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CDF Music Legacy Introduces New French Unit at the 2005 Congrès de l'American Association of Teachers of French Convention in Québec City, Canada

CDF Music Legacy LLC spokesperson, Connie Fredericks-Malone, announced the introduction of their newest French language unit for American students.

"Now that students are engaged through the visual medium of music videos in ***Tant Qu'Elle Chante, Elle Vit!***," said Ms. Fredericks-Malone, "teachers can enhance their students' cultural appreciation and comprehension of French with ***Couleurs et parfums... Apprendre le français grâce à l'héritage de Carole Fredericks***."

The ***Couleurs et parfums... Apprendre le français grâce à l'héritage de Carole Fredericks*** unit is designed to reinforce the students' listening comprehension, language usage and pronunciation by using the music recorded by the late singer, Carole Fredericks. The unit consists of a **CD** and **Activity Book**. CDF partnered with Tralco Educational Services of Canada to develop the lessons for the Activity Book that accompanies Ms. Fredericks 1999 French language solo CD of the same name.

All the lessons are based on the music of **Carole Fredericks**, an African-American singer who emigrated to France 1979. From humble beginnings in Western Massachusetts, Carole Fredericks evolved into a consummate performer, humanitarian and citizen of the world. A native of Springfield, MA, Carole Fredericks had limited exposure to French in this country, and yet she mastered the language and could sing in French as if it were her first language. An accomplished singer who first found fame as a member of the trio ***Fredericks Goldman Jones***, and later in a solo career, Ms. Fredericks rose to musical fame in both Europe and Africa. She was a generous woman who gave her time and talent to humanitarian causes including, but not limited to, *Les Enfoirés*, *Les restos du coeur*, *Amnesty International*, *Make-A-Wish Foundation* and *International Women's Day*. Her desire to better the plight of the homeless, hungry, battered, and ill won her a special place in the hearts of Europeans and Africans. Ms. Fredericks' untimely death in 2001 came after performing a benefit concert in Dakar, Senegal.

In May 2002, the Fredericks family (including Ms. Fredericks-Malone and her brother, blues icon, Taj Mahal) established CDF Music Legacy, LLC, (www.cdfmusiclegacy.com) a family company dedicated to preserving their late sister's legacy. CDF Music Legacy secured the world rights to her recordings. By 2004, the albums were made available in the United States exclusively through the online merchant CDBaby.com (www.cdbaby.com).

In tribute to her memory, Carole Fredericks' biography, recordings and music videos were transformed into ***Tant Qu'Elle Chante, Elle Vit!***, ***Apprendre le français grâce à l'héritage de Carole Fredericks***, the first French language unit published by CDF Music Legacy. The unit, six music videos (VHS tape or DVD format) and lessons contained in a workbook, was introduced at the American Association of Teachers (AATF) of French Convention in Martinique, July 2003.

“Since it’s introduction in 2003, upwards of 600 high schools and 45 colleges and universities have added the **TANT QU’ELLE CHANTE, ELLE VIT!** unit to their French curriculum,” says Fredericks-Malone. “Students find the music engaging, and they are inspired by Carole’s life in France. Teachers love the cultural richness of the music videos, which are classroom appropriate. **TANT QU’ELLE CHANTE, ELLE VIT!** continues to successfully help thousands of students learn French in an innovative way”, says Fredericks-Malone.

In late 2004, CDF Music Legacy joined forces with Tralco Educational Services to develop an Activity Book for the **Couleurs et parfums Apprendre le français grâce à l’héritage de Carole Fredericks** unit. The **Activity Book** contains reproducible exercises for each song and includes the lyrics. Each lesson explores vocabulary and offers interpretive, analytical and presentational assignments. The songs and activities are appropriate for all age groups and can be adapted to different class levels.

The **CD** is an upbeat blend of rap, and rhythm & blues inspired songs delivered in Ms Fredericks’ beautiful voice with superb articulation. It contains eleven songs from the original album with two song changes. First, the English language version of **Vain** was replaced by the French adaptation entitled **Veille**. Next, the selection **Personne ne saurait** was lifted from Carole’s 1999 live concert at *l’Auditorium Saint-Germain-des-Près* in Paris. Ms Fredericks sings with song writer Jacques Veneruso and background vocalist Yvonne Jones on the live performance recording. These two necessary changes serve to accentuate the authenticity of the album content. The remaining roster of songs include **Qu’est-ce qui t’amène, J’ai le sang blues, Respire, Le prix à payer, Mighty Love, Au bout de mes rêves, Ecope, Tu es là** and **Kaai Djallema** (Time After Time, duet/Wolof and English). The CD is conveniently housed in a plastic sleeve on the inside back cover of the unit Activity Book.

Couleurs et parfums Apprendre le français grâce à l’héritage de Carole Fredericks is available exclusively from **Tralco-Lingo Fun** on the web at <http://www.tralco.com> or by calling the toll-free number 1-888-487-2526.

CDF Music Legacy’s stated mission is to support young people as they learn the French language and to encourage them to explore the diverse francophone countries such as France, Canada, Martinique, Haiti, Guadeloupe, St Martin, French Guiana, Belgium, Switzerland, West Africa, North Africa, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. The company’s commitment is to provide the best authentic French language materials at affordable prices for students, individual teachers and schools systems. The units cost between \$45 and \$55 each.

“Carole’s journey in France is a wonderful example of cultural assimilation and human achievement. Students of French respond immediately to her story. When they find out she was an American who learned the language at a later stage in life, they are hooked. For many teachers that is the point when the class begins,” says Connie Fredericks-Malone with a smile. “My brothers and I inherited a treasure trove of authentic materials from Carole that will allow us to meet CDF’s goals for years to come. That is her legacy,” said Ms. Fredericks-Malone, “and Carole would be pleased to know her life is remembered in this way.”

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