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FIRST-EVER GLOBALFEST TOUR BRINGS CARNIVAL TO WILSON CENTER

Eclectic line-up features Emeline Michel, Brushy One String, and Casuarina

Brookfield, WI (March 4, 2016) As the dark days of winter give way to spring, global music lovers throughout the Greater Milwaukee area will have a chance to celebrate “fusions both geographical and temporal” (*The New York Times*) with the first North American tour of [globalFEST: Creole Carnival](#) at Brookfield’s Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (Wilson Center) on Saturday, Mar. 19, at 8:00 p.m.



With the 2016 international globalFEST line-up, Wilson Center audiences will experience a no-holds-barred soiree where magic and religious fervor intersect, featuring the reigning queen of Haitian song, [Emeline Michel](#), Rio’s innovative samba master [Casuarina](#), and Jamaica’s one-stringed guitar virtuoso [Brushy One String](#). A complimentary pre-show event beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Wilson Center’s Kuttemperoor Grand Hall will include performances from [Panadanza Dance Company](#) and [Wisconsin Conservatory of Music’s Samba la Vida drum group](#). Tickets for globalFEST range from \$42-\$73 and may be purchased through the Wilson Center Box Office at 262-781-9250 or online at wilson-center.com.

Proclaimed by the *Haitian Times* an “all-time favorite artist,” Michel combines traditional Haitian rhythms and acoustic jazz with social, political, and inspirational messages, in spirited songs that capture the reverence and gratitude for each moment. Her warm voice, captivating live performances, and moving compositions have made her one of the leading ladies of a unique wave of Haitian, emphasizing a broad palette of musical styles, including Haitian *compas*, *twoubadou*, and *rara*.

Born a dozen years ago in Lapa, a hip yet gritty bohemian Rio neighborhood, Casuarina is part of a samba renaissance that has spread like wildfire in recent years. In addition to their own compositions, the five-piece member group creates original and sophisticated arrangements of classics, often drawing on the work and spirit of chorinho and of MPB, Brazil’s wildly creative popular music.

Rural Jamaican musician Brushy One String (born Andrew Chin) has a seemingly innate ability to inspire even casual listeners—including millions of people who have watched and shared Brushy's videos on YouTube. The veteran musician evokes the sweetness of soul singers and the grit and wit of Delta bluesmen, all woven together with a Jamaican pulse and ingenuity that shows that the island's music is about far more than reggae.

Over the past decade, globalFEST has become one of the most dynamic global music platforms in North America. What started in New York as a creatively curated bright spot for global music lovers has grown into an international brand, building audiences for world music with stages at SXSW, Bonnaroo, and beyond.

"We founded it in 2003—this was still during the early wake of 9/11, and the drums of war were sounding, and with that, we saw a rising sense of xenophobia," said Bill Bragin, co-producer of globalFest, in the *Wall Street Journal*. "So we also wanted to make a positive stand to support international cultural exchange and a more global perspective."

Partnering with CAMI Music for this first tour across North America, Creole Carnival honors the roots of African musical currents, crossed with a fusion of sounds from the Americas, and revolving around Carnival, the pre-Lent festival celebrated globally that is everyone's favorite excuse for a party. From Brazil—the superpower of celebration—to Haiti and Jamaica, each country has its own rich traditions for music, dancing, costumes, and cutting loose.

GlobalFest: Creole Carnival will be presented as part of the Wilson Center's 2015-2016 Performing Arts Series, which is sponsored by Krause Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Enterforce, and Godfrey & Kahn S.C.

Images and bios of all artists are available upon request. A globalFEST Creole Carnival promo video may be viewed online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=nyZYPOfRv6I.

About the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is Southeast Wisconsin's premiere, non-profit, multi-disciplinary cultural arts center that presents performances by world-renowned artists and ensembles; offers arts education opportunities; curates the Ploch Art Gallery, which features both national and Wisconsin-based fine artists; and is committed to extending the arts beyond the walls of the Center through Lynn Chappy ArtsPark—a vibrant, outdoor sculpture landscape that will engage and inspire the broader Southeastern Wisconsin Community. In August, the annual Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival celebrates the world's leading classical, rock/blues, jazz, and fingerstyle guitarists. The Center nurtures lifelong learning through innovative programs and classes for all interests, ages, and abilities in state-of-the-art studios and classrooms. Some of Southeast Wisconsin's finest arts organizations offer professional instruction at the Wilson Center, including First Stage Theater Academy, Trinity Irish Dancers, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. To learn more, visit www.wilson-center.com.

