



**Press release
June 28, 2018**

To the representatives of the Press

Tradition and innovation at the heart of the La Grange Park for the 1st of August !

The City of Geneva will celebrate the Swiss National day on August 1st at the La Grange Park with the CERN and the City of Bienne as guests of honour. Mr Sami Kanaan, Mayor of Geneva, has wished for a musical programming based on Swiss folklore through different influences. The celebrations will also include an augmented reality treasure hunt inviting the audience to play the role of an archaeologist in 3018 in the search of the *Sessuis* and treasures of the famous park.

Mr Sami Kanaan has placed the digital challenges under the label of his year as Mayor of Geneva. The topic will be covered throughout different projects during the day. "It was essential to me to propose a celebration that could unite innovation and tradition. Two themes that have contributed to the success of Switzerland, our beloved country, far beyond our borders", he explains.

In the magnificent setup of the La Grange Park in Eaux-Vives, a festive and multicultural programme will delight the crowds taking advantage of the existing Ella Fitzgerald stage and a space created for the occasion including the Villa La Grange and the Théâtre de l'Orangerie, in addition to the rest of the park.

Celebrations will start at 13:00 with concerts, entertainments for kids, a *Carrefour de la découverte*, a joint photography exhibition with the *Journées photographiques de Bienne*, sport activities, the *Août* game and the unmissable crazy karaoke by the Karaorchestre. Drink and food stalls will be available throughout the day.

The official ceremony will take place at 19:00 with speeches given by Mr Sami Kanaan, Mayor of Geneva, Mr Erich Fehr, Mayor of Bienne and Mrs Charlotte Warakaulle, Director for International Relations at CERN followed by the reading of the 1291 *Swiss Charter*. A lantern parade and a bonfire will close the ceremony. The night will make way to dancing and celebrating on music including Swiss folklore and gypsy swing.

Contact

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