

Marcel Van Dam

French singer/songwriter brings French language and culture to the USA and into American schools.



Marcel Van Dam - French Singer/songwriter

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Marcel-Van-Dam-Music/168252326526407>

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French singer/songwriter brings French language and culture to the USA and into American schools.

In this document I present the French-through-music programs for Kindergarten, Elementary School, Middle School, High School and College. The children/students will learn/improve French by singing along with adapted original songs! All songs all thoroughly tested and performed during 2 years and have been highly appreciated by students, professors and parents!

Kindergarten :

«Repeat-after-me» songs about saying «Hello», «How are you?», «Introducing yourself», «Counting»...

After half an hour of singing, the children actually spoke French to their parents when they came to pick them up from school !!!



Primary School :

Sing-a-long songs about «The days of the week», «The months of the year», «The 4 seasons», «Fruit & Food», «Different parts of the body», and a funny song about masculin and feminin : le/la tour, le père/ la paire, la mer/le maire, le cric/la crique...



What they said :

« I enjoyed his presentation very much! I'm a professional pianist, so I really appreciate a great musician! Thanks for bringing him to us. »

Joan Hatley, Parateacher, French 5th Grade
Eisenhower International School @ Nimitz, Tulsa, OK.

Middle School :

Make the children sing along with songs, improvise, clap their hands on the rhythm of the songs. Several songs are about environmental issues (water, biodiversity, recycling...) some about everyday life. The students can study some of the songs in class, make posters for the event.



What they said :

« On November 1, 2013 and for the second consecutive year we had the pleasure of hosting a French concert by Marcel Van Dam. Our students are 11 to 14 years old. Marcel was great at involving his young audience and keeping them focused and interested. He is an entertaining troubadour and a true cultural experience to our student body. We would definitely invite him to come back. »

Aida Hatter, French Teacher
Thoreau Demonstration Acadamy, Tulsa Oklahoma

High School :

In addition to the Middle School program, the students can choose songs they want to perform with me on stage, with a group or solo. Songs and lyrics are sent in advance to the schools and students can learn them in class and work on it at home.

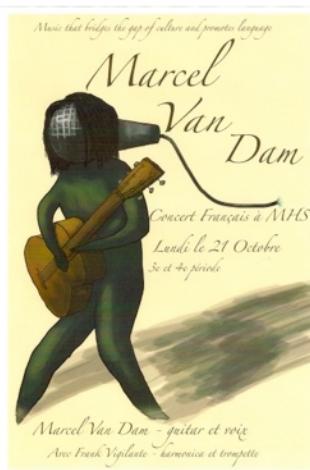
! Video link ! : <http://youtu.be/O1pw1DjSBjl>



What they said :

«Mes étudiants se sont bien amusés au concert de Marcel Van Dam. Marcel choisit les chansons où il demande que les spectateurs fassent les actions et les sons. Les étudiants ont tous aimé ces activités interactives. Son style de musique était universel; même les garçons qui préfèrent le rap ont claqué des doigts.»

Jinafer Brown, French Teacher
Jenks Public School, Jenks Oklahoma





« Toi et Frankie sommes de vrai "superstars" auprès de nos élèves de français! Je leur ai montré la vidéo aujourd'hui et ce sont de très bons souvenirs pour nous. »

Francine Tolpa
French Teacher at Pittsford Mendon High School. Pittsford, NY

« Chaque année, l'Alliance Française de Tulsa invite un artiste pour des représentations gratuites dans des écoles qui enseignent le français afin de donner aux élèves une expérience culturelle. Ainsi, nous avons reçu Marcel Van Dam à Tulsa en novembre 2012 pour une série de concerts et avons été plus que séduits et enchantés par sa présence, son talent et son professionnalisme. Marcel a joué dans deux écoles différentes, lors de Kids World pour des enfants de tous âges, pour une soirée gastronomique entre adultes et de façon plus intime lors de notre café-conversation et aussi dans un club de blues. Il a su adapter ses concerts à son public qu'il a toujours fait participer de façon entraînante. Il est très interactif et sait parler français ou anglais quand il le faut. Les chansons de Marcel sont belles et son amour de la chanson française est flagrant. Le directeur d'une des écoles dans lesquelles il a joué m'a personnellement avoué que de tous les chanteurs que nous avons invités à Tulsa, Marcel était de loin son préféré. Je crois bien qu'il était le mien aussi. »

Alexandra Erman
Alliance Française de Tulsa Oklahoma

University/College :

- Workshop on song lyrics; students study a song text which is discussed in detail in class, significance of words in the context, the story behind the song, general discussion about the musician's career. Live performance of the particular song.



