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FREE DAILY PERFORMANCES OFFERED AMONG THE BLOSSOMS AT TIDAL BASIN WELCOME AREA AND ANA PERFORMANCE STAGE

Washington, DC [March 1, 2018] – The National Cherry Blossom Festival will offer free daily performances, educational programs, and hands on activities at the [Tidal Basin Welcome Area and ANA Performance Stage](#) from Saturday, March 24, through Sunday, April 8. This year's activities at the Welcome Area will be presented with the National Park Service (NPS). The Welcome Area will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and visitors will be able to view performances from noon to 6 p.m. The line-up will include a wide variety of cultural offerings including vocalists, bands, dancers, drum performances, exhibitions and more.

More than 100 performances on the ANA Performance Stage celebrate the friendship symbolized by the gift of cherry blossom trees through a dynamic mix of American, Japanese, and other cultural performing arts. Special performance days include the Sakura Taiko Takeover (3/25), arts nonprofit BloomBars (3/29), and finalists from the Festival's Sing Into Spring vocal competition (4/5).

New this year, and in addition to the performances on the ANA Performance Stage will be daily National Park Service (NPS) Ranger talks: weekdays at 3 p.m. and weekends at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. NPS rangers will share interesting facts and history about the gift of trees, how the NPS cares for and maintains the cherry trees, the National Mall and Memorial Parks, and more. Nearby in the Festival Information Tent, visitors will be able to access Festival Information, make a cherry blossom craft and pose for a fun photo opportunity. Additional information from NPS along with concessions from Guest Services, Inc. and Eastern National are also available within the Welcome Area.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2018 Festival, March 20 – April 15, includes four weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information, or check out Facebook (CherryBlossomFestival), Twitter (@CherryBlossFest), and Instagram (@CherryBlossFest).

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