occurs every Easter for 1 week of celebration where people gather for the excitement of the things to do revolving around the fishing industry, which includes fish-deboning competitions, boat races, net throwing, food, crafts, music, and dancing.

BELGIUM

The Zinneke Parade is a biennial parade held in the city of Brussels. A different theme is chosen for each parade. The parade was established with the aim of connecting the many different cultures, communities and districts within Brussels. The festival builds collaborations between residents, organisations, collectives, schools and artists

from different neighbourhoods of Brussels and beyond. It is a social and artistic project where people develop their creativity and explore imagination with others. Residents work together with professional artists to create the ideas and prepare the projects which eventually make up the parade.

Tomorrowland is held in Belgium as an outdoor dancing event organized every year in the town of Boom since 2005. The 2012 edition took place on Friday, July 27, Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29. The line-up consisted of 400 DJs, such as Skrillex, Avicii, Skazi, David Guetta, Nervo, Hardwell, Swedish House Mafia, Afrojack, Steve Aoki, Carl Cox, The Bloody Beetroots, Paul van Dyk, Martin Solveig, Chuckie (DJ), Fatboy Slim and Pendulum, playing on 15 stages per day. Because of the enormous success of Tomorrowland and the fact that it is a Belgian festival, ID&T decided to give Belgians an exclusive chance with a presale (80,000 of the 180,000 tickets) on Saturday, March 24. In less than one day, all of the tickets sold out and at some moments there were 2,000,000 people on the online waiting list. The worldwide sale started Saturday, April 7 at 11am. Within less than 2 hours, the other 100,000 tickets sold out. The event became the most international one as yet, attracting over 72 nationalities. More than 35,000 people used the camping option at the so called "Dreamville".

Dour Festival is an annual music festival in the municipality of Dour, Belgium. Dour seems ideally placed at the crossroads of all the European festivals. It is in close proximity to France and is easily accessible from the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany and England. Since its creation in 1989, the festival has grown to an attendance of about 144,000 in 2008 (over 4 days). Today festival format consists of 4 days, 6 stages and 200 bands and DJ's. The festival's acts come from a wide range of genres, such as: electro, rock, Drum and Bass, pop, R&B, Reggae, house, punk, hardcore, Metal, hip-hop, indie, techno and more. Music is played for 17 hours each day, from 12pm until 5am. In January 2010, Dour Festival won the prize for the best medium-sized festival at the European Festival Awards.

The Gentse Feesten is a music and theatre festival in the city of Ghent, Belgium. The first Gentse Feesten was held in 1843. The festival starts on the Saturday before

July 21 (Belgium's national holiday) and lasts ten days. About 2 million visitors attend the festival every year, making it one of the biggest cultural and popular festivals in Europe. Traditionally the shows at the festival have been free, but in the later years a number of side festivals have chosen the period of the Gentse Feesten to organize separate events. Traditionally the shows at the festival have been free, but in the later years a number of side festivals have chosen the period of the Gentse Feesten to organize separate events.

The carnival of Binche is an event that takes place each year in the Belgian town of Binche. It has been recognized as a “Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity” by UNESCO in 2003. This folkloric event, coming from a long oral tradition, is a real rite that gives the participants the feeling to be unique. Street performances and public displays traditionally occur on the Sundays approaching Ash Wednesday, consisting of prescribed musical acts, dancing, and marching. The centrepiece of the carnival's proceedings are clown-like performers known as Gilles. The Gilles are characterised by their vibrant dress, wax masks and wooden footwear.

Rock Werchter is a Belgian annual music festival held in the village of Werchter, near Leuven, since 1973. It is one of the biggest annual rock music festivals in Europe. The festival park is located alongside the Haachtsesteenweg in Werchter (Belgium). Werchter is a centrally situated village and therefore easy to reach. Not too far from Brussels (30 km) and close to Leuven (15 km). Your festival ticket includes a free ticket for the train and the bus shuttle service to Rock Werchter. In 1998, the festival presented 23 acts. In 2008 there were 60. The bands presented at Rock Werchter are traditionally a balanced mix of large well known artists, popular crowd-pleasing acts and local Belgian coming acts. Belgian band dEUS in 2008 was the first local band to close the Main Stage on the last day since several years. The days usually start around noon, except for the first day, which starts around 4pm and ends around 1am.

Pukkelpop is an annual music festival which takes place near the city of Hasselt, Belgium in mid-to-late August. Each year Pukkelpop attracts thousands of visitors from Flanders and far beyond to the Kiewit site near Hasselt. Today Pukkelpop has become one of the biggest alternative open-air festivals in Belgium. Today Pukkelpop has

become one of the biggest alternative open-air festivals in Belgium. Each year in August about 200 acts play on one of the 8 Pukkelpop stages during the three-day festival (from Thursday to Saturday). The campsite is opened on Wednesday, the day before the festival. Festival visitors can reach Pukkelpop via the E313 motorway or use public transport to Hasselt or Kiewit.

BULGARIA

Every summer since 2008 the town of Burgas has hosted the Spirit of Burgas International Festival. It has significantly grown in popularity, becoming one of the most prominent summer music festivals in Europe. Scores of bands and music performers gather to play on several stages on the Central Beach of Burgas. The festival attracts music fans from all around the world thanks to the variety of music styles it offers: hardcore, rock, ethno music, reggae and ska, punk, jazz and blues, techno, and

many more. In 2008 the festival made it to the top 15 festivals in the Best European Festival category of the Yourope Festival Awards. In 2009 it was nominated in the final stage of the top 10 festivals in the Best Overseas Festival category of the UK Festival Awards.

Every 4th year in August, Bulgarians of all over the country gather below the peak of Rozhen for a festival, where singers and instrumentalists sing and play on a several scenes. The tradition of Rozhen Fest dates back to a hundred years ago. At the time, the border between Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire ran through Rozhen Peak, and Bulgarians from neighbouring villages on both sides of the border would gather. After 1912, when the Rhodopes were liberated from Ottoman rule, the fair lost its political importance, but nevertheless remained a symbol of freedom, Bulgarian unity and traditions. Today it has become a nationwide event. The Rozhen festival allows artistic expression of numerous known and unknown performers from the Rhodope mountain. Nowadays a symbol of the festival is the distinctive orchestra called Sto Kaba Gaydi (One Hundred Bagpipes), founded in 1961. The bagpipers, who participate in the orchestra, are from various villages in the Rhodope mountain. They gather on the eve of the festival and make a single joint rehearsal.

International Fair Plovdiv, held in Plovdiv, is Bulgaria's largest and oldest international trade fair. It was established in August 1892 as an industrial and agricultural show. During its first year, the Plovdiv Fair had an exhibition area of 90,000 m², participants from 24 countries and 162,000 visitors during its two and a half months. The modern International Fair Plovdiv is situated in a large-scale exhibition complex of 360,000 m², of which 95,000 m² exhibition area. The fair has 24 multifunctional pavilions and has the largest size in Southeastern Europe. Some 40 shows are held a year, in which 7,000 exhibitors from 58 countries participate.

Traditionally, styles and groups presenting the diversity of various directions in the genre participate in the program. Unforgettable concerts of great names of the global jazz scene – the saxophonists Scott Hamilton, Candy Dulfer, Igor Butman, Charlez Papazov, Benny Golson, the guitarists Philip Catherine with his band, Steve Hackett with the Hungarian band Jabe and many others, had been conducted. During

the years, more than twenty big bands have participated in the festival program. Evening concerts gather thousands of people in the audience in front of the open stage on Nikola Vaptsarov square in the center of Bansko. Jazz sounds during the day in the entire festival week – from various chamber stages, situated in large complexes and restaurants.

The International Theater Festival “Varna Summer” is the largest in scale international theater event in Bulgaria. It is conducted every year between 1 and 12 June in Varna within the framework of the art festivals Varna Summer. Its basic goal is to present the basic trends in the Bulgarian and the international stage practice and to create new space for the multicultural dialogue, exchange and market. During the first years of its existence, Varna Summer followed the traditions and the trends in the Bulgarian Theater Practice. In 1997 the festival changed its policy and turned into an international forum. Building of a new program scheme, consisting of 3 modules was started: selected Bulgarian performances, selected foreign performances and a parallel program of multiple diverse events. The festival uses this scheme to the present day, by developing it and enriching it. Selected Bulgarian Performances keep in focus the theater developments on the Bulgarian scene and present the significant and innovative achievements during the current season. The international program presents leading authors and the trends in various types of theater. The parallel program is open for various partnering initiatives, discussions, workshops, theoretical conferences, lectures, book presentations, exhibitions and concerts.

The first international folklore festival in Veliko Tarnovo was held in 1998. From its inception, the festival was recognized by The International Organizational Council of Folklore and Traditional Arts Festivals. The Tarnovo festival is one of 270 folklore festivals recognized by this council world wide. This recognition, coupled with the festival’s faultless organization, attractive program, and exceptionally warm reception has made it a prestigious event, both in Bulgaria and around the world. Every year the organizers invite groups from many different countries to demonstrate their rich folk traditions before appreciative audiences.

The International Film Festival “Love is Folly” was established in 1993. It has been conducted every year for seven years. It begins in the last Friday of August. The Varna Festival and Congress Center is its organizer. For years, it was the only international film festival conducted in Bulgaria, and later it was the only one containing feature film contest. Nowadays it is the doyenne of the international film festivals in Bulgaria, one of the business cards of Bulgarian culture in global scale. Every year between 50 and 60 feature film titles enter the festival program, which includes a contest, film views of pieces awarded at the most prestigious world festivals, the hottest upcoming hits, individual authors, schools, currents and national cinematographers, retrospectives of the Bulgarian cinema. More than 200 guests join every year. They include the elite of Bulgarian cinema and renowned foreign authors, cinema critics and cinema journalists.

CANADA

The Canadian National Exhibition also known as The Ex, is an annual event beginning in August that takes place at Exhibition Place in Toronto, Ontario, Canada during the 18 days leading up to and including Canadian Labour Day Monday. Approximately 5.3 million people visit Exhibition Place each year with 1.3 million visitors attending the CNE alone, making it Canada’s largest fair and the seventh largest fair in North

America. The first Canadian National Exhibition took place in 1879, largely to promote agriculture and technology in Canada. Agriculturists, engineers and scientists exhibited their discoveries and inventions at the CNE to showcase the work and talent of the nation. As Canada has grown as a nation, the Canadian National Exhibition has also changed over time, reflecting the growth in diversity and innovation.

The Toronto International Film Festival is the leading public film festival in the world, screening more than 300 films from 60+ countries every September. In 2010, 339 films from 59 countries were screened at 32 screens in downtown Toronto venues. In the last few years, total attendance at TIFF has exceeded 260,000, with 287,000 public and industry admissions in 2009. The festival begins the Thursday night after Labour Day (the first Monday in September in Canada), lasting for eleven days. Many Hollywood studios premiere their films at TIFF due to the festival's easy-going non-competitive nature, relatively inexpensive costs (when compared to European festivals), eager film-fluent audiences and convenient timing. Notable films to have had their world or North American premiere at TIFF include *Chariots of Fire*, *The Big Chill*, *Husbands and Wives*, *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*, *Downfall*, *Sideways*, and *Crash*.

The Calgary Stampede is an annual rodeo, exhibition and festival held every July in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The ten-day event attracts over one million visitors per year and features one of the world's largest rodeos, a parade, midway, stage shows, concerts, agricultural competitions, chuckwagon racing and First Nations exhibitions. Organized by thousands of volunteers and supported by civic leaders, the Calgary Stampede has grown into one of the world's richest rodeos, one of Canada's largest festivals and a significant tourist attraction for the city. Calgary's national and international identity is tied to the event. It is known as the "Stampede City", carries the informal nickname of "Cowtown" and the local Canadian Football League team is called the Stampede. The city takes on a party atmosphere during Stampede: office buildings and storefronts are painted in cowboy themes, residents don western wear and events held across the city include hundreds of pancake breakfasts and barbecues.

