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**CONTACT:** Nora Strumpf  
202.638.8374  
nstrumpf@ncbfdc.org

## **TIDAL BASIN WELCOME AREA AND ANA STAGE OFFERS FREE PERFORMANCES AMONG THE BLOSSOMS**

**Washington, DC** [March 6, 2019] – The National Cherry Blossom Festival will offer free performances, educational programs, and hands-on activities at the [Tidal Basin Welcome Area and ANA Stage](#) each weekend of the Festival (March 23-24, March 30-31, April 6-7, April 13-14) as well as weekdays while the trees are in bloom.

Activities at the Welcome Area will be presented by 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 11 a.m. - 5 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 themed days include a Passport DC showcase (3/24) and a Taiko Takeover Day (3/31). Performers include:

- The Washington Ballet (4/14)
- Angela Robinson & High Praise – award-winning contemporary gospel choir from Temple Hills, MD
- Sachiyo Ito and Company – kabuki style, classical dance from New York
- Caz Gardiner – soulful rock and reggae from Alexandria, VA
- Carpathia Folk Dance Ensemble – Central/Eastern European Folk Dancers from Washington, DC
- Kiwi and the Papaya Mangoes – pop fusion from Tokyo, Japan

In addition to the performances on the ANA Stage, the National Park Service (NPS) will offer free, family-friendly programming where 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 presented by Hilton, 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.

### **About the National Cherry Blossom Festival**

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2019 Festival, March 20 – April 14, 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](http://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org) or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information, or check out [Facebook](#) (CherryBlossomFestival), [Twitter](#) (@CherryBlossFest), and [Instagram](#) (@CherryBlossFest).

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