



City of Slidell

Dept. of Cultural & Public Affairs • Press Release for Immediate Release

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Be a part of the magic. Enjoy an ‘Enchanted’ evening in Heritage Park

Heritage Park will transform into an enchanted wonderland filled with melodious music, beautiful art and the merriment of picnic revelers on Saturday, May 2, when the City of Slidell presents the seventh annual *Some Enchanted Evening* featuring the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. Admission is free.

Leading the orchestra this year is the LPO’s resident conductor, Rebecca Miller. The LPO will play a wide assortment of dance music - done philharmonic style - with “Dance” being the theme for this year’s presentation.

The LPO takes the stage at 7 p.m., but concert-goers will want to arrive much earlier to enjoy the pre-concert festivities. The *Enchanted Art Walk*, featuring a variety of talented artists, will begin at 5 p.m. Children can enjoy complimentary face painting provided by Slidell Art League Teens from 5 to 7 p.m. And you can register for the Mayor’s Picnic Challenge from 5 to 6 p.m. near the gazebo.

The *Enchanted Art Walk* is great opportunity to browse artwork, meet the artists and purchase original artwork and prints. This popular pre-concert event will showcase the works of over 30 different artists, including Leslie C. Abney, Wendi Abney, David Barfield, Camille Barnes, Jeanine Bernard, Linda Bickel, Barry Bischoff, Shelly Black, Iris Campbell, Frankie DeMelo, Mary Downey, Jean Frondorf, Nancy Gaines, Lori Gomez, Lana Gramich, Kelly Landrum Hammell, Kelly Milligan, Amelia Mims, Katie Monnot, Tina Petrich, Michael Reed, Rhonda Reilly, David Schmidt, Sylvia Stanton, and artists from STARC. Individuals who are considering purchasing artwork are advised to arrive early for the best selections.

Bust out your picnic blankets and candelabras and get ready to show off your creativity because Slidell Mayor Ben Morris is challenging the community to participate in his upcoming *Mayor’s Picnic Challenge*. The best picnic spread in each of the four categories will receive a gift basket. The four categories are: Perfect Interlude (most romantic setting), Chromatic Overtures (most creative picnic spread), Grand Staff (best presentation by an organization or office group) and Minor Scales (little folks with big ideas—ages 12 and under). Participants should register near the gazebo between 5 and 6 p.m. The winners will be announced during intermission.

“Just about anything goes for this event,” says Mayor Morris, who delights at the variety of entries every year. “In the past we’ve had everything from patriotic picnics to swamp themes and even a wedding party complete with bride and groom. As the saying goes, ‘this ain’t your mama’s picnic.’”

So be sure to bring your chairs and blankets, ice chests and picnic baskets or enjoy on-site selections from Baskin-Robbins, A Touch of Italy Café and Times Grill. For guests who don't want to bring their own tables, the park's smaller pavilions may be rented by contacting the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs at (985) 646-4375. Pavilion rental is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Guests who arrive early may bring tents to provide shade during the daytime, but all tents must be taken down by 6:30 p.m. so that everyone may enjoy the view of the stage. Park regulations prohibit barbeque grills, pets, bicycles, scooters and skateboards.

"We've made a few changes which should make this event even easier to enjoy," says Kim Bergeron, director of Cultural & Public Affairs. "We're adding an unloading zone for those who like to bring everything but the kitchen sink—if they want to get festive with lots of decorations, we want them to be able to do just that."

Drivers will be allowed to enter the park from the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance from noon until 4:30 p.m., and follow the signage directing them to the unloading area. Drivers will then exit the park at the same gate, and should park in the lot on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Bayou Lane. The entrance to the park will be closed at 6 p.m. to ensure the safety of concert attendees.

Whether or not they take advantage of the unloading zone, all of the public should park in the lot on the corner of Bayou Lane and Pennsylvania Avenue immediately outside of Heritage Park. Complimentary shuttle service will be provided from 5:30 p.m. until after the concert.

The Fremaux Avenue entrance to the park will remain closed to all traffic, as will the boat launch area, which will be used to provide parking for the orchestra members. A parking permit will be required for admission at this entry.

For physically-challenged guests, a limited amount of handicapped parking will be available within the park. A driver's license (not hang tag) indicating that status must be presented at the time of entry.

Admission to *Some Enchanted Evening* with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra is free. The event is brought to you by the City of Slidell, its Commission on the Arts, and the 2008 – 2009 Cultural Season sponsors, including Northshore Regional Medical Center; Whitney Bank; Slidell Memorial Hospital; Living Magazine; AT&T; CLECO Power, LLC; Louisiana Life Magazine; Mary & Dr. Dale MacCurdy; Sophisticated Woman Magazine; Baker Sales, Inc.; Creative Picture Framing Inc. & Art Gallery; East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce; Hampton Inn of Slidell; The Purple Armadillo; Ronnie Kole Foundation; Silver Slipper Casino; Sizeler Architects; Textron Marine & Land Systems; Walden Media Productions, LLC; Bargains Plus! / Postal Plus; Baskin-Robbins / Coy & Donna Fauchoux; Councilman Bill & Laura Borchert; CC's Community Coffee House; David Carollo, Attorney-at-Law; Cross Gates Family Fitness; Eric & Mary DuBuisson; Kathryn & Company's A Touch of Italy Café; Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien; Ed & Chris Massett; and Times Grill.

For more information, visit the city's websites at www.slidell.la.us or <http://blog.nola.com/slidell> or call the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs at (985) 646-4375. In the event of rain, the concert will be rescheduled for Sunday, May 3. Weather cancellation updates will be posted on the city's website or by calling the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs after 1 p.m. on the day of the event.