Winterlude is an annual festival in Ottawa, Ontario and Gatineau, Quebec that celebrates winter. The event is one of Ottawa's most important tourist draws, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Winterlude is a very large festival of outdoor activities including public skating and skating displays, ice sculpture competitions, 60 miles (100k) of Rideau Canal skating thru the gothic city, musical concerts, children's play areas, largest ice playground, an 'ice lounge', and numerous off-site events. Winterlude is most famous for the Rideau Canal, which is cleared for ice skating displays and musical concerts. Confederation Park, better known as Crystal Garden, is the site for the ice sculpture competition, the ice lounge and musical concerts. Dow's Lake also has a large skating area and hosts various activities. Related activities include special exhibits at numerous Ottawa museums and special events in the Byward Market.

Just for Laughs is a comedy festival held each July in Montreal, Quebec, Canada founded in 1983. It is the largest international comedy festival in the world. Each day, street performers, "New Vaudevillians" and other acts both vocal and visual perform throughout the city, particularly in the "Latin Quarter", an area known for its theatres, cafés and boutique shopping. In the evenings, the nightclubs and live venue theatres offer special programs supporting the performers. Although Just for Laughs attracts spectators from around the world, many of those in the audience are talent scouts, booking agents, producers and managers from the entertainment industry. Performing at the festival is one of the biggest opportunities for undiscovered talent to showcase their act in front of industry professionals. Montreal is often referred to as the City of Festivals. The Just For Laughs Festival certainly ranks among the most popular in the city for both residents and tourists. If you are planning to be in Montreal during the month of July, you will quickly realize that, although busy, this is a great time to visit the city. There is so much going on with the festival's events, and you will also want to make time to enjoy sightseeing in the city as well.

The Quebec Winter Carnaval Festival is a festival held in Quebec City. The festival's events include a winter amusement park, with attractions such as skiing, snow rafting, ice sculptures, snow sled slides and outdoor shows and it is usually held in

February. After being held on and off for over half a century, the Quebec City Carnival has been held uninterruptedly since 1955. Although numerous public or private parties, shows and balls are held across the city, some of them set up outside in the bitter cold, and are testimony to the Québécois' fabled joie-de-vivre. The outdoor dance parties are set at the Ice Palace with other events. Also not part of the official program of Carnival but worth a visit or a stay, the Quebec city unique Ice Hotel open every year from early January to late March with its bar, night club, exhibition galleries and ceremonial church.

CHILE

Each year in February, Chileans and many music lovers around the world celebrate the Festival of Viña del Mar. It is a music festival held annually during February since 1960 in Viña del Mar, Chile. It is considered the most important musical event in the Americas. The Festival features a song competition on two categories (pop music song and folk song), interspersed with performances by international music stars

from around the world, encompassing such diverse genres as rock, pop music in various languages, merengue, salsa, reggaetón and others. Although the festival started as a musical competition, it has changed a lot over time. The event takes place in the Quinta Vergara Amphitheater. In 2009, artists such as Latin sensation Daddy Yankee and British legend Simply Red captivated the audience of Viña. On its 50th edition, this famous festival was hosted by Felipe Camiroaga and news reader Soledad Onetto. The main program often doesn't start until 10:00 at night and sometimes doesn't finish until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning.

Lollapalooza is an annual music festival featuring popular alternative rock, heavy metal, punk rock and hip hop bands, dance and comedy performances. Lollapalooza has featured a diverse range of bands and has helped expose and popularize artists such as Arctic Monkeys, Foo Fighters, The Killers, Skrillex, 30 Seconds to Mars, Jane's Addiction, Kanye West, MGMT, Björk, Tinie Tempah, Sublime with Rome, Foster the People, Calvin Harris, Armin Van Buuren, Deftones, and many others.

Fiesta de la Tirana is an annual festival held in the locality of La Tirana in Tarapacá Region of northern Chile. The celebration takes place on July 16 in honor of Virgen del Carmen. La Tirana is the biggest geographically localized religious festivity in Chile and attracts between 200,000 and 250,000 visitors during the week of celebrations, while the villages population is normally of 560 inhabitants.

Maquinaria Festival is a festival held in Chile, which gathers different musical styles and brings the grandeur of European festivals of music. The 2012 edition will take place on November 10th and 11th, in Club de Campo Las Vizcachas, Puente Alto. Some artists confirmed are: Marilyn Manson, Slash, Gogol Bordello, Slayer, Nero, Deftones, Knife Party, Camila Moreno, Stone Sour, Criminal, Jorge Gonzalez, and others. This edition has the option of camping inside the venue, which is an available option only for those who bought the first tickets to Maquinaria.

Vuelta Ciclista Por Un Chile Lider is an elite men's professional road bicycle racing stage race held annually in Chile. The Vuelta Lider was created in 1997 by Lider, the largest supermarket chain in Chile, and is sanctioned by the Chilean Cycling

Federation (Federación Ciclista de Chile). The Vuelta Lider is the largest cycling race in Chile and serves as an important stop on the UCI America Tour.

The Chile Classic is a golf tournament on the Nationwide Tour. It is played annually at the Prince of Wales Country Club in Santiago, Chile. It is one of several tournaments on the Nationwide Tour held outside the United States. The 2012 purse was \$600,000, with \$108,000 going to the winner.

The VTR Open is a professional tennis tournament played on outdoor red clay courts in Viña del Mar, Chile. It is currently part of the ATP World Tour 250 series of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) World Tour. Many top-ten players have participated in this tournament, including: Mats Wilander, Jim Courier, Jiří Novák, Marcelo Ríos, Carlos Moyà, Gustavo Kuerten, Àlex Corretja, Tommy Haas, Magnus Norman, Sergi Bruguera, Guillermo Coria, David Nalbandian, Gastón Gaudio, Fernando González, Tommy Robredo, Nicolás Lapentti, Àlbert Costa, Alberto Berasategui, Emilio Sánchez, Guillermo Cañas, Mariano Puerta, Nicolás Massú, David Ferrer, Fernando Verdasco, Fabrice Santoro and Félix Mantilla.

CHINA

Chinese New Year is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. In China, it is known as "Spring Festival". It marks the end of the winter season, analogous to the Western Carnival. The festival begins on the first day of the first month in the traditional Chinese calendar and ends with Lantern Festival which is on the 15th day. Chinese New Year's Eve, a day where Chinese families gather for their

annual reunion dinner, is known as Chùxī or "Eve of the Passing Year." Because the Chinese calendar is lunisolar, the Chinese New Year is often referred to as the "Lunar New Year". Chinese New Year is the longest and most important festivity in the Chinese calendar. The origin of Chinese New Year is itself centuries old and gains significance because of several myths and traditions. Within China, regional customs and traditions concerning the celebration of the Chinese new year vary widely. People will pour out their money to buy presents, decoration, material, food, and clothing. It is also traditional for every family to thoroughly cleanse the house, in order to sweep away any ill-fortune and to make way for good incoming luck. Windows and doors will be decorated with red colour paper-cuts and couplets with popular themes of "good fortune" or "happiness", "wealth", and "longevity". On the Eve of Chinese New Year, supper is a feast with families. Food will include such items as pigs, ducks, chicken and sweet delicacies. The family will end the night with firecrackers.

Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival or Chinese Lantern Festival, is a popular lunar harvest festival celebrated by Chinese people. The celebration became popular during the early Tang Dynasty. The festival is held on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese calendar, which is in September or early October in the Gregorian calendar, close to the autumnal equinox. In 2008 it was made a Chinese public holiday. Traditionally, family and friends gather in the evening to celebrate, eat festive fruits and mooncakes. After dinner, a visit to a public space, such as a park or shoreline, may follow for, literally, 'appreciating the moon'. It also provides a good excuse for a barbeque gathering. Importantly, lanterns and candles are lit. Traditional practices are being given a modern twist, most often for marketing purposes. For example, the traditional egg yolk, lotus seed paste & pastry mooncake will be offered with alternative fillings, such as green tea or chocolate.

Shangyuan Festival is a festival celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month in the lunisolar year in the lunar calendar, the last day of the lunisolar lunar New Year celebration. During the Lantern Festival, children go out at night to temples carrying paper lanterns and solve riddles on the lanterns. It officially ends the Chinese New Year celebrations. In ancient times, the lanterns were fairly simple, and only the emperor

and noblemen had large ornate ones; in modern times, lanterns have been being embellished with many complex designs. For example, lanterns are now often made in shapes of animals. The lanterns can symbolize the people letting go of their past selves and getting a new one, which they will let go of the next year.

The annual Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival has been held since 1963. Harbin is located in Northeast China under the direct influence of the cold winter wind from Siberia. Officially, the festival starts January 5th and lasts one month. However the exhibits often open earlier and stay longer, weather permitting. Ice sculpture decoration technology ranges from the modern (using lasers) to traditional (with ice lanterns). While there are ice sculptures throughout the city, there are two main exhibition areas: Enormous snow sculptures at Sun Island (a recreational area on the opposite side of the Songhua River from the city) and the separate "Ice and Snow World" that operates each night. Ice and Snow World features illuminated full size buildings made from blocks of 2–3 feet thick crystal clear ice directly taken from the Songhua River. There are ice lantern park touring activities held in many parks in the city. Winter activities in the festival include Yabuli alpine skiing, winter-swimming in the Songhua River, and the ice-lantern exhibition in Zhaolin Garden.

The Intro Music Festival is an annual outdoor electronic music festival that occurs in late May in the city of Beijing, China. It is the largest outdoor music festival held in China. Debuted in the year of 2009, Intro has become an annual showcase of the best of China's thriving electronic music scene. It is held in a 46,000 square meter open-air plaza named 751 D-Park, located in the 798 art zone of Beijing. The festival lasts for one or two days depending on the year, with approximately 3 stages, 80 artists, 20,000 people in an open-air plaza. Initiated by Acupuncture Records, Intro revolves around the concept that music is a vital element that forms a connections between all people, and electronic music is the sound of an era. Every year, top-notch DJs and VJs from all over the world are invited to perform at Intro Music Festival. In addition to the main festival, panel discussions on electronic music culture, DJ/VJ workshops, remix competition and other activities are among the expansive event program, which attracts

over 10,000 people to attend every year, marking Intro Music Festival the key event in the electronic scene in China.

The Shanghai International Film Festival is one of the largest film festivals in East Asia. The first festival was held from October 7 to 14, 1993, and was held biennially until 2001. Since its beginning in 1993, Shanghai International Film Festival has grown to become China's only A-category international film festival. The festival awards several "Golden Goblet" Awards for best film, best director, best actor/actress, and other categories, as well as a "Special Jury Award". The International Student Shorts Award was introduced since the 9th SIFF in 2006, as a stage for the young people to communicate with renowned film masters and to display their works.

COLOMBIA

Colombia is recognized by its large variety of festivals, carnivals and fairs. The Colombian carnival has incorporated elements from European culture as well as traditions that belonged to the African and Amerindian cultures of Colombia. The common characteristics of the festivals are the nomination of a beauty Queen and the setting up of public dance floor. A very important and traditional carnival is the Blacks and Whites' Carnival in the city of Pasto, Nariño. It is one of the most ancient carnivals in the Americas. Historically, the city of Pasto has been the crossroads and the meeting place for various peoples and colonies. In 2009 the Carnival was proclaimed by

UNESCO, as one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The carnival is celebrated every year between January 4 and 6. The carnival includes four major stages: the Carnavalito (Children's Carnival), the Arrival of the Castaneda Family, Blacks' Day and Whites' Day with the Grand Parade (this being the most important day for its beauty).

Carnival of Bogotá is celebrated in Bogotá every year on August 5 and 6 for the city's anniversary of its Hispanic foundation. Bogotá was one of the first cities in the continent to celebrate its own carnival. The celebration first dates back to 1916. Most of the cultural events take place in the heart of Parque Metropolitano Simón Bolívar. The festivities also include pre-carnival celebrations during the month of July. The objective of the new Carnival is to promote a collective atmosphere of fellowship and to celebrate life, creative expression, and enjoyment. It further aimed to generate a feeling of belonging to the city, to enforce processes of reconciliation and fair play, and the inclusion and recognition of all districts and cultures of the Capital City of Colombia.

