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**77th WORLD CONGRESS OF FRENCH TEACHERS
TO HIGHLIGHT MUSIC OF BLACK AMERICAN SINGER**

Thousands of language teachers representing 120 countries including the United States, will convene in Atlanta, GA July 19-23 for the 77th World Congress of French Teachers. The conference is a combined meeting of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) and the International Federation of French Teachers. The conference will encourage dialogue about the present status of the French language. Workshops will cover a broad spectrum of subjects pertaining to diverse language policies, pedagogical and methodological, and global uses of the French language.

One workshop will feature the music of recording artist, Carole Fredericks, to demonstrate the use of music videos in the classroom to enhance language learning. Fredericks' biography, recordings and videos were transformed into a language program, perhaps the first of its kind, a year after her death. What makes this program relevant to the conference's focus is that Carole Fredericks is a Black American who emigrated to France in 1979. Although French was not her native tongue, Fredericks mastered the language and then became a renowned recording artist in the French-speaking world. She sang with leading Francophone artists – Johnny Hallyday, Mylene Farmer, Celine Dione and Jean-Jacques Goldman. Fredericks lived in Paris and for more than 22 years she was an icon in French pop music. When she succumbed to a heart attack in 2001, the French Ministry of Culture insisted Fredericks be buried with other luminaries in historic Cimetere de Montmartre, not far from her home in the 18th district.

"We developed a formal language program, TANT QU'ELLE CHANTE, ELLE VIT: apprendre le francais grace a l'heritage de Carole Fredericks as a tribute to her," says Connie Fredericks-Malone, Carole Frederick's only surviving sister. "The title is very significant, it translates to - As Long As She Sings, She Lives: learn French through the legacy of Carole Fredericks," continues Fredericks-Malone.

Fredericks-Malone and three brothers, one of whom is grammy award-winning blues musician Taj Mahal, established CDF Music Legacy, LLC to preserve Carole's memory.

"Our goal is to use Carole's accomplishments to promote the learning of French, especially to children of color". Tant Qu'Elle Chante, Elle Vit! combines culture and language in a fun and interesting format for students," she continues.

The program, a joint venture of AATF and CDF Music Legacy, includes six music videos and a teacher's manual featuring des exercices pedagogiques. The lesson plans, questions, and activities were written by Nancy Gadbois, master French teacher and Language Department Chairperson in Springfield, MA. Gadbois serves on the Board of Directors for the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL). She is a veteran member of AATF and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

"I've used music videos in my lessons and find the clips fuel my class-work," says Gadbois. "The music videos allow me to engage my students at their level of interest - popular music and video entertainment," Gadbois continues.

The program is designed for students in grades 7 through 12 and on the post-secondary level.

Fredericks-Malone and Gadbois attend foreign language conferences across the U.S instructing

teachers on the use of contemporary music, music videos and new technologies to teach French. The Music of Carole Fredericks: A Permanent Answer To the Challenge of Diversity In the French Language is scheduled for the 2004 World Congress.

“Carole embodies the very essence of French language globalization and cultural exchange,” says Fredericks-Malone. “At one point or another most of the conference participants have heard her voice in popular French songs. Carole presents the Francophone world as it really is – multi-ethnic, contemporary and fun.”

To learn more about Tant Qu’Elle Chante, Elle Vit! visit: <http://www.tralco.com> About An Author. To order the program visit AATF web site: <http://www.frenchteachers.org>. Recordings by Carole Fredericks are available at: <http://www.cdbaby.com>. Write to Connie Fredericks-Malone c/o CDF Music Legacy, LLC, 201 Park Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

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