O FRENCH: LE FRANCAIS EN CHANSON

Each week, the class discusses in French two or three songs, selected from around the francophone world, having common themes. The chosen pieces supply authentic language models and are a rich source of idiomatic expressions, word play, and slang. They also provide commentary on historical / current events, insight into cultural attitudes, and express powerful thoughts and emotions. Song texts, e-mailed to class members one week prior to each class session, include explanations of key words and cultural references, as well as suggested discussion questions. Since the goal of this intermediate-advance course is to promote a lively exchange, improve speaking skills and expand students’ knowledge, a relaxed and accepting atmosphere is crucial. Topics may be chosen from the following broad areas:

The arts
History
Science and technology
Health and well-being
Language and culture
Society
Current events and trends
Travel and adventure
Modern dilemmas
Human experience

EXAMPLES:
Music inspired by impressionist art
Love songs
Activists’ music
War and peace
Parodies / Music to make you laugh
Music about children
Poems put to music
Patriotic music
Computer-generated music
Travel