Rock al Parque, is a rock music festival taking place in Bogotá, Colombia, since 1995. Today the festival takes place over three days at Bogotá's Simon Bolivar Park. The festival's entry is free of charge. Due to the free nature of the festival, attendees can expect it to get very busy around the afternoon. Rock al Parque is the second largest rock festival in Latin America, after Rock in Rio. The festival features national and international bands of different genres. Originally it only included rock music, gradually opened up its doors to promote other genres, such as punk, reggae, ska and blues musicians.

The Ibero Theater Festival of Bogotá is a major cultural event in Colombia and one of the largest performing arts festivals in the whole world. It takes place every other year in the Colombian capital and brings together the most important theater companies from five continents. For seventeen days, the city becomes the setting for colorful parades. In the course of seventeen days, Colombians and visitors from all over the world come to Bogotá to massively attend the theater halls and fill the streets of the capital, enjoying an unparalleled theater adventure. The festival offers the most

complete panorama of performing arts. Aside from classical works, it is a showcase of dance, circus, music, puppetry, pantomime, performance art, and even concerts, many of which take place simultaneously in Bogota's halls and streets. Each version of the festival brings together about 2,000,000 spectators.

Festival of the Flowers is a festival that takes place in Medellín, Colombia. The first Festival of the Flowers took place on May 1, 1957. Today the feast of flowers takes place in early August and lasts ten days and it is the most important social event for the city. There is a pageant, automobiles, a Paso Fino horse parade and many musical concerts. It is an event that brings together thousands of visitors in search of flowers, enjoyment, music, and fun. The main flowers used are: pinocchios, lilies, carnations, agapanthuses, sunflowers, bridal veil, gladioli, chrysanthemums, roses, and orchids.

Barranquilla's Carnival is Colombia's most important folklore celebration and one of the biggest carnivals in the world. The carnival has traditions that date back to the 19th century. During the carnival the city gets busy with street dances, musical and masquerade parades. Barranquilla's Carnival includes dances like the Spanish paloteo, African congo and indigenous mico y micas. Many styles of Colombian music are also performed, most prominently cumbia, and instruments include drums and wind ensembles. The Carnival starts on the Saturday before Ash Wednesday with the Battle of the Flowers, which is considered one of the main activities. The Battle of the Flowers is a traditional float parade composed of the greatest and most colorful creations. Then, The Great Parade on Sunday and Monday is marked by an Orchestra Festival with Caribbean and Latin bands. The Great Parade is considered a day of mask and disguises because floats are not present this day. Different dance groups compete against each other for the coveted prize of performing in the Battle of the Flowers the following year.

Every year, immediately after Christmas, between December 25 and 30, the city of Cali fills up with tourists from all over the country and abroad who come to participate in this great fair. The Cali Fair is the most important cultural event in Cali. It is a celebration of the region's cultural identity, famous for the Salsa marathon, horse

riding parades and dance parties. The Fair has been celebrated since 1957. The fair aims to promote cultural, ethnical, and musical diversity in the region. People enjoy many activities like an opening cabalgata (parade of horseback riders), tascas, salsa concerts, bullfightsparades, athletic activities/competitions and cultural exhibitions. Cali also stands out as the world salsa capital, with the best national and international orchestras vibrating throughout the city and bringing together different kinds of publics in closed shows with performances by phenomenal prize-winning dancers and in multitudinous concerts staged by the best interpreters of this musical genre.

CUBA

The Carnival of Santiago de Cuba is a large public celebration as far back as the 17th century. The history of Carnival in Cuba has been nuanced by a wide variety of interests and influences. Many of the practices and events within carnival culture has resulted from over one hundred years of multicultural Cuban history. Carnival has very much been the basis for traditional celebrations in Cuba. Today in Havana, Mantanzas and Santiago de Cuba, Carnival is celebrated on July 18-27. Today in Havana, Mantanzas and Santiago de Cuba, Carnival is celebrated on July 18-27. The main activities at this festival are music, dancing and consumption of large quantities of alcoholic beverages. The most aspect of the present-day carnival of Santiago are the

parades and street performances. The Cuban carnival is distinguished by its accompanying music, the scenography and the choreographed dance steps that are performed. The carnival also has floats. Characters in the floats perform elaborate dances combining salsa, mambo, cha cha and all sort of tropical rhythms.

Parrandas are a traditional carnival-like street party with origins date back to the 18th century. The carnival takes place in northern and central cities of the former Las Villas province (now divided into Villa Clara, Sancti-Spiritus and Ciego de Avila provinces) in Cuba. Second most popular are celebrated in Camajuani. Modern Parrandas also come associated with all sort of vendors and activities on the side. Snacks like candies, pork and ham sandwich, pizza, traditional rice with pork and yucca, handmade toys and craft can be found all over. While every town possesses their own particularities, Parandas in general, follow a very similar structure of events based on their roots and traditions. The final event usually ends with fireworks and pyrotechnics. When the regular fireworks are finished the “mortars” are lit as well. This type of firework makes a really loud "canon like" sound that announces the end of its district display.

Marabana, is the name a popular marathon in Cuba. Since 1987 the Marabana has been held in Havana, Cuba, during the month of November. It contains both a half marathon and a marathon in a circuit around the most central avenues in Havana, starting and finishing in Old Havana. The race route affords runners lots of historic sightseeing. The route passes through many areas of the city, along the waterfront Malecon overlooking the bay of Havana, old, stately buildings, the old town with its wealth of colonial buildings (modeled after the Capitol in Washington), past monuments like the Capitolio, the Cabana fortress at the harbor entrance, the famous Hotel Nacional, the Revolution Square and the Parque Central.

The Havana Film Festival is a Cuban festival that focuses on the promotion of latinamerican filmmakers. It is also known in Spanish as Festival Internacional del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano de La Habana, and in English as Festival of New Latinamerican Cinema of La Havana. The festival first began on December 3, 1979. The president of the first organizing committee was Alfredo Guevara and more than

600 film directors of Latin America responded to the first call made by the Cuban Institute of the Cinematographic Art and Industry (ICAIC). Millions of film buffs across Cuba attend the event which has served as a launch pad for Latin American cinematography and become one of the leading film festivals of the region. The variety and creativity of films shown at the Havana Film Festival every year has attracted celebrities such as Steven Spielberg, Pedro Almodóvar, Francis Ford Coppola, Carlos Saura, Oliver Stone, Robert Redford, Jack Nicholson, Robert de Niro, Jack Lemmon, Gregory Peck, and Danny Glover, among many others

The Cine Pobre Film Festival, based in the coastal city of Gibara in the eastern province of Holguín, Cuba. It is one of the most popular event of the alternative film circuit. The catalogue contains both quality and diversity. Filmmakers from every continent are represented, from countries with a long-established cinematic tradition (United States, India, Germany, France, Burkina Faso) and others with an emerging industry (Chad, Ecuador, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mauritania).

The 14th edition of Camagüey's Theater Festival, to be held in September 8-15, will include in its program plays by Cuban playwright Virgilio Piñera and some others inspired in his life and work on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth. According to the artistic show's program, El Público, Argos Teatro and El Taller theater groups from Havana, and A Dos Manos from Santiago de Cuba, will be in charge of the staging of this author's legacy, one of the most outstanding of the 20th century in Cuba. Camagüey Theater Festival consists of street theatre, plays for children, productions in honour of esteemed Cuban directors and actors comprise just some of the performances at the Camagüey Theatre Festival every year. Camagüey's many theatres take part and there are also book and magazine launches.

DENMARK

Copenhagen Jazz Festival is an annual event that takes place in Copenhagen. The festival pays tribute to the freedom of jazz music as a art form and its treatment of musical aesthetics. From 1979 and until the 90s the festival has grown at a steady pace, recently it has featured more than 100 venues, 1100 concerts and approximately 260,000 guests making it one of the largest music events in Europe attracting a broad international audience. Musicians who have performed at the Copenhagen Jazz Festival include Sonny Rollins, Oscar Peterson, Ray Charles and Michel Petrucciani.

Roskilde Festival is the largest North European culture and music festival and has existed since 1971. It is held south of Roskilde in Denmark. Since 1972 Roskilde

Festival has run as a non-profit organization ensuring profits are donated directly to the development and support of music, cultural and humanitarian purposes. Originally as one of Denmark's real music-oriented, today it attracts more of the mainstream youth from Scandinavia and the rest of Europe. Roskilde has again and again demonstrated that it is the place to experience new, sprouting names, contemporary stars and timeless legends.

Copenhagen Distortion takes place in the streets of Copenhagen, Denmark, and in dozens of unusual locations around city. The festival has always been a leader in the field of using urban spaces. In 2011, Distortion became a flagship event for Copenhagen as a modern city and for Scandinavia's progressive society, with over 130,000 people attending. The festival's cultural focus is on club culture, dance music, street life, contemporary art and Copenhagen's independent media. The music selection is sharp and upfront with a high energy atmosphere.

NorthSide Festival is held every year in June at Ådalen in Aarhus, Denmark. The first festival was first held 2010 and it has grown from a one-day event to a three-day festival. The festival has a unique musical profile with a strong focus on innovation. Originally the festival launched as a one day event with five Danish Acts (Nephew, Turboweekend, Mew, Selvmord, and Veto) however it the second edition expanded and featured acts such as Band of Horses, Suede, White Lies, Interpol, and Elbow. In 2012 it expanded even further into a three day event featuring an even stronger line-up of national and international acts such as The Stone Roses, Justice, Kasabian, Snow Patrol, Garbage, James Blake, The XX, The Hives, The Kooks and Emeli Sandé to name a few. The festival is located near the centre of Aarhus, approximately 2 km from the central train station, on the lovely green area called Ådalen at Søren Frichs Vej and Huginsvej.

Aalborg Carnival is the name for the annual cultural event carnival in the city of Aalborg. The carnival takes place the last week in May and is the largest carnival in Scandinavia. The Aalborg Carnival stands for a week has 3 main carnival events: The Grand Parade, Battle of Carnival Bands and Children's Carnival. The Grand Parade is a carnival event that attracts about 100,000 people to the streets of Aalborg each year.

About 15 professional carnival groups from all over the world open the parade and following them are thousands of people dressed out, dancing and celebrating life. People can listen to live music, dance, see carnival shows and much more.

Aarhus Festival represents a yearly arts and culture festival in the city of Aarhus, Denmark. Aarhus Denmark is the country's bohemian capital, a town known most for its high student population and thriving arts scene. The festival is among the largest cultural events in Scandinavia and showcases local, national and international artists. For 10 days every year in August - September the streets and alleys, clubs, stages, galleries and museums of Aarhus are teeming with entertainment and events. Since it was established in 1965 the festival has become one of the largest themed festivals in northern Europe. Every year there is a new theme for the festival and exhibitions and venues are planned accordingly. The festival features subjects ranging from dance, theatre, exhibitions, classical and rhythmic concerts, opera, children's culture, sport and entertainment.

Aarhus Food Festival is a gathering point for everyone interested in food, a place where you will be entertained and challenged. The Food Festival is going to be the biggest event around in food culture in all of Scandinavia. Aarhus gathers some of the best Danish breeders, growers and chefs who aspire to create high quality food. Those attending will have a chance to buy good food and participate in various activities. You can visit the cabbage or salad workshop where you will have a chance to experiment with new mixes and taste combinations within the plant kingdom. Or watch the Danish national confectioner team create beautiful cakes and see if you can achieve similar results. There are special activities for children, a chefs contest scene, where young chefs can battle and unfold their skills and an area with cooking classes where everyone, from beginners or amateur chefs to the highly trained master chefs can develop their skills and get new inspiration.

Copenhagen International Literature Festival. Copenhagen International Literature Festival presents some of the highest quality fiction and poetry staged in readings, conversations, drama, music, documentaries, and film. The festival opened in 2008 in Huset in Magstræde in central Copenhagen with more than 100 Danish and

international artists appearing. Since then the festival has featured more than 350 writers and other artists who have performed on seven different stages in the heart of Copenhagen. Additionally, the festival has made an effort to present quality literature via drama, film, and music. Thus, in the first three years the festival has also been visited by a number of musicians, playwrights and actors.

