



City of Slidell

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

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Mayor challenges community to participate in picnic contest



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 competition is held in conjunction with the City of Slidell's *Some Enchanted Evening* with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. The fun begins at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 2 in Heritage Park.

"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."



Participants can register near the gazebo in Heritage Park between 5 and 6 p.m. There are four categories to choose from: 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).

Judges will come by each participant's picnic spread and score points based on creativity, theme, and presentation. The picnic receiving the highest score in each category will receive a gift basket filled with goodies. Winners will be announced during intermission.

"I'm always amazed to see how creative our citizens are and to see how some friendly competition helps bring out the best in everyone," Morris said. "In the past, the LPO concert has always been an incredible event. It's a great feeling to walk through the park and see all the people eating, laughing and having fun. It really brings our community together."



The seventh annual *Some Enchanted Evening* with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra will be held in Heritage Park on Saturday, May 2. This free concert draws crowds of 5,000 to 10,000 music



lovers each year. The LPO's resident conductor, Rebecca Miller, will lead the orchestra in playing 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 all the pre-concert festivities. The *Enchanted Art Walk*, featuring a variety of talented artists, will begin at 5 p.m. It's a great opportunity to browse the artwork, meet the artists and purchase original art and prints. Children will enjoy complimentary face painting provided by Slidell Art League Teens from 5 to 7 p.m.



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 barbecue grills, pets, bicycles, scooters and skateboards.

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 Fauchaux; 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, please call the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs at (985) 646-4375 or visit the city's websites



at www.slidell.la.us or <http://blog.nola.com/slidell/>.

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.

