



The United Nations in partnership with the Goethe Institute

invites you to the screening of

## KINSHASA SYMPHONY

Thursday, 20 January 2011, 6:30 p.m.



**Kinshasa is the home of Central Africa's one and only symphony orchestra**

Two hundred orchestral musicians are playing Beethoven's Ninth - *Freude schöner Götterfunken*. A power cut strikes just a few bars before the last movement. Problems like this are the least of the worries facing the only symphony orchestra in the Congo. In the 15 years of its existence, the musicians have survived two putsches, various crises and a war. But concentration on the music and hopes for a better future keep them going. *Kinshasa Symphony*, directed by Claus Wischmann and Martin Baer, is a study of people in one of the world's most chaotic cities doing their best to maintain one of the most complex systems of joint human endeavour: a symphony orchestra. The film is about the Congo, the people in Kinshasa and the power of music.

(Source: [www.kinshasa-symphony.com](http://www.kinshasa-symphony.com))

**Claus Wischmann** is one of the directors of *Kinshasa Symphony*. He studied Saxophone and Piano at Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts and used to be a classical pianist. Since 1999, Mr. Wischmann has been working as director and author and has produced a number of TV documentaries. He writes and directs biographies, documentaries, reportages and concert recordings, and all the hallmarks of the musician clearly shine through in his work.



**Marie-Paule Roudil** is the Head of UNESCO Office in Brussels and UNESCO Representative to the European Union. A trained lawyer, she was elected member of the collective consultation of UNESCO youth NGOs in 1985 when she contributed to the International Year of Youth and the World Congress on Youth. She later became a UNESCO consultant responsible for working on a new program on youth, human rights and AIDS in cooperation with WHO. From 2003 to 2010, Ms. Roudil was Chief of Section of the culture sector at the UNESCO Regional Office for Sciences, Venice.





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

## About UNESCO:

UNESCO works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values. It is through this dialogue that the world can achieve global visions of sustainable development encompassing observance of human rights, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty, all of which are at the heart of UNESCO'S mission and activities.

The broad goals and concrete objectives of the international community - as set out in the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - underpin all UNESCO'S strategies and activities. Thus UNESCO'S unique competencies in education, the sciences, culture and communication and information contribute towards the realization of those goals. ([www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org))

### Global priority: Africa



*"Africa is one of UNESCO'S two global priorities. During my term of office at the head of this Organization, I firmly intend to give fresh impetus to our action in this direction... I am determined to find ways to respond more effectively to requests made by the African Union and African countries in particular with regard to countries which have experienced conflict or natural disaster..."*

Irina Bokova at the Summit of the West African Economic and Monetary Union  
– Bamako, Mali, 20 February 2010

Africa, as a designated global priority, is being integrated into all phases of the development, implementation and evaluation of UNESCO'S programmes. This includes a special emphasis on UNESCO'S response to post-conflict situations and reconstruction.

UNESCO works in cooperation with the African Union and its NEPAD programme, with eight sub-regional African communities recognised by the African Union and within the framework of the UN system. UNESCO'S cooperation with the African Union has led to pan-African decisions in the fields of education, culture and natural sciences. Among these are:

- Implementation of the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015)
- Coordinated action on African languages, the African diaspora and African arts and culture

- A consolidated Plan of Action on Science & Technology implemented by the African Man and the Biosphere network (AfrimAB).
- A joint African position and specific decisions on climate change and the creation of an Observatory for Science based in Africa.

UNESCO has been instrumental in the creation of the African World Heritage Fund and coordinating UNESCO activities with regional and sub-regional organizations in projects on African languages and the harmonization of curricula in HIV/AIDS prevention.