About globalFEST

Over the last decade, globalFEST (gF) has become one of the most dynamic global music platforms in North America, growing from an acclaimed festival/showcase into a catalytic non-profit service organization for curators, artists, and the performing arts field. Through its work, gF encourages networking and cultural diplomacy; deepens cultural understanding among its constituents; builds audiences for international music and creates new opportunities for artists leading to a more robust and sustainable ecosystem for world music in the United States. Artists that participate in gF programs represent diverse musical styles from all corners of the globe, ranging from traditional to contemporary, and everything in between. Programs include: the gF Touring Fund, which provides direct support to artists to develop new markets; gF On the Road, a tour that brings creatively programmed lineups to venues nationwide; and guest curating in both commercial and performing arts settings, including such influential events as SXSW, Bonnaroo, Lincoln Center and beyond, that serves to raise the profile and visibility of the artists gF works with, and world music overall. To learn more, visit <http://globalfest.org/>.

About the Artists

Brushy One-String

One night, rural Jamaican musician Brushy One String (born Andrew Chin) dreamed of the guitar under his bed. He knew, suddenly, that if he picked it up and dedicated himself to playing it, he'd get to see the world. The instrument in question—a battered but resonant acoustic guitar—had only one string. That didn't stop Brushy, the son of a musical family with a hardscrabble past, and his dream has come true. He has a seemingly innate ability to inspire even casual listeners—including millions of people who have watched and shared Brushy's videos on YouTube (his *Chicken In the Corn* video has almost eight million views). The veteran musician evokes the sweetness of soul singers like Percy Sledge, Al Green, Toots Hibbert of Toots & the Maytals, and the grit and wit of Delta bluesmen, all woven together with a Jamaican pulse and ingenuity that shows that the island's music is about far more than reggae. Heartfelt blues combine with dancehall-style vocals, and uplifting, catchy ballads channel a soulful intensity and profound faith. To learn more, visit <http://brushyonestring.com/>.

Casuarina

Samba is more of a musical family than a specific genre, rich in different accents, both familiar and unfamiliar to American audiences, including the bossa nova, samba from Bahia, and the Afro-Brazilian rhythms of the Nordeste. The music of Casuarina incorporates all of them, while flirting with pop and urban music. Born a dozen years ago in Lapa, a hip yet gritty bohemian Rio neighborhood, the five-piece member group is part of a samba renaissance that has spread like wildfire in recent years. In addition to their own compositions, Casuarina creates original and sophisticated arrangements of classics, often drawing on the work and spirit of chorinho and of MPB, Brazil's wildly creative popular music. This, too, runs in the family: vocalist João Cavalcanti is the son of an equally innovative musician, Lenine. To learn more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/casuarinaoficial>.

Emeline Michel

The reigning queen of Haitian song, Emeline Michel combines traditional Haitian rhythms and acoustic jazz with social, political, and inspirational messages, in spirited songs that capture the reverence and gratitude for each moment. Her warm voice, captivating live performances, and moving compositions have made her one of the leading ladies of a unique wave of Haitian musicians who emerged in the 1980s and emphasized complex themes, conscious lyrics, and a broad palette of musical styles, including Haitian *compas*, *twoubadou*, and *rara*. Born in the northern city of Gonaïves, she first sang gospel as a young woman, before leaving home for Detroit and then France and Canada, where she mastered jazz and pop forms. As a performer, she has graced some of the Caribbean, Europe, and North and South America's most respected stages. In English, French, and Haitian Kreyol, her ten albums have catapulted her to international acclaim. *The New York Times* has compared her to "an island goddess", and *Haitian Times* proclaims her an "all-time favorite artist." Michel now resides in New York City. To learn more, visit <http://www.emeline-michel.com/>.

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