EGYPT

The Cairo Jazz Festival is a music festival held in Cairo, Egypt. It first took place in 2009. The festival takes place at El Sawi Cultural Centre in Zamalek and at the Cairo Jazz Club. In 2009 the first annual Cairo Jazz Festival (CJF) was founded by 3 Egyptian Jazz musicians, bassist Samer George, Pianist Amro Salah and Vocalist, Ahmed Harfoush driven by the passion to celebrate Jazz and paying tribute to one of the unique forms of music that magically diffuses and overwhelms humans all over the planet from Alaska to New Zealand. Jazz has become a global phenomena and has affected humanity due to its being a human experience rather than a music genre. Cairo Jazz Festival aims to widespread the mission of Jazz to reach more people. CJF presents

many Jazz activities in addition to the musical performances, activities such as Jam sessions, Workshops and Master classes. The kids programs "Jazzinino" has proven success to introduce Jazz to pupils and experience the feel of "being on stage" together with professional artists in a warm family atmosphere.

Organized by the Egyptian Association of Film Writers and Critics since 1979, the Alexandria International Film Festival aims to broaden film culture and strengthen the relationships between filmmakers. Mediterranean productions are in the spotlight, although films from all countries are welcome. Entries are organised into two main sections: Competition and Out of Competition, with the former solely dedicated to feature films from Mediterranean countries.

The Cairo International Book Fair is the largest and oldest book fair in the Arab world, held every year in the last week of January in Cairo, Egypt, at the Cairo International Fair Grounds in Madinat Nasr, near Al-Azhar University, it is organised by the General Egyptian Book Organisation. The Fair is considered the most important event in the Arabic publishing world, drawing hundreds of book sellers from around the world and about 2 million visitors each year. The fair features booths and speakers from private publishers and government agencies from around the world, as well as retailers of books, video, and other media. Lectures, readings, and other public events take place during the almost three weeks over which the book fair runs, and material is presented in Arabic, English, and other languages. The Cairo International Book Fair stands as one of such popular platforms which assumed the responsibility of bringing peoples together and concurrently granting them the opportunity of dialogue and the exchange of viewpoints in all areas.

Under the auspices of The Egyptian Tourist Authority, The First Luxor Festival for Egyptian and European Cinema is taking place in Luxor from 17th to 22nd of September 2012. Noon Organization for Culture and Arts is organizing this annual festival which aims to open channels for cultural and artistic exchange among Egypt and the other countries. This Festival aims to strengthen film awareness in Egypt and Europe and to encourage Egyptian and European film makers through monetary value and discretionary prizes. The festival will show about 50 films and hosts about 125

directors, actors, producers, and media from Egypt and Europe (Belgium, Croatia , Estonia, Finland, France , Germany, Greece, Holland, Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Serbia, Switzerland, and The United Kingdom).

The Dahab International Festival of watersports, culture and desert adventure is going to be even better and bigger than the first one in 2011. Highly supported by the Egyptian Tourism Authority, the festival shows the whole range of activities the beautiful holiday-destination Dahab at the Red Sea has to offer. The heart of town changes into a big festival area with Bedouin tents, food from all over the world (made by Dahab-residents), an art-corner, a quiet tent for all kinds of yoga, massage, healing and lectures as well as a huge stage for concerts. The festival has free workshops and taster all day long in tents and outside on the festival ground. At four in the afternoon the bay becomes home to many boats. The raft race is always a highlight of the festival. This year all of the concerts will be bigger and better, with more parties and more live music. This years closing party will have a bigger stage, bigger bar, and bigger location. The concert will start at 16:00 and end late with an intermission at 20:00 where prizes will be given out for diving and watersports.

Ramses II built his temple at Abu Simbel so that the internal chamber would light up two times a year: once on the anniversary of his ascension to the throne (in February, around the 22nd), and once on his birthday (in October, around the 22nd). Every year on the Sun Festival, crowds gather before sunrise to observe the stream of light gradually sneaking through the stone and enlightening the statuettes of Ramses, Ra and Amun in the central chamber. Only the statue of Ptah – the god of darkness – remains in the shade even on these two special days of the year! Prepare to be blown away by the magnificence of these temples. They are undisputedly one of the world's most breathtaking monuments.

FINLAND

Pori Jazz is a large international jazz festival, held annually in the coastal city of Pori, Finland. It is one of the oldest and best known jazz festivals in Europe, having been arranged every year since 1966. At the moment Pori Jazz Festival is the biggest, most well known and most popular summer event in Finland. The first festival was based on acoustic jazz but little by little electric jazz and other rhythm music, blues, soul, funk, hip-hop and the rich Cuban and Brazilian music took foot. Now Pori Jazz offers a broad contingent of the world's leading artists ranging from long-established figures to up-and-coming stars. About 70 per cent of the program is admission free.

The main venue, Kirjurinluoto Arena, is the only open-air concert park in Finland that is built only for concerts and other happenings.

The Helsinki International Film Festival - Love & Anarchy is a non-competitive film festival held since 1988 in Helsinki, Finland, yearly in September. The aim of Finland's biggest film festival is to promote the artistry of filmmaking alongside inventive, controversial and visually stunning new films. The festival also seeks to screen films that would otherwise not be seen in Finnish theatres. The festival programme consists of new films from well-known filmmakers and fresh talents alike. In its first few years the programme was heavily focused on Japanese and Hong Kong films. Since then, the programme has evolved; Asian films still play a part but films from all other continents feature too. During its 25-year lifespan, the Helsinki International Film Festival has expanded from two theatres to 12 screens and established itself as an 11-day homage to cinema. Today the programme consists of around 120 feature films and 80 short films.

Funky Elephant is an annual springtime music festival in Helsinki, Finland. It's dedicated to a vast variety of styles within black rhythm music. Genres represented include funk, soul, Hip hop, jazz, Latin, reggae, afrobeat etc. The festival is held at Tavastia Club and its smaller sub-club downstairs. Overall, the festival has had over 100 live performances and over 70 DJs. The organizer is Funky Amigos, which is a non-profit association. Its aim is to enhance the status of modern rhythm music scene and its artists in Finland. In wider prospect, Funky Amigos also wants to encourage multi-culturality and tolerance.

Konemetsä - Open Air Forest Festival is an electronic music festival held in South West of Finland in the village of Ollila in Marttila county. The characteristic aspect of the festival is that the music is played continuously 24 hours / day on four stages. Other characteristic aspects are that the Main Stage is in the middle of a forest surrounded by a natural amphitheatre. The age limit is 18. Minors are welcome but only when accompanied by a responsible parent. If you bring your kid, please do remember to bring ear protection equipment as well. The sauna is one of the most characteristic parts

of Konemetsä. It's warmed up before the festival and it's kept hot during the whole event. Camping is free and restricted mainly to the fields.

Kaustinen Folk Music Festival is celebrated yearly in July in Kaustinen, Finland. It is the biggest folk music and dance festival in the Nordic countries. It was first celebrated in 1968. Today the festival lasts nine days and is visited by over 100,000 people. There are over 3,000 performers from Finland and other countries every year. Every year the festival nominates the Master Folk Musician, the Ensemble of the Year, and Festival Ensembles amongst prominent Finnish folk musicians. The main venue of the Folk Music Festival is the Festival Park. The comfortably spacious and leafy park setting guarantees a genuine Kaustinen summer feel, regardless of weather. The Festival Park provides comprehensive services and is also designed to accommodate visitors with limited mobility. Families with children are also catered for with a large playground and a special Children's Tent.

Baltic Circle is an international contemporary theatre festival that takes place every November in Helsinki, both in theatre venues and on different sites in the city. Baltic Circle functions in the context of European contemporary performing arts, and it is a platform for developing new trends and ideas. Baltic Circle presents new talents of contemporary theatre as well as organizes training programs, seminars, workshops, discussions and club events. It is a meeting point and full-service festival where artists and audiences come together to explore art and enjoy the luxury of inspiring festival atmosphere. Baltic Circle functions in the context of European contemporary theatre and performing arts, and focuses on bringing the artistic communities of the Baltic and Nordic countries together. The festival is a work of art that takes a stance and challenges its participants to engage in dialogue.

ANTI - Contemporary Art Festival is a yearly international live-art festival which uses modern cityscapes as a stage for its contemporary art performances and installations. The ANTI – Contemporary Art Festival focuses on time- and site-specific works. The festival showcases live art and works based on sound and images as well as on text by some of the most interesting and innovative contemporary artists. The event has garnered interest mainly because of its original staging and mix of local and

international artists. ANTI is free of charge except for the opening seminar. The context-based performances and installations exhibit arts from sculpture and environmental art to dance, live art and live performances.

GERMANY

Berlin International Film Festival is a great cultural event and one of the most important dates for the international film industry. With 274,000 tickets sold and 487,000 admissions it is considered the largest publicly attended film festival worldwide. The public programme of the Berlin International Film Festival shows about 400 films per year, mostly international or European premieres. Films of every genre, length and format find their place in the various sections. Around twenty films compete for the awards called the Golden and Silver Bears. The European Film Market, a film trade fair held simultaneously to the Berlinale, is a major industry meeting for

the international film circuit once a year. The trade fair serves distributors, filmbuyers, producers, financiers and co-production agents. The Berlin International Film Festival is a source of inspiration in the global film community.

The Rock am Ring and Rock im Park festival is held annually in Germany. Rock am Ring takes place at the Nürburgring racetrack in the west of Germany, Rock im Park takes place around the Frankenstadion in the south of Germany. Both festivals are usually regarded as one event with a mostly identical lineup for both festivals. All artists perform one day at Nürburgring and another day in Nuremberg during the three day event. Together Rock im Park and Rock am Ring are the largest music festivals in Germany and one of the largest in the world with a combined attendance of just over 150,000 people usually selling out in advance.

The famous harbor of Hamburg, the second busiest port in Europe, turns into a stage during the international jazz festival. More than 50 concerts take place. Barges and ferries shuttle between venues – a boat trip with breath-taking sights of Hamburg's fascinating harbour is always included. With a wide variety of big stars and terrific newcomers, international bands and local heroes, the festival is appealing to a diverse audience and aims to win new listeners for Jazz.

Oktoberfest is a 16-day festival held annually in Munich Germany, running from late September to the first weekend in October. It is one of the most famous events in Germany and is the world's largest fair, with more than 5 million people attending every year. Large quantities of Oktoberfest Beer are consumed, with almost 7 million liters served during the 16 day festival in 2007. Visitors may also enjoy a wide variety of traditional food such as Hendl (chicken), Schweinebraten (roast pork), Schweinshaxe (grilled ham hock), Steckerlfisch (grilled fish on a stick), Würstl (sausages) along with Brezeln (Pretzel), Knödel (potato or bread dumplings), Käsespätzle (cheese noodles), and Weisswurst (a white sausage).

Rhein in Flammen is the name of five different firework displays along the river Rhine in Germany. The displays take place annually, at various locations along the river. On the five different dates, brightly illuminated ships sail the river in an evening convoy for their passengers to see the full firework display at each location of the river.

On the river banks wine festivals take place that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. The biggest "Rhein in Flammen" event takes place in Koblenz every year, on the second Saturday in August. The Bonn event takes place at the Rheinauen Park in Bonn, on the first Saturday in May.

Every summer, Berlin celebrates its own special carnival, the colorful Carnival of Cultures. Over the last fifteen years, the numbers of participants and visitors have risen. The Carnival of Cultures is open to everybody and all forms of cultural expression. It is regarded as a platform for a proud expression of hybrid cultural identities, containing traditional and contemporary elements. It includes and attracts all age groups, professional artists and amateurs, people from all walks of life. Berlins Carnival has been inspired by modern European carnivals. It has taken in elements of many traditional carnivals and celebrations from all over the world. By being open to cultural rites, customs and traditions it attracts performers from countries without carnival traditions. The inclusion of all these elements makes the Carnival of Cultures in Berlin quite unique.

The Berlin Jazz Festival is a world renowned festival that presents all the manifold and diverse styles of jazz. The tightly arranged, varied programme is equally traditional and progressive, and has tended to focus in particular on big bands and large ensembles. Alongside the big American name artists the Berlin Jazz Festival also increasingly presents musicians from all quarters, artists whose music centres on crossing the borders between local folk traditions and global sounds and trends. Venues include Berliner Philharmonie, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Volksbühne, Haus der Berliner Festspiele and the Jazzclubs Quasimodo and A-Trane.

