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Thursday, June 25, 2009

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**Globespotters**

Travel News, From Those in the Know



June 25, 2009, 10:53 am

## A Weekend of Music and Solidarity in Paris

By [Tara Mulholland](#)



Benoit Tessier/Reuters The French singer Yelle performing at last year's

Solidays festival.

**PARIS** | As the days heat up and the city's pace slows down, Parisians start pitching their tents for the season of summer music festivals.

This year the line-up kicks off with the [Solidays](#), which runs this Friday through Sunday at the Longchamp Racecourse by the Bois de Boulogne in western Paris. The festival was founded in 1999, with the aim to promote solidarity with AIDS victims, while raising money and awareness to fight against the disease.

While not a specifically gay-themed festival (in fact, some gay magazines, like [Tetu](#), have previously commented on the small number of gay and lesbian musicians performing at the event) the festival still holds a strong place on the gay events calendar (for more information on gay events happening in Paris visit [www.touristiquementgay.com](http://www.touristiquementgay.com)). This year the tent village set up to run alongside the event will host a site for the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a gay association set to fight against AIDS and gender discrimination, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.



The festival, which is known for its eclectic lineups and sophisticated vibe, is more arty and family-friendly than the grungy, burnt-burgers feel of Rock En Seine, France's largest music festival, which takes place in August. This year's Solidays line-up verges toward electro, with the hip Paris band [Poni Hoax](#) and the German electro group [Digitalism](#) playing on Friday. But the range is still wide, and major names this year include the Nigerian-born singer-songwriter [Keziah Jones](#), the British indie band [The Ting Tings](#) and the French-Spanish singer [Manu Chao](#).

Alongside the concerts, visitors can also take part in debates, bungee jumping, or nibble at delicacies, from robust tartiflette (a Savoyard melted cheese and potato dish) to a more delicate baklava and mint tea in the festival's restaurant area.

The two- and three-day passes for the festival are sold out, but you should still be able to grab a one-day pass (30 euros, or about \$42) at [the festival's Web site](#).

And for those who want to keep on partying once the festival closes its doors on Sunday, Paris's gay pride march handily takes place on Monday. Starting at 2 p.m., the march will wend its way from Montparnasse to Bastille, with numerous parties, DJ sets and fiestas then running late into the night. For more information see [www.gaypride.fr](http://www.gaypride.fr).

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The Fusion Festival, which runs from this Thursday, June 25, through Sunday, on a former Soviet military air base outside the city, is not your typical summer festival fare.

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