

## Marcel Van Dam

*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 Academy, 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.

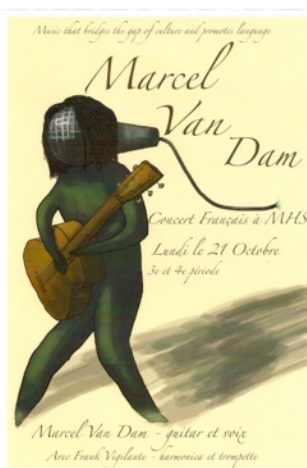
**! Video link ! :** <http://youtu.be/O1pw1DjSBjI>



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 entraînant. 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 :

**THE PENDULUM**  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2013 • VOLUME 39, EDITION 16

**Arts & Entertainment**  
Wednesday, October 23, 2013 • page 22

### 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.

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."

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.

**All-age concerts :**

- Whitley Auditorium, Elon University Campus, NC



- 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 Western New York, Buffalo, NY





*Department of World Languages and Cultures 2125 Campus Box Elon, NC 27244*

November 4, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to whole-heartedly endorse Marcel Van Dam as a guest performer on your campus and/or for your organization. From my very first contact with Marcel, he was accommodating, open-minded, and enthusiastic. He visited Elon University in late October 2013 and had a packed itinerary. My goal was to be able to offer as many cross-disciplinary opportunities for students across campus as possible, and Marcel made this happen with ease and grace. The Department of World Languages and Cultures hosted him on campus from October 22<sup>nd</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>, but he also graciously accepted my invitation to not only give a public concert, but also meet with French/World Languages students in classroom settings, discuss with Business and Marketing students about how he solely manages every facet his career, offer a songwriting workshop for aspiring lyricists and musicians, and allow music production students to record him so they could have a hands-on experience, which ranged from setting up mikes and testing levels to working the mixing board from the control room. 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. Our students and faculty loved meeting him and the local community who came out for his concert was wowed. He was also nice enough to hang around a bit afterwards to sign programs and CDs for new fans. It was an incredibly enriching experience for everyone involved.

What I also feel compelled to express to you here is that, having corresponded with him via telephone, e-mail, and Skype in both French and English over the past year and then finally meeting him in person, he is so nice, very open-minded, thoughtful and humble. He is also very articulate and smart. His giving nature and willingness to share stories and his experience are just the characteristics we should all seek in speakers and performers who are invited to interact with our students. In sum, Marcel is the quintessential role model for global citizenship, and his desire to meet new people and gain new experiences has no geo-political or cultural limits. The main page of his website attests to such inclusiveness, as "Welcome in my space! Welkom in mijn ruimte! Willkommen in meinem Raum! Benvenuto nel mio spazio! Boa vinda em meu espaço! ¡Bienvenido en mi espacio! Dê as boas-vindas no meu espaço! Ønskevelkommen i min å skille ! Υποδοχ? στο δι?στημ? μου!" appears, appealing to a multicultural and multilingual audience. Marcel is, at the very least, perfectly tri-lingual, speaking and performing in his native Dutch, French and English all with the same ease. Such exposure to a contemporary creative personality like Marcel Van Dam will inspire all students who have the chance to meet with him in intimate classroom and workshop settings and/or see him perform live. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Glasco, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of French  
[sglasco@elon.edu](mailto:sglasco@elon.edu)

## 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'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

## **References + Contact**

Aida Hatter  
French Teacher at Thoreau Demonstration Academy  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133  
[918-833-9700](tel:918-833-9700)  
[hatteai@tulsaschools.org](mailto:hatteai@tulsaschools.org)

Francine Tolpa  
French Teacher at Pittsford Mendon High School  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
[\(585\) 267-3643](tel:585-267-3643)  
[francine\\_tolpa@pittsford.monroe.edu](mailto:francine_tolpa@pittsford.monroe.edu)

Sarah Glasco, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of French  
Faculty Advisor to the French Club  
Department of World Languages and Cultures  
Elon University  
Elon, NC 27244  
[336.278.5813](tel:336.278.5813)  
[sglasco@elon.edu](mailto:sglasco@elon.edu)

Cathy Botvinik Smythe  
President Alliance Française Tulsa  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74152  
[918-899-1191](tel:918-899-1191)  
[crsmythe@gmail.com](mailto:crsmythe@gmail.com)

Brenda Benzin  
President of the Western New York chapter of the AATF  
Buffalo, New York  
[716-876-7811](tel:716-876-7811)  
[bbenzin@aol.com](mailto:bbenzin@aol.com)

-----

Marcel Van Dam - French Singer/songwriter  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Marcel-Van-Dam-Music/168252326526407>  
[mvdcontactusa@gmail.com](mailto:mvdcontactusa@gmail.com)  
Tel (american) : (1) 646 820 0530

## Financial considerations

- return ticket France-USA : approximately \$1,000  
(may be split up by different hosts)
- hotel room or other accomodation + food + transportation
- workshop/performance : \$500 per day
- extra musician harmonica/trumpet (optional) : return ticket New York + hotel + food

\* It's a pretty long trip from France the USA, and once the trip made I like to be as busy as possible, so if you know other schools, universities, associations who may be interested in what I have to offer, don't hesitate contacting them so travel costs can be split up by different employers. Look around for francophile organizations in your area, e.g. there are almost one hundred Alliances Françaises throughout the country so probably one close to you.

-----

**Don't hesitate contacting me for any further information :**

Marcel Van Dam - French Singer/songwriter

[mvdcontactusa@gmail.com](mailto:mvdcontactusa@gmail.com)

Telephone (american) : (1) 646 820 0530

This is like a home phone, you can call me at any time and leave a message if I don't respond and I will get back to you as soon as possible.