



FESTIVAL PANAFRICAIN DE MUSIQUE

COMMISSARIAT GENERAL

THE FIFTH PANAFRICAN FESTIVAL OF MUSIC EDITION **Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Kinshasa.**

From 30 July to 06 August 2005

TOPIC: “African music heritage in Americas and in the Caribbean”.

THE ARGUMENT

The fifth Panafrican Festival of Music edition will be held from 30 July to 06 August 2005 on the following topic: “African music heritage in Americas and in the Caribbean”. The event will take place in three cities: Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire and Kinshasa. While Brazzaville will host music performances, reports (on rumba, jazz, R&b, reggae, soul, etc.), Pointe-Noire will organise the symposium on the road of the slave in Loango and Kinshasa will be at the heart of the stream of the cultural activities.

The festive and scientific dimensions of the festival will be articulated around the selected topic to evaluate the contribution of the traditional African music in Americas and in the Caribbean, not only throughout songs, musical instruments, dances and carnivals (masks and choreography), but also throughout the syncretic character of the religions.

On the organological plan, the instruments which influenced music in Americas and in the Caribbean (from Negro spirituals and blues to reggae, and to raga and R&B), throughout rhythms and dances will be at the forefront of the main concern of the symposium. The issue at stake is to take stock of the instruments and to describe them scientifically so as to exactly determine their historical and geographical origins and to appreciate the changes occurred in this music in contact in the new world technological culture.

If the question of the identity often goes hand in hand with the plight of the black people on the set of themes, the fifth Panafrican Festival of Music edition will aim at working on the imaginaries in music from Americas and the Caribbean, in showing what brings this music closer to Africa on the one hand and the particularities of each music on the other hand.

As far as the style is concerned, we are going to focus on the process which generated rhythms in music from Americas and in the Caribbean and the one integrated in the formation of their particular identities. Then, it is important to scrutinize the diverse musical trends which came from African lands such as jazz in the USA, reggae

in Jamaica, porro and cumbia in Colombia and of course, the origins of salsa sound and rumba from Cuba, marinera in Peru, samba and bossa nova in Brazil, beguine and zouk in West Indies, etc.

2004 is not only the international year of the commemoration of the fight against slavery and its abolition, but also the celebration of the two hundredth year of the independence of Haiti, where according to Aimé Césaire “Negritude rose up for the first time”. The fifth Panafrican Festival of Music edition would like to extend this double celebration in providing black communities from Americas and the Caribbean with the opportunity to come back to the sources of their history, to re-visit their primitive sites from which they were scattered all over the world and to question themselves once more on their roots.

Slavery, as Mr Koichiro Matsuura, the UNESCO Manager Director mentioned in his message of 22 December 2003: “changed deeply and lastingly Americas and the Caribbean in giving to this continent cultural traditions, ingenuity, technical and the scientific knowledge and spirituality which are now indissociable with the American and the Caribbean cultures”, so Africa contributed a lot to humanity in many fields, mainly in music. However, the question is what does this culture become in contact with other social, political and economical realities different from those which shaped it? The question seems of paramount importance for its double festive and scientific dimensions. The fifth Panafrican Festival of Music volunteers to answer this question.

Brazzaville, 11 March 2004.

The Commissioner General