



## Glen Echo Park Partnership to present FREE performances at Global Rhythms: Music, Dance & Storytelling from Around the World

*Celebrating both the individuality and interconnectedness of cultures through performing arts.*

*For more information, email [jcloud@glenechopark.org](mailto:jcloud@glenechopark.org).*

**GLEN ECHO, MD (May 16, 2025)** – The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture presents [Global Rhythms: Music, Dance & Storytelling from Around the World](#) on Sunday June 8, 2025, from 12pm - 4pm. This new, FREE festival features performances by artists sharing traditions from a variety of cultures. The event will highlight the cultural regions of Latin America, Africa, and Asia, celebrating the rich music, dance, and storytelling from these regions, in both traditional and contemporary forms. These highlighted cultural regions reflect the diversity of Montgomery County, celebrating the thriving community surrounding Glen Echo Park.

The diverse array of artists featured at Global Rhythms and throughout the season reflects the Partnership's 2025 theme of **the arts as a cultural mosaic, symbolizing the richness of different cultures blending, yet maintaining their distinct identities**. "Visual and performing arts are powerful tools for celebrating both the individuality and interconnectedness of cultures," said Ama Mills-Robertson, Chief Program Officer at the Partnership. "Like a mosaic, an art form where each piece contributes something unique and essential to the whole, we find unity, connection—and joy!—in our shared humanity through stories, music, dance, and other forms of creative expression. **It's all about celebrating different cultures coming together, each one adding its own unique voice while staying true to its roots.** And all of this will be on display for audiences to enjoy at Global Rhythms!"

This Partnership is pleased to feature **Grupo Fénix** at Global Rhythms, a Washington, DC-based collective of musicians focused on preserving and promoting musical genres from Mexican and Latin American culture. Trained in numerous musical disciplines, Grupo Fénix combines rancheras, huapangos, boleros, and son jarocho with Caribbean and South American influences for a multi-layered experience of the Latin American soundscape.

"We are thrilled to have Grupo Fénix headlining the Global Rhythms showcase," said Emily Crews, Dance & Events Program Director for the Partnership. "These incredible musicians brought the house down at The Washington Folk Festival in 2023, and we can't wait to welcome them back to the Park."

(The Washington Folk Festival at Glen Echo Park was a staple of the region for more than 40 years. Beloved by many, the festival celebrated folk music, dance, storytelling, and craft and brought tens of thousands of visitors to the Park over the decades. The Washington Folk Festival will return in October 2025, after a break in 2024).

With Grupo Fénix headlining, Global Rhythms includes a variety of **musical performances** throughout the day in the Park's Bumper Car Pavilion:

- **Nyame Nti Cultural Healing Arts Therapy (N-CHAT)**, a high-energy, uplifting, and engaging



African drumming performance that imparts wisdom and knowledge about Africa's rich history and culture. N-CHAT integrates mental health and the arts for the purpose of healing individuals, families, and communities.

- **A Chinese Hammer Dulcimer** performance by Chao Tian, exploring the distinct sounds and techniques of the instrument in order to create a multidimensional sensation of improvisation. Chao Tian's creative interests manifest in intercultural improvisation, applications of Chinese musical aesthetics and vocabulary, cross-disciplinary exploration of music, dance, and visual art, and improvisation in folk music.

In addition to musical acts, Global Rhythms will feature **a cultural dance showcase on the historic Spanish Ballroom Stage**. Featured dance performers include:

- **Coyaba Dance Theater**, celebrating over 25 years of outstanding performances in traditional West African dance and drumming. Coyaba Dance Theater is returning to the Spanish Ballroom Stage after a dynamic performance at Carousel Day in 2024.
- **DC Casineros Dance Company**, presenting a dance performance and workshop rooted in Afro-Cuban, Afro-Caribbean, and French/English contra dances. The Company's co-directors, Amanda Gill and Adrian Valdivia, have performed and taught at local venues and have experience with dance-as-therapy and presenting research on the development of Cuban music and dance in the 20th century. DC Casineros has been presenting their popular Rueda de Casino social dances at the park for two years.
- **Lạc Long Quân Lion Dance Team**, bringing the vibrant, rich cultural tradition of Chinese lion dancing to life. Audiences will be captivated by their energetic movements and symbolic storytelling. Rooted in history and believed to bring good fortune, their dynamic displays feature performers mimicking the powerful and playful spirit of the lion.

Long-time Glen Echo Park program partner **Story Tapestries** will share storytelling performances in the Cuddle Up Pavilion. Story Tapestries presents educational and unique performances, weaving together the power of dance, storytelling, theatre, music, and visual arts.

Audiences can also expect a sneak peek of *DanceFit Bollywood & Bhangra* with instructor Smita Khatri. Part of the Partnership's [DanceFit series](#)—programming that brings physical well-being front and center—*Bollywood & Bhangra* classes present a joyful introduction to two distinct styles of Indian dance.

Food options during Global Rhythms include **two food trucks**—Saté (Indonesian food) and Ben & Jerry's—as well as the Park's [Praline Cafe](#).

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High resolution images and b-roll available by emailing [jcloud@glenechopark.org](mailto:jcloud@glenechopark.org)



### About Glen Echo Park and the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

Glen Echo Park is a vibrant arts and cultural center presenting festivals, exhibitions, and dances, as well as children's theater, music programs, nature programs, and art classes to more than 300,000 visitors each year. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a nonprofit organization, oversees these and other activities, including preserving the historic structures in the Park. Glen Echo Park, part of the National Park Service, is located in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades. For more information on Glen Echo Park, visit [glenechopark.org](http://glenechopark.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council ([msac.org](http://msac.org)) and also by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County ([creativemoco.com](http://creativemoco.com)). All programs are produced in cooperation with the National Park Service and Montgomery County, Maryland.