

National Festival of the States in New Orleans



National Festival
of the States



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity



An Exclusive Concert Series



One of the most unique cities in the United States, New Orleans is truly second to none in music, food, culture, and history.

Influences from Spain, France, and West Africa are embedded in the music, cuisine, and style of New Orleans. It's a city where you'll hear French and Vietnamese spoken with English, where you'll see spicy shrimp gumbo and jambalaya served with elegant French cakes and pastries, and where you'll see Creole cottages beside Spanish and French-colonial architecture.

Music is the true lifeblood of New Orleans, which makes it the ideal destination for a concert tour. The birthplace of jazz, New Orleans Gospel, and the spiritual home of Louis Armstrong, Sidney Bechet, and Buddy Bolden, the city's music credentials are awe-inspiring. Its French quarter is home to a United States National Park of Jazz Music, which offers a visitor center, concert venue, and a full calendar of musical events. It's hard to put the character of New Orleans into words until you've walked through it on a sultry summer evening and heard the gentle song of a blues trumpet.

But, there's more to the city's musical legacy than just jazz. The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, for example, is the first musician-owned orchestra in the United States. The LPO typically puts on more than 30 concerts per year, playing in the acoustically perfect 19th and 20th century concert halls around the city. Opera also has a long history here, dating back to 1796. More than six different ensemble groups continue the tradition today, putting on frequent shows throughout the year.



The National Festival of the States is an annual concert series developed by Music Celebrations in various cities throughout the United States. These performance tours are supported by local government offices, community organizations, tourist boards, and the like. Such affiliations offer a more memorable musical, cultural and educational experience for recommended ensembles (both instrumental and vocal) to perform in different venues in the most historic cities and celebrate the founding, history, and institutions of the United States! Music Celebrations has been successfully organizing the National Festival of the States concert series for the past 15 years.

Sample Itinerary

Day One:

- Afternoon arrival in New Orleans
- Meet your Tour Manager who will be with you for your entire stay
- Enjoy a comprehensive guided tour of New Orleans including the French Quarter, Frenchman Street, Jackson Square with its St. Louis Cathedral, Royal Street Promenade
- Check-in to the hotel
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Return to the hotel for overnight

Day Two:

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Depart New Orleans and travel by motorcoach to Cajun country and the cypress swamps that surround the city
- Board a comfortable, sightseeing boat to explore the swamp. As your knowledgeable guide leads you down the Bayou on our swampland adventure, marvel at the swamp's natural beauty
- See alligators, egrets and other abundant wildlife as we'll explore Louisiana's wilderness paradise
- Lunch, on own
- Visit and tour the National World War II Museum and view the *Beyond All Boundaries* film presentation
- **Performance or clinic as part of the National Festival of the States**
- Dinner included at a local restaurant
- Enjoy a guided French Quarter Ghost Tour
- Return to your hotel for overnight

Day Three:

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Time at leisure to enjoy the atmosphere of New Orleans where you can find street performers, walk the beautiful City Park, or walk around one of the historic cemeteries with its above ground burial system
- Lunch, on own
- **Performance as part of the National Festival of the States**
- Evening dinner at a local restaurant
- Return to the hotel for overnight

Day Four:

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
- Morning visit to Mardi Gras World
- Lunch, on own
- Afternoon departure for home

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.





The support and guidance of the MCI team was outstanding in every way. We traveled with 90 students and chaperones and everyone felt special and attended to. They made us feel like we were their only clients and that certainly makes me want to continue to use them for all of my International tours in the future!

**Marena Boosamra Ball, Director of Choral Activities
Rincon University High School
Tucson, Arizona**

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MCI made the trip planning experience (a part about which I was nervous as a new orchestra director) so easy and stress-free. I think they really understand the needs of performance groups and I appreciated the emphasis on performances and musical opportunities. On my students' end-of-year reflections, the trip was consistently one of the highlights of the year!

**Veronica Allen, Orchestra Director
Walter Williams High School
Burlington, North Carolina**



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