Nature One is one of the largest European open air Electronic music festivals, featuring many renowned DJs from Germany and all over the world. In the past the festival has had an attendance of roughly 53,000, with over 40,000 using the nearby fields for camping over the weekend. Nature One has 2 main evenings with additional smaller events from Thursday till Sunday. As a special attraction there is a fireworks display on Saturday evening.

Popkomm is an international trade show for the music and entertainment business, and also integrates a congress and festival. It is held in Berlin but has had entries from at least 55 other countries. Popkomm first took place in Düsseldorf in 1989, and at the time was a meeting place of little-known independent musicians. The Popkomm Showcase is the live music segment of Popkomm. Bands and artists have the opportunity to perform in front of decision makers and important media people.

GHANA

The Fancy Dress Festival is a masquerade festival held on the first day of January every year by the people of Winneba in the Central region of Ghana. It is a colourful festival that features brass band music. In its early years, the music for all groups in the festival was traditional adaha music. Brass band music had been introduced to the region in 1880s by European missionaries and military groups. In 1934, Catholic priests introduced brass band music to the festival by bringing in a band that had received training from Presbyterian missionaries in the nearby town of Swedru Bibiani.

The Hogbetsotso Festival is celebrated by the chiefs and peoples of Anloga in the Volta region of Ghana. The festival is celebrated annually on the first Saturday in the month of November. The name of the festival is derived from the Ewe language and translates as, the festival of exodus or "coming from Hogbe (Notsie)". The celebration of the festival was instituted about four decades ago. Various ceremonies are held during the festival. They include a peace-making period in which all disputes are ended with the finding of amicable solution. It is believed that the reason for this traditional period of peace making is that the people believe their ancestors lived in harmony with themselves all through their escape from Notsie and that it was this character that made their sojourn a success. There is also a purification ceremony of the ceremonial stools (where the Ewe believe the ancestral spirits reside) through the pouring of libations. This is followed by general cleaning where all the villages are swept and rubbish burnt. This cleaning ceremony starts at the Volta Estuary and ends after several days at the Mono River in the Republic of Benin. Various forms of dancing, singing and merry-making characterize the entire festival.

“Aboakyir” literally means “game hunting”. This popular festival is celebrated on the first Sunday in May by the chiefs and people of Winneba. The festival begins with a competitive hunt between two traditional warrior groups in a nearby game reserve. Each warrior tries to catch an antelope. It is an adventurous event to test the strength, bravery, determination and intuition of the two rival groups. The winner presents the catch to the Paramount Chief who sits in state with sub-chiefs and subjects. The antelope is sacrificed as an invocation for a good harvest and a bountiful fishing season. A durbar and procession of the chiefs and warrior groups in their colourful regalia is the highlight of the celebration. Brass bands, dancing, performance of folklore and parties make this an unforgettable event.

The Kundum festival is celebrated by the Ahanta or Nzema people of the Western region of Ghana. Kundum is both a harvest and religious festival. It is celebrated to thank God for the abundance of food as it ushers in the harvest period of the area. The festival is believed to have first been celebrated in the 16th century. Originally, the festival lasted for four weeks but due to modernity, it has in recent years been reduced

to eight days. The festivals occur separately in each town that make up the Ahanta paramountcy with town scheduling the Sunday in which their festival will start independent of each other. The celebration consists of three main components which include dancing, drumming and eating. The people who partake in the celebration wear distinctive dress, footwear, and sometimes masks. The festival begins by taking the drums to the five different shrines on outskirts of town. At the shrines, requests for the good of the town are made and rum is poured on the ground as offering. The traditional purpose of the dancing is to drive the evil spirits and devils from the town and therefore preserving another successful year.

Literally translated to mean "opening up of the Benya Lagoon into the sea", Bakatue symbolizes the beginning of the fishing season, which is the main livelihood of the people of Elmina. It is celebrated annually in Elmina on the first Tuesday in July and originated centuries ago, long before the arrival of the Europeans. The splendid ceremonies include a durbar of chiefs, a colourful regatta of canoes on the Benya Lagoon and processions. A solemn "net casting" ceremony symbolizes the beginning of a new fishing season, and the catch is offered to the deities of the traditional area. People at the festival are invited to take part in the regatta and merry-making.

This festival is celebrated annually on the first September by the communities in the Cape Coast Traditional Area (Fetu). It is characterized by a durbar of chiefs and processions of "Asafo Companies" (traditional warrior groups) and numerous social organisations. Every member of the group adorned in rich and colourful clothes, thus creating the grandeur of the festival which literally means "adorning of new clothes". A procession of the "7 Asafo Companies" in their unique costumes depicts a fusion of the "Fante" and European cultures, typically Portuguese, Dutch, Swedish and British which have been sustained over many centuries. Customary rites include the slaughter of a cow to the 77 Deities in the area to obtain their blessings.

The Pan African Historical Theatre Project is a cultural event held in Ghana every two years for Africans and people of African descent. It was first held in 1992. The idea of this festival is to promote and enhance unity, Pan-Africanism, and the development of the continent of Africa itself. Activities that occur at this festival are

performances and work in the areas of theatre, drama, music, and poetry, among other things. Since 1994, the festival has attracted participation by official delegations, individuals and groups from African, Caribbean and South American countries, as well as groups and individuals from Europe and the United States. The government of Ghana considers this a major national initiative and appreciates the agencies, communities, civil society organizations and corporate bodies which have mobilized resources to complement government efforts over the years.

GREECE

Athens - Epidaurus Festival is an annual arts festival that takes place in Athens and Epidaurus, from May to October. It is one of the most famous festivals in Greece. The festival includes musical, theatrical and other cultural events. It is a great celebration that has lasted 56 summers, and that has hosted some of the leading lights of theatre, music and dance. From Mitropoulos and Callas to Rostropovich, Pavarotti, Leonidas Kavakos and Dimitris Sgouros. In addition to the creation of new venues for the staging of its performances, the festival aims to broaden the audiences that attend its events, to highlight and promote the work of young artists, and to present contemporary trends in dance, music and theatre through the invitation of, and

collaboration with interesting artists and performance companies. Efforts are being made to fall in line with the major European festivals of this kind.

Rockwave Festival is a rock festival held in Malakassa. It is one of the most famous music festivals in Greece. Rockwave's energetic presentation attracts masses of young Greeks and visitors who descend on the festival in search of a great time, and they succeed in finding it. The festival's location was constantly being changed until 2004, when event park TerraVibe Park, located in Attica, became the permanent host of the festival. Rockwave Festival annually attracts the biggest bands and most popular artists in the music industry. Over 160 international and local artists have attended Rockwave Festival in the past. General Admission tickets for Rockwave in 2011 start around 49.50 Euro per day. Visitors to the Rockwave Festival can reach the site by train from Athens and they also schedule special buses during major events.

The Thessaloniki International Film Festival is the top film festival of South Eastern Europe, the presentation platform for the year's Greek productions, and the primary and oldest festival in the Balkans for the creations of emerging film makers from all over the world. Founded in 1960 as the Week of Greek Cinema, it became international in 1992, including a Competition Section for feature length films by emerging directors presenting their first or second film. Since 1992, the International Thessaloniki Film Festival has striven to present the most innovative independent films from around the world. Retrospectives and tributes programme look at both historic masters, and emerging artists. All films are screened before the young, vital, cinema-loving Thessaloniki audience, while in the Festival's parallel events, such as concerts and art exhibitions, cinema is brought together with the other arts. Through its new form and activities, the Thessaloniki International Film Festival has established close collaborations with various local, national, regional and international film institutions, cultural, educational and social organizations, as well as embassies and cultural agencies from other countries.

The Patras Carnival, Patrino karnavali is the largest event of its kind in Greece and one of the biggest in Europe. It has more than 160 years of history. The events begin on 17 January. The carnival of Patras is not a single event but a variety of events

that includes balls, parades, hunting of hidden treasure, kids' carnival etc. Its characteristics are spontaneity, improvisation, inspiration and volunteerism. The Children's Carnival includes a parade with the participation of masqueraded children's groups from nurseries, kindergartens, musical schools etc. Over 5000 children participate whereas the festival is completed by numerous game events and constructive activities. The closing ceremony is an extension of the traditional festivities based around the burning of the float of the Carnival King, with concerts, dances, a farewell to the carnival past, announcements about the carnival to come and countless fireworks.

Olympus Festival is an annual Festival of music and theatre which takes place at the Ancient Theatre of Dion in Pieria, northern Greece. The festival is supported by the Greek Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Dion as well as by other local authorities in Pieria Prefecture. Many Greek singers, actors and actresses took part at the Olympus Festival during its 30 years of operation. Famous Greek artists like Maria Farantouri, Mario Frangoulis, George Dalaras, Nana Mouskouri, Anna Synodinou, Thimios Karakatsanis, Dimitris Mitropanos and many others have appeared at the Dion Theatre. The Olympus Festival takes place every summer in the town of Dion, just 10 km away from Katerini and less than 70 km far from Greece's second largest city, Thessaloniki.

Icarus Festival for Dialogue between Cultures is an international music festival that began in the summer of 2006 in Ikaria. The festival is an annual event organized by all 3 municipalities of Ikaria, a Greek island in the northern Aegean that bears the name of the mythical flyer Icarus. Its purpose is to host performances by artists or groups whose music is a product of multicultural participation or inspiration. In recent years the festival has expanded to other forms of art, such as dance, theater, photography & painting exhibitions, dance lessons and cinema.

GREENLAND

Greenland's National Day on 21 June is a national festival in all towns and settlements in Greenland. At each location, celebrations consist of a programme comprising morning songs, speeches, hoisting of the flag, a church service, kaffemik and local entertainment such as music, folk dancing, displays of kayaking skills, etc. Museums and cultural buildings also mark the National Day with special events or exhibitions. The National Day was introduced in 1983 as one of the Home Rule's traditions and is thus one of several expressions of national identity, which is also reflected in the flag, clothing, national anthem and language. The longest and therefore lightest day of the year was a natural choice as Greenland's National Day - a day on which the nation can celebrate its national and cultural values together. People are often

seen in national costumes and the many events on this festive occasion provide lots of good photo opportunities for visitors.

Greenland is a very reliable place to see the Northern Lights. Being at such a high latitude, the summer months are not dark enough at night. From the base in Kulusuk for example, the Aurora can be seen from late August until late April. The Northern Lights appear all year round, but must be experienced on a dark clear night sky. Therefore, Northern Lights tours are best in the autumn and winter. The Aurora Borealis forms when charged protons and electrons emitted from the sun as a solar wind are drawn in towards us by Earth's magnetic field and collide with atoms and molecules in our atmosphere. These collisions result in countless little bursts of light that make up the aurora. Collisions with oxygen produce red and green auroras, while nitrogen produces pink and purple colours. Sometimes it is a beautiful and delicate beam of light on the horizon, and sometimes it fills the entire night such that it seems that light is pouring out of the sky. The Northern Lights can be seen in all parts of Greenland, with the best conditions being towards the north, although visitors must be aware of the seasonal variations. Several tour operators in Greenland offer excursions that focus on the Northern Lights by travelling outside the range of artificial light in the towns in order to experience the spectacular display of light in the night sky.

Since 1994, the annual Nuuk Snow Festival in Nuuk, Greenland, has brought teams from around the world to the capital city to create elaborate snow sculptures. This competition is usually held in February or March, depending on when the weather is best for working with snow; climate conditions have sometimes prevented the festival from taking place altogether. Power tools are not permitted in the competition, so sculptors use traditional tools to create their sculptures. These include hand axes; shovels; chisel spades; boards with spikes and handles for creating textures; trim boards with net; wire saws; and trowels. The frigid temperatures are ideal for sculpting with snow and ice, particularly because of the low humidity levels. Five local architects and artists are appointed as judges by the organizing committee to make the final decision. Sculptures are judged in two categories: figurative and non-figurative.

