

PRESS RELEASE

April 13, 2018

Handes! Armenian Dance Summit at the
2018 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.

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<https://festival.si.edu/press>

The 52nd annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival will feature traditional and contemporary cultures of Armenia and Catalonia on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., June 27 to July 1 and July 4 to 8, 2018. The 2018 Folklife Festival will bring together hundreds of artisans, designers, musicians, dancers, and cooks from Armenia, Catalonia, and Diaspora communities in North America to highlight the importance of cultural heritage enterprise in the face of change. The “[Armenia: Creating Home](#)” program will explore the ways in which creative enterprises such as artisan craft, local food, and wine production sustain communities, foster intergenerational learning, stimulate economies, and anchor cultural identities in Armenia and its many Diasporas.

As a part of the Armenia program, the *Handes!* Armenian Dance Summit will provide a unique and participatory presentation of Armenian dance. *Handes!* will take place during the second weekend of the Festival, July 6 to 8, 2018. Armenian dance groups and individuals are invited to participate in master classes with fellow dancers from Armenia and across North America, sharing technique, choreography, music, and experience. Groups will also have the opportunity to participate in and lead public workshops, sharing Armenian dance with Festival visitors. Selected groups will have the opportunity to perform on the main stage at the Festival. All are encouraged to participate in folk music performances throughout each day. The event will culminate on July 7 with dance performances and an evening concert featuring Armenian folk music.

To apply to participate in the *Handes!* Armenian Dance Summit, [please register online](#).

Smithsonian Folklife Festival
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
PO Box 37012, MRC 520
Washington, DC 20013-7012
festival.si.edu

Participate in the 2018 Smithsonian Folklife Festival by:

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A dance group performs at the annual Areni Wine Festival in Vayots Dzor, Armenia.

Photo by Sossi Madzounian, Smithsonian

About the Festival

The [Smithsonian Folklife Festival](https://festival.si.edu/), inaugurated in 1967, honors contemporary living cultural traditions and celebrates those who practice and sustain them. Produced annually by the Smithsonian's [Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage](https://www.si.edu/center-for-folklife-and-cultural-heritage) in partnership with the National Park Service, the Festival has featured participants from all 50 states and more than 100 countries. Follow the Festival on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/smithsonianfolklife), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/smithsonianfolklife), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/smithsonianfolklife) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/smithsonianfolklife).