



# City of Slidell

Department of Cultural & Public Affairs

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Enjoy an 'Enchanted' evening in Heritage Park

Enjoy an enchanted evening of symphony music, beautiful art, scrumptious food and the merriment of picnic revelers on the banks of Bayou Bonfouca at the City of Slidell's eighth annual *Some Enchanted Evening* with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra on Saturday, April 10 in Heritage Park. Admission is free.

### Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra

Leading the orchestra this year is the LPO's Music Director and Principal Conductor, Carlos Miguel Prieto.

Considered one of the most dynamic conductors in the music world, Prieto currently holds a total of four music directorships in both in his native country of Mexico and in the United States. He is a champion of contemporary music, and has conducted over 50 world premieres of works by Mexican and American composers. Exemplifying his commitment to education, Prieto has conducted the Youth Orchestra of the Americas since 2002.



Prieto will lead the orchestra in playing favorite classical selections, such as Lowe's *My Fair Lady Suite*, Gerswin's *Strike up the Band* and Sousa's *Stars and Stripes*. The LPO takes the stage at 6 p.m., but concert-goers will want to arrive much earlier to enjoy the pre-concert festivities.

### Enchanted Art Walk

The *Enchanted Art Walk*, featuring a variety of talented artists, begins at 4 p.m. It's a great opportunity to browse artwork, meet the artists and purchase original artwork and prints. Individuals who are considering purchasing artwork are advised to arrive early for the best selections. Children can also enjoy complimentary face painting provided by Slidell Art League Teens from 4 to 6 p.m.

### Mayor's 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 *Mayor's Picnic Contest*. The best picnic spread selected in each of the four categories will receive a special *Celebrate Slidell* 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 4 and 5 p.m. The winners will be announced during intermission.



“In the past, we’ve had everything from patriotic picnics to swamp themes and even a wedding party complete with bride and groom,” says Morris, who delights at the variety of entries every year. “This is a picnic competition like you’ve never seen before.”

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 rentals are 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 5:30 p.m. so that everyone can enjoy the view of the stage. Park regulations prohibit barbeque grills, pets, bicycles, scooters and skateboards.

### Unloading Zone and Parking

“Last year, we made a few changes which allowed easier access for those participating in the *Mayor's Picnic Contest*,” said Kim Bergeron, director of Cultural & Public Affairs. “Like last year, we’re having an unloading zone for those who want to decorate their picnic areas. 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 3:30 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 3:30 p.m. to ensure the safety of concert attendees.

Whether or not concert-goers take advantage of the unloading zone, everyone 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 3:30 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 pass 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 limited amount of passes are available in advance and requests should be made by Friday, April 9. Please call (985) 646-4375 for more information.

Admission to *Some Enchanted Evening* with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra is free. This Louisiana Cultural District and Main Street event is brought to you by the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs, its Commission on the Arts and the city's 2009 - 2010 cultural season sponsors, including *Living* magazine; *Louisiana Life* magazine; Northshore Broadcasting Lake 94.7; Ochsner Health Systems; Slidell Memorial Hospital; Whitney National Bank; AT&T; CLECO; *Northshore Conifer*; Ronnie Kole Foundation; Comfort Inn & Suites; Creative Picture Framing Inc. & Art Gallery; East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce; Hampton Inn; *Inside Northside* magazine; Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien; The Purple Armadillo; Silver Slipper Casino; Slidell Independent; Bargains Plus!/Postal Plus; Baskin Robbins; Councilman Bill & Laura Borchert; David Carollo, Attorney at Law; DuBuisson's Gallery; HMS Architects, APC; Kathryn & Company's A Touch of Italy Café; Krewe of Bilge; Ed & Chris Massett; Paint Your Own Studio; Textron Marine and Land Systems; Slidell Symphony Society; Times Grill; Travel Leaders of Slidell; Dr. Russell & Nancy Westfall and WGSO 990 AM.

This concert is supported by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council as administered by the St. Tammany Commission on Cultural Affairs.

*Some Enchanted Evening* is produced by the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs, with the assistance of the departments of Recreation and Public Operations and the Slidell Police Department.

For more information, please call the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs at (985) 646-4375 or visit the city's website at [www.slidell.la.us](http://www.slidell.la.us). For the latest city news updates and information about upcoming events, follow the City of Slidell on [Twitter](#) and become a fan on [Facebook](#).

In the event of rain, the concert will be rescheduled for Sunday, April 11. 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.

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