Southern Greenland's breathtaking scenery is the setting for the Greenland Adventure Race, which can best be described as a Greenlandic version of "Iron Man". The competitors are thus sent off on a five day gruelling endeavour where they have to alternate between running, cycling and sailing in kayaks. Competitors will encounter glaciers, rivers, mountains and fjords on the route, all while experiencing cultural attractions such as Norse ruins, the settlements of Qassiarsuk and Igaliku and several sheep-holding stations. For the first stage, the competitors run over a glacier before crossing a river of melt water. This stage also includes rappelling. The second stage consists of 50 km of mountain biking, where even the robust bikes are really put through their paces. The third stage is regarded as being the hardest of all stages. The run, which ends in the town of Narsaq, is just over a marathon distance in length and the route includes several mountain passes at elevations of almost 1000 metres. The fourth stage includes kayaking in the fjords between the towns of Narsaq and Qaqortoq. On the fifth and final stage, running is again on the programme.

With its 160 kilometres over three days, the Arctic Circle Race has been called the world's toughest cross-country race. Skiers from all over the world compete against each other in the classic cross-country style race. The Arctic Circle Race is held near Sisimiut on Greenland's west coast in the middle of magnificent Greenlandic scenery, where the competitors are surrounded by endless snow landscapes and by hospitality and helpfulness from the many volunteers and other competitors. The Arctic Circle Race was created in 1998 and today is one of the regular annual events on the international sporting calendar for cross-country skiing enthusiasts and nature-lovers. The success of the race depends every year on the huge local support and involvement of the people of Sisimiut, who create the special atmosphere that makes the Arctic Circle Race more than just any other ski race.

Many different species of whale can be seen along Greenland's coasts. The whales can sometimes swim very close to land when eating small shoals of fish, plankton, etc. The whales are best seen from a boat, where you can get very close to the enormous marine mammals in their natural element. A number of European tour operators organise whale safaris. In towns such as Nuuk, Qeqertarsuaq and Aasiaat it is possible

to get up close to these fascinating animals. However, you do not necessarily need to specifically look for the whales, as a sailing trip along Greenland's coasts is normally a whale safari in itself. Keep your eyes peeled and have your binoculars and whale handbook at the ready. The different species can be determined by the fin, the spout and the tail.

HONG KONG

Lunar New Year Fair is a fair held annually a few days before Lunar New Year in markets. In Hong Kong, the fair is held in various location in Hong Kong, notably Victoria Park and Fa Hui Park. Fair is made up of hundreds of stalls for various goods. Half of the area is for selling auspicious flowering plants like narcissus, peony, chrysanthemum, peach and fruit plants like mandarin. The other half is for selling dry stuff for Chinese New Year. The crowd peaks at a few hours before and after midnight of the New Year's Day. The stall tenders would try to sell all their stocks in these few hours before the fair closes.

Clockenflap Multimedia Arts & Music Festival, commonly abbreviated to "Clockenflap", is a two-day (formerly a one-day) music and multimedia arts festival held at various locations in Hong Kong. It incorporates international and local live

music, film, art installations, digital arts and animation. International acts have included Santigold, Bombay Bicycle Club, The Cribs, French Horn Rebellion, Chad Valley, The Pains of Being Pure at Heart, Luke Vibert as well as numerous others spread over five stages. Now in its fifth year, Clockenflap continues to grow from strength to strength. 18,000 festival goers enjoyed 2011's event, with an expected 25,000 people set to attend Clockenflap 2012. Clockenflap also has a strong multi-media arts presence from contemporary emerging artists from Hong Kong and beyond. Unique in the fact that Clockenflap is held outdoors at the West Kowloon Cultural District, art installations tend to be of large format and often interactive – providing an alternative to gallery presented art. The film tent showcases a mixed local and international programme featuring dozens of independently produced short films, animations and music videos.

The Hong Kong International Film Festival is a platform for filmmakers, film professionals and filmgoers from all over the world to launch and experience new film work. There are seminars, conferences, exhibitions, and parties celebrating the festival community. The festival is committed to discovering talent, and it is also a major platform to launch films to the Greater China region and Asian market. Screening over 300 titles from 50 countries in 11 theatres across Hong Kong, the 33rd HKIFF reached an audience of 580,000 people. New films are featured as gala premieres, with the directors and cast presenting on the red carpet, and inside the cinema, to greet the audience. As for the awards, there are five categories, decided by juries consisting of film industry professionals such as film critics, directors and film festival delegates.

The Lantern Festival is a festival celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month in the lunisolar year in the lunar calendar, the last day of the lunisolar lunar New Year celebration. It is not to be confused with the Mid-Autumn Festival, which is sometimes also known as the "Lantern Festival" in locations such as Singapore and Malaysia. During the Lantern Festival, children go out at night to temples carrying paper lanterns and solve riddles on the lanterns. It officially ends the Chinese New Year celebrations. In ancient times, the lanterns were fairly simple, and only the emperor and noblemen had large ornate ones; in modern times, lanterns have been being embellished with

many complex designs. For example, lanterns are now often made in shapes of animals. The lanterns can symbolize the people letting go of their past selves and getting a new one, which they will let go of the next year.

The Hong Kong Book Fair is a book fair organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, held annually (usually in the middle of July) at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, selling and exhibiting books, printed matter, stationery, compact discs and other multimedia publishing. The Fair has become an major annual event in Hong Kong with the number of visitors reaching a new high every year. The Fair has developed from a mere promotion platform for the industry to an annual territory-wide major reading and cultural event for the public of Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Arts Festival, provides a wide range of art programmes from all over the world. The festival has introduced many exciting programmes - both internationally and locally produced - to the people of Hong Kong, stimulating their interest in the arts and raising their levels of appreciation. Every February and March, people flock to the Festival's programmes and exhibitions at venues that range from large performing halls to intimate theatre spaces. The Festival programme includes Classical Music/Chinese Music, World Music, Western Opera, Chinese Opera, Drama, Dance and Family Choice to the Art lovers. Many foreign performers and groups have featured previously, including Wiener Philharmoniker, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Paris Opera Ballet, Mark Chan, New Japan Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Shanghai Kunqu Theatre, Yo-Yo Ma, Julian Lloyd Webber and José Carreras. In addition to the general performances, the festival also provides commissioned performances, which affiliates with both local and foreign groups in order to broaden the view of audiences.

ICELAND

Menningarnótt or "cultural night" is a yearly event held in Reykjavík, usually on the first Saturday after the 18th of August. It has become one of the largest festivals in Iceland and an essential part of the city's cultural scene. Culture Night offers the chance to enjoy a variety of activities ranging from traditional shows and exhibitions to more unusual happenings. There are outdoor concerts, performances, fireworks and fairs, while bars, restaurants, shops and galleries stay open late to cater for the large crowds that flock to the city for these special celebrations. The festival often consists of a main stage in the city centre and many smaller events mostly in the city's centre but also spread over the city. The highlight of the festival is often an outside concert on the main stage by 3-4 of the most popular musicians in Iceland followed by a rather glamorous fireworks show. Last year boasted an installation of 22 burning rafts, floating in the sea! It is estimated that as many as 100,000 people attend the annual concerts and festivities conducted in central Reykjavík.

National Festival is an annual outdoor festival held in Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland, on the weekend before the first Monday in August. There are various events, most prominently big stage concerts, bonfires, fireworks shows and the festival's signature Sunday night crowd singing. The crowd singing is the single event of the weekend which draws the most attendees. In 2010, an attendance record was set at between sixteen and seventeen thousand on the Sunday night. The festival was first held in 1874 when islanders were hindered by bad weather from attending one-thousand-year anniversary celebration of Icelandic settlement on the Icelandic mainland. The festival has grown to become the largest multiday festival in Iceland, and one of the largest annual cultural events in the country. Today Þjóðhátíð is the biggest festival in Iceland with around 16.000 people participating and around 11.000 -13.000 people travel from the mainland to enjoy this magnificent event.

Sequences Art Festival is held in the capital of Iceland, Reykjavik. The aim of the festival is to celebrate and exhibit cutting-edge visual art with a special emphasis on time based art. Such as performance, video and sound art- and creates a cross-platform for these art forms as well as music and design. Every year the festival is unique from the previous years because new directors are hired annually to shape Sequences festival according to their individual vision. Sequences is the first art festival in Iceland to focus on visual art alone and is an offspring of the dynamic art scene that thrives in Reykjavik. The festival is a venue for artists from all age to exhibit their work and connect with foreign artists who work in similar or in the same media. More than three hundred artists from around the world have participated in the festival.

Iceland Airwaves is an annual music festival held in Reykjavík, Iceland on the third weekend of October. Reykjavík is surrounded by some of the most unique and astonishing natural beauty you're ever likely to see. The first show was held in 1999 as a one-off event in an airplane hangar at Reykjavík Airport. Today festival spans five days (Wednesday - Sunday) and its main focus is showcasing new music, both Icelandic and international. Some of the world's most exciting artists have performed there, too. The Shins, The Rapture, TV On The Radio, Florence and the Machine, Klaxons, Hot Chip, Flaming Lips, Wolf Parade, Bloc Party and Fatboy Slim. Airwaves

has become known for its intimacy and party spirit with an unbelievable zest for music and celebration. This year, over 200 bands from around the world are set to perform.

Eistnaflug is a hard rock festival in Iceland. It is an indoor festival held in Neskaupstaður, which stands in beautiful fjord on the east coast of Iceland. It started out as a small one day metal festival on the 27th of August 2005 but has grown into a three day festival with metal, hardcore, punk, rock and indie bands sharing a stage. Eistnaflug is held annually on the second weekend of July each year. The line up usually consists of 30-40 bands and are most of them Icelandic. There are two camping sites at Eistnaflug, the Party Camp and the Family Camp. There are also hotels at Neskaupstaður, Hótel Edda, Hótel Capitano and Hótel Egilsbúð.

Nordic Music Days is the oldest ongoing collaboration among the Nordic countries: a festival for new Nordic music that was founded in 1888 and had its origins in existing musical collaboration. It is one of the oldest and best respected festivals for contemporary classical music in the world. The first true Nordic Music Days was held in Copenhagen in 1888 and its main emphasis was on instrumental and orchestral music. Nordic Music Days aims at creating a vivid festival environment with strong musical and artistic experiences as well interesting debates and close meetings between artists and audience.

INDIA

The grand parade on Rajpath in New Delhi on the 26th of January is the main event of the celebration of India's Republic Day which is a three-day celebration, culminating in the beating retreat ceremony on the evening of the 29th January. The parade showcases India's military might and cultural diversity. To mark the importance of the occasion, every year a grand parade is held in the capital, New Delhi, from the Raisina Hill near the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's Palace), along the Rajpath, past India Gate. Nine to twelve different regiments of the Indian Army in addition to the Navy, and Air Force with their bands march past in all their finery and official decorations. One of the unique sights of the parade is the camel mounted Border Security Force contingent, which is the only camel mounted military force in the world. 22 to 30 floats exhibiting the cultures of the various states and union territories of India, including floats of union ministries are in the grand parade, which is broadcast nationwide on television and radio. Comprising over 25 marching and mounted contingents, various military vehicles, 20 military bands, 30 cultural tableaux and 30 aircraft in addition to cultural performers and 1200 schoolchildren, India's Republic

Day Parade in New Delhi is the most spectacular regular parade in the world. Every part of the country is represented in the parade, which makes the Republic Day parade very popular.

Diwali popularly known as the "festival of lights," is a festival celebrated between mid-October and mid-December. For Hindus, Diwali is one of the most important festivals of the year and is celebrated in families by performing traditional activities together in their homes. Diwali involves the lighting of small clay lamps filled with oil to signify the triumph of good over evil. These lamps are kept on during the night and one's house is cleaned, both done in order to make the goddess Lakshmi feel welcome. Firecrackers are burst in order to drive away evil spirits. During Diwali, all the celebrants wear new clothes and share sweets and snacks with family members and friends. The festival starts with Dhanteras on which most Indian business communities begin their financial year. The second day of the festival, Naraka Chaturdasi, marks the vanquishing of the demon Naraka by Lord Krishna and his wife Satyabhama. Amavasya, the third day of Diwali, marks the worship of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth in her most benevolent mood, fulfilling the wishes of her devotees. It is on the fourth day of Diwali, Kartika Shudda Padyami, that Bali went to patala and took the reins of his new kingdom in there. The fifth day is referred to as Yama Dvitiya (also called Bhai Dooj), and on this day sisters invite their brothers to their homes.