- Workshop on music production, how to choose your sound, live recording.



- Workshop on music business and being a independant artist



What they said :

«Marcel's talent, charisma, determination, work ethic, and inspiring story will draw significant crowds of interested students, faculty and music lovers alike from all surrounding university and local communities.»

Sarah Glasco, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of French
Elon University NC

Press :

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French musician to harmonize many disciplines across campus

Dalton Cox
Senior Reporter

Several diverse academic departments at Elon University are bringing their resources together to bring a multifaceted,

self-made and award-winning musician to campus.

Dutch-born singer and songwriter Marcel Van Dam will perform a concert of his originally composed French music at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25 in Whitley Auditorium.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SARAH GLASCO

Marcel Van Dam is an award-winning musician who will come to Elon Oct. 25 to not only perform his originally composed French music, but also talk to students about life and music.

Elon French professor Sarah Glasco first became aware of Van Dam's work through her connection with the Alliances Françaises, an international organization that has promoted the spread of French language and culture for more than a century. Van Dam was studying for his doctorate in chemical engineering in the Netherlands when he made the decision to relocate to France after graduation. "I had so many good memories and France was a little mysterious for me, so different from other countries — a mystery I wanted to reveal," Van Dam said. While in France, Van Dam attended a songwriting retreat with popular French artist Francis Cabrel, who inspired Van Dam to write French lyrics and pursue his dream of becoming a professional singer and songwriter. Abandoning his career in chemical engineering, Van Dam began an entrepreneurial effort to manage his music career.

During the spring of 2013, Glasco began collaborating with several departments at Elon, including Elon's Department of World Languages and Cultures, Department of Music, School of Communications, Global Education Center and Love School of Business to promote a Fund for Excellence in the Arts and Sciences Grant, enabling Van Dam to visit Elon University. Glasco coordinated Van Dam's visit to appeal to students in a multitude of applicable disciplines. Van Dam will meet with business students Oct. 23 to discuss his entrepreneurial efforts in self-managing his career. Additionally, he will visit French classes and host a workshop in a music production class. "I think [Cabrel's] main influence on me was learning — let go, do your thing, believe in yourself," Van Dam said. "Now the biggest challenge is simply to work hard every day, to get better all the time. Never think that you've arrived."

All-age concerts :



Whitley Auditorium, Elon University Campus, NC



© Dina Regine

The Living Room, New York, NY



The Station, Carrboro, NC



Rockwood Music Hall, New York, NY



l'Alliance Française, Tulsa, OK



Alliance Française, Dallas, TX



AATF (American Association of Teachers of French) Western New York, Buffalo, NY



Joe's Pub, New York, NY

Bio

Marcel Van Dam was born in Delft (the Netherlands). At the age of ten he's got his first stage expérience as well as studio-, radio- and télévision performances and he started to play classical guitar. He moved to France twenty years ago, where he had several first roles in french musicals. After a collaboration with Francis Cabrel (one of the most succesfull french artists of the passed thirty years) Marcel started to write songs in French, using his fine fingerstyle guitar technique. His main influences are James Taylor, Johnny Cash and Norah Jones.

In 2011 he moved to New York for one year and performed in famous venues such as The Living Room, Rockwood Music Hall and Joe's Pub and comes back regularly to perform in the United States. He developed an original method to learn French through music from Kindergarten to College; a highly appreciated method by students and teachers of all educational levels.

He's got several prizes for his music in the Netherlands and France. In 2008 he created his own children musical with songs on environmental issues. He's a professional musician since 2002 and is playing gigs in small venues upto big festivals in front of several thousands of people.

Prizes

- First prize « Impul'sons » organized by the newspaper L'Est Républicain (2010)
- Prize SACEM (équivalent of ASCAP) « Young Talent » (2007)
- Public's prize, compétition « Chanson Française » organized by the Alliance Française Amsterdam (2006)
- First prize songwriting competition organized by Utopia- Besançon (2005)
- Second prize compétition « Chanson Française » organized by the Alliance Française Amsterdam (2004)

What they said :

« The students here at Elon are raving about your concert, Marcel. Thank you for gracing our campus with your presence! »

LD Russell

Lecturer at Department of Religious Studies. Elon University, Elon, NC

« I just wanted to tell you how we loved your concert Saturday night! Everyone loved you, and your talent is beyond compare. Your guitar technique is awesome, and your voice is positively beautiful. Thank you for bringing Frank Vigilante. He is a nice man who just happens to be a terrific musician! I am really happy that I answered your email in the spring. »

Brenda Benzin

President of the AATF Western New York, NY

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