



The greatest festival of Central Africa is back

The fifth edition of the Amani International Music and Dance Festival will take place on the 9th, 10th and 11th of February 2018 in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. As in previous editions, this festival for peace in the Great Lakes region will spotlight Goma artists.

“I am delighted to be promoted. I am getting ready for a unique performance at the Amani Festival in February” said rapper Young B.

Featuring local artists is one of the objectives of the Amani Festival. These artists will be accompanied and promoted to the public in the city but also beyond. With the aim of discovering new talents in the city, the [Foyer culturel de Goma](#) (the Goma Cultural Center) has been organizing “Sanaa Weekends” in the form of singing and dancing competitions.

“The Amani Sanaa Weekends take part in the Festival’s goal of promoting new local talents through performance series in front of an audience of 4000 people !” Jean-Claude Wenga, one of the organizers explains.

This year, forty-eight young musicians competed during 3 months for the opportunity to perform at the fifth edition of the Amani Festival. Five winners were selected on the basis of the level of the audience applause, votes on social networks and on the decision of an artistic panel. The winners are [Ira Irene](#), Kerim, [Anderson Mukwe](#), [Dj Couleur](#) and [Young B](#). Likewise, categorized in different genres-traditional, creative and hip-hop-, 5 dance groups were selected: les Invisibles, Jazz music, Mudenga Family, Step magic and Utomnes.

The Sanaa Weekends, now key cultural moments in the city, are activities which, among many others, aim at promoting local artists. Caravans (touring concerts) will be organized throughout the whole city starting January, 2018. Master classes taught by international artists performing at the Festival will be offered. A contribution of \$500 will be given to support them. Performing on the international stage of the festival serves as a great springboard.

René Chante, selected artist for the 2017 edition of the Festival says: “I took a giant leap”> [read the article](#)

Playing for change, Singing for peace

Reminder: the Amani Festival is a music and dance festival. Its goal are: (1) bringing people together around culture to reestablish peaceful relationships between people and foster the reconstruction of a society where everyone finds their place; (2) Showing the world a picture of Goma and the Eastern DRC that is no longer about war, rape and looting.; (3) Promoting entrepreneurship among young people.

The Festival is organized by the ASBL Festival Amani with the essential collaboration of the Foyer Culturel de Goma. The Amani Festival is entirely non-profit and is welcoming everyone for \$1/day.

Contacts Press

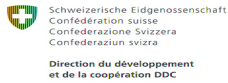
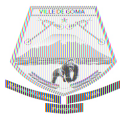
Goma: jeanclaude@amanifestival.com | +243 994252532

Kinshasa: nzi@amanifestival.com | +243 826363148

International: annelaure@amanifestival.com | +32 475366510



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