Holi is a religious spring festival celebrated by Hindus, as a festival of colors. It is primarily observed in India and Nepal. The most celebrated Holi is in the Braj region, in locations connected to the Lord Krishna: Mathura, Vrindavan, Nandagaon, and Barsana, which become tourist destinations during the season of Holi. Large parts of South India, however, do not celebrate Holi with the same fervor. Every year, thousands of Hindus participate in the festival Holi. The festival has many purposes. First and foremost, it celebrates the beginning of the new season, spring. Originally, it was a festival that commemorated good harvests and the fertile land. Hindus believe it is a time of enjoying spring's abundant colors and saying farewell to winter. It also has a religious purpose, commemorating events present in Hindu mythology. During this event, participants hold a bonfire, throw colored powder at each other, and celebrate

wildly. On the first day of this festival, Hindus participate in a public bonfire. Prior to the event, men prepare for this by collecting extra wood. The fire itself is lit near midnight, as the moon rises. The main custom of Holi is the use of the colored powders and water on others. This is why Holi is given the name "Festival of Colors".

Ganesha Chaturthi also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi, is the Hindu festival celebrated on the birthday (rebirth) of Lord Ganesha, the son of Shiva and Parvati. It is believed that Lord Ganesh bestows his presence on earth for all his devotees during this festival. It is the day Shiva declared his son Ganesha as superior to all the gods, barring Vishnu, Lakshmi, Shiva and Parvati. Ganesha is widely worshipped as the god of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune and traditionally invoked at the beginning of any new venture or at the start of travel. The festival lasts for 10 days, ending on Anant Chaturdashi (fourteenth day of the waxing moon period). While celebrated all over India, it is most elaborate in Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh. Ganesh Chaturthi starts with the installation of these Ganesh statues in colorfully decorated homes and specially erected temporary structures mandapas (pandals) in every locality. Some homes buy their own small clay statue, and after 1, 3 or 11 days immerse it in a bucket or tub at home, so as not to pollute public lakes or rivers. After a few days the clay is used in the home garden.

Rock 'N India is an annual music festival organized by DNA Networks at the Palace Grounds in Bangalore. The first festival was held in 2008, with heavy metal bands such as Megadeth and Machine Head headlining. In 2011 the festival was headlined by heavy metal band Metallica. This was Metallica's first performance in India. Indian bands, Guillotine and Inner Sanctum also performed. Rock 'N India is the only music festival in India, which gives the Indian bands, a never before opportunity to perform in front of a large audiences alongside international artists. The 2012 edition of the festival is scheduled to take place on 20th October, and will be headlined by American thrash metal band Slayer. The Opening Acts are not yet confirmed as of now. The organizers announced that Carlos Santana will be performing on October 26th as part of the festival.

INDONESIA

Java Rockin'land is a 3-day rock festival held each year in the lakeside of Carnival Beach, Ancol Dreamland, Jakarta. It has become the biggest rock festival in Southeast Asia. The festival fosters cross-cultural cooperation to allow wider opportunity especially for the younger generation to enjoy world-quality entertainment. In addition, it aims to enhance the country's image and demonstrate to the world that Indonesia is a safe place to visit, promote music and tourism industry, and provide Jakarta with an event that strengthens its identity as a metropolitan city. The news of the festival's lineup each year is always one of the most-anticipated musical events on the calendar. With 10 different stages showcasing a variety of musical styles, there is a wealth of bands and musicians, both local and foreign, for fans to watch every year. Previous festivals have included former alternative-rock titans the Smashing Pumpkins, Australian garage rockers Wolfmother and The Vines, as well as successful British act Stereophonics, among many others.

The three day festival is one of the largest jazz festivals in the world and arguably the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere, held in Jakarta, Indonesia. The annual jazz festival is held in the first week of March and is designed to be one of the largest jazz festivals globally. While jazz is the festival's main theme, artists performing on the 15 stages across the venue present various music styles to cater to the different taste of the

large audience, creating an overall "jazzy" ambience. Jazz is the unifying factor to the cross-genre acts presented, including R&B, pop, rock, latin, hip hop, rap, reggae, ethnic, gospel, electro, etc. Aside from having world icons and established names, the festival is a showcase of capable, high potential musicians from different countries and diverse cultures who are not yet well known globally. Emerging artists can take advantage of this festival to demonstrate their talents, gain experience and recognition, develop network and business relationship.

Jakarta International Java SoulNation Festival is dedicated to the rhymes, beats and tunes of soul, hip hop, R&B and rap. The festival combines a range of fun attractions and activities and presents an array of talents, from both Indonesia and abroad. The festival fosters cross-cultural cooperation to allow wider opportunity especially for the younger generation to enjoy world-quality entertainment. The festival fosters cross-cultural cooperation to allow wider opportunity especially for the younger generation to enjoy world-quality entertainment. In addition, it aims to enhance the country's image and demonstrate to the world that Indonesia is a safe place to visit, promote music and tourism industry, and provide Jakarta with an event that strengthens its identity as a metropolitan city.

Jakarta Fair is a fair held annually in Jakarta International Expo (JIE) Kemayoran, Jakarta, Indonesia, in June and July. It features exhibitions, trade promotions, shopping, music performances, various shows, amusement rides and a food festival. The fair is meant to celebrate the anniversary of Jakarta. The Jakarta Fair sees exhibitors from across the country display a whole range of goods and products ranging from specialty food items to traditional handmade arts and crafts. In addition to the many exhibitors, there is also live entertainment including music, dance and cultural performances.

The Bali Kite Festival is an annual international kite festival held in July in Padang Galak area, Sanur Beach, Bali. A gamelan orchestra plays music throughout the festival. The festival attracts many tourists and international kitefliers, along with many local spectators. Traditional giant kites are made and flown competitively by teams from the villages of Denpasar. The event is a seasonal religious festival intended to

send a message to the Hindu Gods to create abundant crops and harvests. Bebean (fish-shaped), Janggan (bird-shaped) and Pecukan (leaf-shaped) are three traditional kites flown during this kite festival. The Bebean is the largest kite, and looks like a broad-mouthed, split-tailed fish. Each type of traditional kite has its own competition, with heats of 10 teams vying for the best launch and longest flight.

The BaliSpirit Festival has evolved into South East Asia's most popular Yoga, dance, and world music festival. The annual event now takes part over five days and four nights and involves a series of daytime workshops and master classes and nighttime concerts held at two venues. Set in the spectacular grounds of the Purnati Center for the Arts in Batuan, just 10 minutes south of Ubud, the daytime workshops and Dharma Fair enjoy a venue unmatched for its tropical beauty and gentle energy. The global music concerts take place in Ubud, at the Agung Rai Museum of Art's outdoor stage, to allow easy access for visitors and locals. This unique series of concerts features and knits together the distinctive traditional rhythms of Africa, Indonesia and Australia with the contemporary music of the rest of the world. The BaliSpirit Festival is indeed a celebration of the richness of culture, the sanctity of the environment and harmony between people of all nations.

IRELAND

Saint Patrick's Day is a cultural and religious holiday celebrated on 17 March. It is a public holiday in Ireland. It commemorates Saint Patrick the most commonly recognised of the patron saints of Ireland, and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. Saint Patrick's Day was made an official feast day in the early seventeenth century, and has gradually become a celebration of Irish culture in general. The day is generally characterised by the attendance of church services, wearing of green attire, public parades and processions, and the lifting of Lenten restrictions on eating, and drinking alcohol, which is often proscribed during the rest of the season. As well as Dublin, many other cities, towns, and villages in Ireland hold their own parades and festivals, including Cork, Belfast, Derry, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick, and Waterford. The biggest celebrations outside Dublin are in Downpatrick, County Down, where Saint Patrick is rumoured to be buried.

Galway Arts Festival is an annual arts festival that takes place each July in Galway, Ireland. It is Ireland's leading arts festival and one of the most successful and influential arts enterprises in the country. It enjoys an international reputation for innovation and excellence. Galway Arts Festival is an international celebration of the performing and visual arts and an important showcase for Irish arts and international arts. Over 150,000 people attend Festival annually with hundreds of writers, artists,

performers and musicians creating theatre, spectacle, street art, music, comedy, literature and music. The cultural activity and celebration lasts for a fortnight. The Festival creates a huge impact on Galway and remains at the heart of many aspects of life in the city, steering it to its current standing as one of the leading centres for the arts in Ireland.

Electric Picnic is an annual arts-and-music festival which has been staged since 2004 at Stradbally Hall in Stradbally, County Laois, Ireland. It was voted Best Medium-Sized European Festival at the 2010 European Festival Awards, and has been voted Best Big Festival at each of the last four Irish Festival Awards since they began in 2007. Electric Picnic differs from other festivals in Ireland in that the music choice is more eclectic than the other mainstream events and there is more emphasis on quality festival services (such as food and sleeping arrangements) and a generally more positive and relaxed atmosphere. There is also an emphasis on eco-friendly initiatives. The festival also incorporates other attractions such as the 24-hour cinema tent, the Body and Soul arena (offering an ambient lounge with beanbags, massages and tarot card readings) and the International Comedy Tent.

Live at the Marquee is an annual music festival which takes place in Cork, Ireland during the summer, usually over multiple days in June and July. The first event occurred in 2005 when Cork was the official European Capital of Culture. The festival consists of a number of separate events each headlined by a different artist and each with their own ticket prices. It has attracted many well-known names in the music industry to perform including Kanye West, Elton John, Anastacia, 50 Cent, Diana Ross, Bob Dylan, Faithless, Roger Waters, Christy Moore, Al Green, Eric Clapton, Lou Reed, Jay-Z, Morrissey, Neil Young, Paul Simon, Brian Wilson, Lady Gaga, Jessie J, Olly Murs, Steps and Meat Loaf.

Oxegen is an annual rock music festival in Ireland, first held from 2004–2011. The event is regularly cited as Ireland's biggest music festival. Oxegen was originally a three-day festival but, from 2008 onwards, was expanded to four days. It takes place at the Punchestown Racecourse in County Kildare, Ireland and has an average

attendance of around 60,000 a day. Members of bands such as The Killers, Snow Patrol and R.E.M. have spoken positively of their experiences at the festival.

The National Ploughing Championships of Ireland take place each year in the month of September. The first inter-county Ploughing contest took place in 1931 as a result of an argument between two lifelong friends, Denis Allen of Gorey, County Wexford and JJ Bergin of Athy, County Kildare. Each argued that their respective counties had the best ploughmen. This resulted in a challenge being called for. Since then, the National Ploughing Championships has grown in size, year on year. It has expanded from requiring a small field of 26 acres to needing over 700 acres of land today. Within this, the site now requires 220 acres for ploughing, 80 acres for trade stands and exhibition space, 400 acres of car parking and a demonstration area of approximately 25 acres. Since its inception, the National Ploughing Championships has become much more than just an annual inter-county competition; it has become an intrinsic part of Irish rural life. The National Championships is now no longer just for ploughing or machinery enthusiasts, the modern event now features something for just about every member of the community. These include a Tented Trade Village, a Food Fair, Craft Village, Livestock, Forestry, Education, Lifestyle, Financial Services, Bio Energy and Agri Service. Along with this, there are many entertainment and special events taking place. Some of these include: Fashion Shows, Celebrity Guests, Sheep Dog Trials, Loy Digging, All Ireland Lamb Shearing, Most Appropriately Dressed Lady & Gent Competitions, Craft Demonstrations, Meggers, Celebrity Cookery Demonstrations, Outdoor Radio Broadcasts and much more.

ISRAEL

The Jerusalem Festival of Light is an annual arts festival held every summer since 2009 in Jerusalem. The festival displays the work of leading international artists who use light and colour as their creative material. More than 250,000 visitors viewed the light show in 2011. In 2012 the show was extended into the city's Muslim quarter for the first time, it was located on Rehov Hagay, the commercial street leading into the Old City from the Damascus Gate. The Festival of Light in the Old City provides through the use of light a dramatic and artistic dimension to the Old City's nights. From the illumination of architecture to light statues, the festival is a public and family oriented celebration that artists from different fields partake in. Special attention is put on the sensibilities surrounding the Old City, as a Holy place for Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The Red Sea Jazz Festival is a jazz festival held annually in Eilat, Israel. This year, while carrying on its tradition inviting prominent Jazz legends to perform in the Eilat Port it also creates a platform for emerging local artists promoting innovative and rejuvenating approaches. It also provides a venue for collaborative efforts, with special productions exclusive to the festival. Every day at 7pm, as the Red Sea Jazz Festival opens, you are invited to enjoy a free show bringing to stage the best up-and-coming

Israeli Jazz bands. The festival's program offers 3 daily shows per venue featuring 20 international and local ensembles, altogether 40 shows over four days.

