

2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Basque: Innovation by Culture and Sounds of California

June 29–July 4 and July 7–10, 2016, on the National Mall

Media only:

James Mayer (202) 633-0644, mayerj@si.edu

Media website:

festival.si.edu/press
newsdesk.si.edu

The 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival will highlight resilient communities, with a program on the music of California and the culture of the Basque Country. The Festival will feature artisans and cooks, musicians and dancers, as well as artists and tradition bearers from California, the Basque Country and the Basque diaspora in the United States. Visitors will experience how ties are made—and maintained—in California and in Basque Country through music and dance performances, cooking and craft demonstrations, conversations, ritual and celebratory processions, and other activities.

Images are for press and media use only. Call or email the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage at (202) 633-0644 or folklife@si.edu for access to hi-res images.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival



The 2014 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall featured programs on China and Kenya.

Photo by Francisco Guerra
Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Smithsonian Institution



Visitors at the 2015 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall.

Photo by Francisco Guerra
Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Smithsonian Institution



Basque: Innovation by Culture



Blanka Gomes de Segura is the only potter currently practicing traditional Basque pottery.

Photo by Josue Castilleja
Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Smithsonian Institution



Cesar Alcoz, a master metal worker, in his workshop in Bizkaia.

Photo by Josue Castilleja
Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Smithsonian Institution



Espadrilles, traditional Basque shoes, are customarily worn by workers, but the Errecart family from Mauléon has developed their business to target the fashion industry.

Photo by Josue Castilleja
Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Smithsonian Institution



Basque Americans maintain strong connections to their cultural heritage. The San Francisco Zazpiak Bat Klika brass band plays at the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center.

Photo by Greyson Harris
Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Smithsonian Institution





The people of Añana harvest salt from natural springs using traditional methods.

Photo by Josue Castilleja
Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Smithsonian Institution



Men from Ituren march in the Joaldunak, an iconic carnival ritual that has pre-Christian roots.

Photo by David Hornbeck
Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Smithsonian Institution



Albaola is a ship-building workshop, school and museum in Bizkaia that uses traditional tools, materials and methods.

Photo by Josue Castilleja
Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Smithsonian Institution



Pilota, or handball, is a popular Basque sport that has spread around the world.

Photo courtesy of BasqueTour



Sounds of California



Quetzal, a musical group from East Los Angeles, combines elements of Mexican *son jarocho*, salsa, Chicano rock, R&B, and international popular music.

Photo by Brian Cross
Smithsonian Folkways Recordings
Smithsonian Institution



Led by five-time Grammy-nominated percussionist John Santos, the San Francisco Bay area-based John Santos Sextet is one of the premier Latin jazz ensembles in the world.

Photo by and courtesy of Tom Ehrlich.



Based in Fresno, Calif., the Mixteco dance group Grupo Nuú Yuku represent the San Joaquin Valley's indigenous Oaxacan farmworker communities. They perform a specialized local tradition unique to their families' hometown in San Miguel Cuevas, Oaxaca.

Photo by Amy Kitchener, courtesy of the Alliance for California Traditional Arts



Members of Great Leap's FandangObon project perform at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles in 2015. This collaboration, led by California-born Japanese and Mexican American artists, explores the connections between *fandango son jarocho* of Veracruz, Mexico, and *obon*, a Japanese Buddhist ritual.

Photo by Mike Murase, courtesy of Great Leap Inc.