Boombamela is a festival held annually located on the sandy beach of Hof Nitzanim, between Ashdod and Ashkelon. It is described by its organisers as "a place for meeting, experiencing, crossing borders and transcending social limitations through music, creation, and connection with nature". Over the years, the festival has risen in popularity and prominence and is now perhaps the most notorious of Israel's festivals. More and more foreigners have taken note of the festival in recent years. The festival grounds are divided into villages where people may rest and listen to spiritual teachings and areas for performance and camping. There are also restaurants, shops and bathroom and shower facilities. For socialising, there are many chai (tea) shops, where chai is sold and pillows for sitting provided. There are organized bus services from all over Israel to Tel Aviv specially, and from there, organized bus rides to Hof Nitzanim. The festival features many performing bands on several sound stages, during the day as well the night, and dance clubs which operate around the clock. A great variety of music genres can be heard at the festival, including reggae, trance, hip-hop, Indian Ragas, and rock.

Acre Festival of Alternative Israeli Theatre is a four-day performing arts festival held annually in the city of Acre, Israel during the Intermediate Days of the Sukkot holiday in early autumn. The festival features a competition for original plays premiering at the Festival, along with offerings of local and foreign theatre troupes, street theatre and open-air performances, a concert stage, artisans' displays, workshops, projects and a conference. The majority of the Festival's plays come from outside the mainstream of establishment Israeli theatre. Some combine media and genres such as pantomime, clowning, video, dance, and performance art rarely seen in the conventional theatre. Many are staged in historic venues within the Old City of Acre, such as its Crusader-era citadel and knights' halls that have undergone conservation.

During Hebrew Book Week, outdoor book fairs are held all over the country and publishing companies sell their books at a discount. Bookstores in Israel typically offer sales during this time which can last up to a month. In recent years, Hebrew Book

Week has been extended to ten days. In addition to book sales, a variety of literary events are held during Book Week, such as get-togethers with authors and public readings. The award ceremony for the Sapir Prize take place during Hebrew Book Week. There is also a heightened level of attention paid to literature in the media. Venues in Jerusalem have included the Israel Museum, Liberty Bell Park, Safra Square and the old Jerusalem Railway Station. The fair in Tel Aviv takes places at Rabin Square.

Israel Festival is a multidisciplinary arts festival held every spring in Israel. The Israel Festival started in 1961 as a summer festival for classical music in the ancient Roman theater in Caesarea. Throughout the festival, audiences are able to enjoy performances by artists from all over the world, as well as premieres of Israeli works and tributes to leading Israeli artists. Throughout the years the festival grew in the number of art disciplines and activity centers with recent festivals including classical music, ballet, jazz, theater, visual arts and lectures, combining high quality programs from Israel and abroad. From 1982 onwards the Israel Festival was adopted by the City of Jerusalem and most shows are held within its boundaries. Some of the shows are offered free. Street performances and special performances for children are also part of the festival.

ITALY

The Carnivals an annual festival, held in Venice, Italy. The Carnival ends with Lent, forty days before Easter on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. Masks have always been a main feature of the Venetian carnival. The first documented sources mentioning the use of masks in Venice can be found as far back as the 13th century. Venetian masks can be made in leather, porcelain or with the original glass technique. The original masks were rather simple in design, decoration, and often had a symbolic and practical function. Today most of them are made with the application of gesso and gold leaf and are all hand-painted using natural feathers and gems to decorate.

The Roma Jazz Festival is a jazz event in the city of Rome, Italy. The Festival is organized by the International Music Festival Foundation. Roma Jazz Festival, one of the most important events on the international scene, chooses every year a different theme and features big events to bring prestige to the whole festival. Over the years, through the selection of new artist and musicians, the festival has focused on and voiced two central themes: The Great Jazz Cultural Expression of the 900's and Jazz as Ecumenical Music so that, by way of the common language of music, the festival has united humankind around the world. The Roma Jazz Festival has presented its listeners more than 900 concerts during its 33 annual celebrations, with a total attendance of one

million people. Still today, the artist involved in this festival are among the most revered Italian and International interpreters of this music genre.

Verona Arena Festival is a summer festival of opera, located in the city of Verona Italy. Opera performances are given in Arena di Verona, an ancient Roman amphitheatre, which was capable of holding 30,000 spectators. Performances traditionally begin at dusk and spectators on the stone seats of the arena bring small candles (the "mocoletto") which are lit as darkness falls and the performances begin. Many singers made their names and careers by performing at Verona. In 1929 Beniamino Gigli thrilled audiences with his appearances in Flotow's *Martha*. Between 1947 and 1954 Maria Callas was a regular after creating a sensation in Ponchielli's *La Gioconda*. Dance and classic concert performances have also been given in the Arena. Classical ballets and traditional dances from all over the world have been seen.

Heineken Jammin' Festival is a large live rock festival in Venice, Italy featuring international and Italian rock acts. It started in mid-June 1998 at the Imola Autodrome and has attracted attendances of more than 100,000 over the course of the three day event. Some of the featured acts have included Vasco Rossi, Depeche Mode, R.E.M., Robbie Williams, 30 Seconds to Mars, Lacuna Coil, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Garbage, Bon Jovi, Metallica, Iron Maiden, Marilyn Manson, Santana, Pixies, Lenny Kravitz, The Cure, and Chemical Brothers.

The Venice International Film Festival is the oldest international film festival in the world. The festival takes place every year in late August or early September on the island of the Lido, Venice, Italy. In 2012 the 69th festival took place from 29 August to 8 September. The aim of the Festival is to raise awareness and promote all the various aspects of international cinema in all its forms: as art, entertainment and as an industry, in a spirit of freedom and tolerance. The Festival includes retrospectives and homages to major figures as a contribution towards raising awareness of the history of cinema. Screenings take place in the historic Palazzo del Cinema on the Lungomare Marconi and in other venues nearby. It is one of the world's most prestigious film festivals and is part of the Venice Biennale. Screenings take place in the historic

Palazzo del Cinema on the Lungomare Marconi and in other venues nearby. It is one of the world's most prestigious film festivals and is part of the Venice Biennale.

Asti's Festival of Festivals is a great food and wine national event that takes place in Asti on the second Sunday of September. The festival holds a colorful procession that winds through the streets of the city, with more than three thousand characters with authentic period costumes, tractors and farming tools, which represent the values and traditions of the rural tradition of the province. The parade is the fixed date each year for those who want to enjoy the taste of the simple things of the past, the characters that keep the campaign alive in the history of the customs that have their roots in these hills. The show is undoubtedly the most spectacular and exciting festival, which anticipates the great gastronomic festival which will run from noon until evening. There are more than 3000 characters with authentic clothing of the early decades of the '900, tools and work tools, furnishings, furniture and fixtures of all kinds, hot-headed old tractors and agricultural machines that have marked the history of campaigns, 250 wagons pulled by tractors and old home zoo with a diverse oxen, horses, mules, donkeys and other animals that are taken for a day to parade through the streets of the city.

The Carnival of Viareggio is a carnival event yearly held in the Tuscan city of Viareggio, in Italy. It is considered amongst the most renowned carnival celebrations in both Italy and Europe. Its main characteristic is given by the parade of floats and masks, usually made of paper-pulp, depicting caricatures of popular people, such as politicians, showmen and sportsmen; the parade is held on the Viareggio avenue located alongside the local beach. These floats are true works of art to which the local float makers dedicate an entire year of workmanship. On every float young people and children find a place from which to throw confetti and shooting stars to the crowd. During the entire period masked balls and parties in the various "rioni" (quarters, districts) are organized as well as numerous sports and cultural events.

JAPAN

New Year observances are the most elaborate of Japan's annual events. At midnight on December 31, Buddhist temples all over Japan ring their bells a total of 108 times to symbolize the 108 human sins in Buddhist belief, and to get rid of the 108 worldly desires regarding sense and feeling in every Japanese citizen. Osechi foods are traditional foods which are chosen for their lucky colors, shapes, or lucky-sounding names in hopes of obtaining good luck in various areas of life during the new year. Homes are decorated and the holidays are celebrated by family gatherings, visits to temples or shrines, and formal calls on relatives and friends. The first day of the year (ganjitsu) is usually spent with members of the family. In the Imperial Palace at dawn on the 1st, the Emperor performs the rite of shihōhai (worship of the four quarters), in which he offers prayers for the well-being of the nation. On January 2 the public is allowed to enter the inner palace grounds; the only other day this is possible is the Emperor's birthday (December 23). On the 2nd and 3rd days acquaintances visit one another to extend greetings (nenshi) and sip otoso (a spiced rice wine). Some games played at New Year's are karuta (a card game), hanetsuki (similar to badminton), tako age (kiteflying), and komamawashi (spinning tops).

Various flower festivals are held at Shinto shrines during the month of April. Excursions and picnics for enjoying flowers, particularly cherry blossoms are also common, as well as many drinking parties often to be seen in and around auspicious

parks and buildings. This is one of the most popular events during spring. The subject of flower viewing has long held an important place in literature, dance and the fine arts. Ikebana (flower arrangement) is also a popular part of Japanese culture and is still practiced by many people today. Some main things people do during this event are: games, folk songs, folk dance, flower displays, rides, parades, concerts, kimono shows, booths with food and other things, beauty pageant, and religious ceremonies.

Bon Festival is a Buddhist observance honoring the spirits of ancestors. Among the traditional preparations for the ancestors' return are the cleaning of grave sites and preparing a path from them to the house and the provision of straw horses or oxen for the ancestors' transportation. Small paper lanterns containing a burning flame are either set afloat to a river, lake or sea or they are let go and float away into the night. This marks the end of of the Bon Festival. Their light is intended to guide the way for deceased family members' spirits. Usually the person who lets the lantern go will write a message on the side. The white lanterns are for those who have died in the past year. Traditional Japanese beliefs state that humans come from water, so the lanterns represent their bodies returning to water.

Fuji Rock Festival is an annual rock festival held in Naeba Ski Resort, in Niigata Prefecture, Japan. The 3 day event, organized by Smash Japan, features more than 200 Japanese and international musicians, making it the largest outdoor music event in Japan. There are seven main stages and other minor stages scattered throughout the site. The Green stage is the main stage and it has a capacity for almost 50,000 spectators. Other stages include the White Stage, the Red Marquee, Orange Court, and Field of Heaven. The hub of the site is called Oasis where more than 30 food stalls from around the world gather. The night before the festival features an opening party which is free entry, featuring bon-odori (traditional Japanese folk dance), prize draws, food stalls and a fireworks display.

The Summer Sonic Festival is an annual two or three-days rock festival held at the same time in Osaka and Chiba. The majority of the bands playing in Osaka the first day go to Chiba the following day and vice versa. The Summer Sonic Festival is an annual two or three-days rock festival held at the same time in Osaka and Chiba. The

majority of the bands playing in Osaka the first day go to Chiba the following day and vice versa.

Culture Day is a national holiday held annually in Japan on November 3 for the purpose of promoting culture, the arts, and academic endeavour. Festivities typically include art exhibitions, parades, and award ceremonies for distinguished artists and scholars. As Culture Day exists to promote the arts and various fields of academic endeavor, local and prefectural governments typically choose this day to hold art exhibits, culture festivals, and parades. For example, Hakone in Kanagawa Prefecture holds the annual Feudal Lord's Parade to exhibit Edo Period clothing and costumes.

Newport Jazz Festival in Madarao was an annual jazz festival held in summer, July and August at Madarao, Nagano Prefecture, Japan. The several-day festival featured musicians from Japan and overseas performing on different stages. Live under the sky (established in 1977), Newport Jazz Festival in Madarao (established in 1982) and Mount Fuji Jazz Festival (established in 1986) are the big 3 jazz festival in the history of jazz in Japan.

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