

**Taylor High School Orchestra
2011 New Orleans and University of Houston
Spring Trip Information Letter**



Monday, August 23, 2010

Dear 2010.2011 Taylor Orchestra Students and Parents,

I am excited to announce that this year the Taylor String Orchestras will be performing at the University of Houston at the Moores School of Music for Franz Krager the highly acclaimed conductor of the Moores School of Music Symphony Orchestra on Friday, April 1st in three performances. He is the Artistic Co-Director, Virtuosi of Houston; former Music Director, Brazos Valley Symphony & Sinfonietta; Guest Conductor, Houston Symphony, Romanian & Kazan State Philharmonics, Chetham's Symphony Orchestra & Musicfest International Orchestra (UK), Symphony Orchestra of Berlin, Akademisches Orchester Leipzig, Honolulu & Florida West Coast Symphonies, Riverside Philharmonic (CA); chamber orchestras of Stratford (Principal Guest Conductor) & Leamington England, Grosseto Italy, Columbia Missouri, Round Top Texas; ballet & modern dance companies of Houston and Oakland (CA); Lichfield & Aberystwyth International Arts Festivals (UK), Lunatica, Festival Sinfonico & Scarlino Castello Music Festivals (ITALY), Interlochen, Texas Music Festival, Shostakovich 2000 Festival General & Artistic Director; recordings, Albany Records.

In addition to their one hour workshop (performance and clinic), each student will have an opportunity to tour the music and nearby campus facilities while the other two orchestras are in clinic. At the conclusion of the clinic and campus tour, we will then proceed to New Orleans to explore a number of its treasures! This will be the fourth trip that we have taken to New Orleans. It is a wonderful city to explore! It has such a rich history.

Dates: **Friday, April 1, 2011 – Sunday, April 3, 2011** Specific times will be announced later.

Basic Itinerary:

Friday, April 1, 2011	Travel Day, (Load at 6:30a.m. and depart at 7:00a.m.; 9:00AM-12:00Noon – Clinics and Campus tours at UOH Moores School of Music, Depart for New Orleans, Dinner in Baton Rouge; Hotel Check-in
Saturday, April 2, 2011	Breakfast Buffet at hotel; Swamp Tour, Lunch, World War II Museum, Dinner Cruise on the Mississippi River
Sunday, April 3, 2011	Breakfast Buffet at hotel, City and Haunted History tour, Lunch, Jackson Square (shopping), Depart for Taylor High School

Land Transportation: A charter bus Coach USA will be used for our land transportation. Each bus will be equipped with VCR and several TV monitors for our viewing pleasure, and restroom facilities as well. We will have a very comfortable trip to New Orleans.

Lodging: **Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport Hotel
2929 Williams Blvd, Kenner, LA 70062**

Hotel amenities include the fitness center, restaurant, guest laundry services, high-speed Internet access, free weekday newspapers. All rooms feature desks, hairdryers, coffeemakers, cable TV, in-room movies, voicemail, dataports, and irons.

Fundraising: Each student has the opportunity to participate in our Taylor Orchestra Concert Program AD Sales Fundraiser (September 10th – September 24th). All proceeds raised by individual students will be put in an individual account for the student to defray or cover the costs of our spring trip to New Orleans (and/or student assessment fee).

Cost: **The estimated cost for each student is \$440.00** Your \$440.00 fee will include two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners. (all meals will be provided except for Friday morning breakfast), and will help cover the cost of the adult chaperones that are required for this trip. Bring money for the souvenirs, and snacks that you might want to purchase along the way. This **estimated price** is based on a minimum of 80% participation of our string enrollment. Your cost could go up or down in price based on the number of participants and the success of your individual fundraising.

Minimally we will need one adult chaperone per ten student performers per Katy ISD travel policy. The fee schedule shown below will be implemented to make our payments on timely basis. **Your timely payments are essential for the success of our trip. Tardy payments would jeopardize our keeping up with payment schedule. Unfortunately, we do not have money in our accounts to prepay late payments.** Feel free to pay ahead of schedule or in full to avoid the hassle of individual payments. In the event of a cancellation of participation by a student performer or parent chaperone only check or cash payment monies may be refunded according to the refund schedule shown below.

It is a Katy I.S.D. policy that fundraised moneys are not refundable at any time or for any reason. Supporters will donate or purchase goods and services from our orchestra with the understanding that any profit monies they contribute will be used solely for defraying or covering your cost of our New Orleans trip.

Taylor High School Orchestra Spring Trip 2011 Payment Schedule:

Thursday, September 2, 2010	\$150.00	Payment Number 1
Wednesday, November 3, 2010	\$150.00	Payment Number 2
Wednesday, December 1, 2010	\$140.00	Payment Number 3

Taylor High School Orchestra Spring Trip 2011 Refund Schedule:

Thursday, September 16, 2010	Full Refund less \$75.00
Wednesday, November 17 2010	Full Refund less \$150.00
Wednesday, December 15, 2010	Full Refund less \$300.00
Thursday, December 16, 2010	No refund

***Reminder only cash or check payment monies will be refunded. Fundraised money can not be refunded to any individual at any time.**

Academic Eligibility: There will be no refunds for academic ineligibility. All students must have a minimum of a 70% average in each and every class during the previous six weeks before the spring trip or at the progress report (if that applies!).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 281-237-3652. Thank you for your time and consideration of this fun-filled educational trip.

Sincerely,

George Engelmann
Taylor High School
Orchestra Director

PLEASE DETACH THE BOTTOM PORTION AND RETURN WITH A CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO T.O.P.A. IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR NAME ON THE FRONT TO MR. ENGELMANN AT THE TRIP MEETING ON OR BEFORE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2002. THANK YOU!

I have read the above and attached pages of the THS Orchestra New Orleans 2003 Trip Information Letter and will adhere to the payment schedule shown above if my child participates in this trip.

STUDENT REPSONSE

_____ Yes, I will be going on the Taylor Orchestra trip to New Orleans in Friday, April 1, 2011 – Sunday, April 3, 2011. Attached is my full payment of \$440.00 for my spring trip costs.

_____ Yes, I will be going on the Taylor Orchestra trip to New Orleans Friday, April 1, 2011 – Sunday, April 3, 2011. Attached is my first payment of \$150.00 toward my spring trip costs and will make each payment on/or before each scheduled payment date attached information letter.

_____ No, I will be unable to participate in the Taylor Orchestra trip to New Orleans Friday, April 1, 2011 – Sunday, April 3, 2011

PARENT CHAPERONE RESPONSE:

_____ Yes, I am willing to offer my assistance as a parent chaperone for the Taylor Orchestra trip to New Orleans Friday, April 1, 2011 – Sunday, April 3, 2011 if the need arises and invited by the TOPA board. (No fees! ☺)

_____ No, I am unable to offer my assistance as a parent chaperone for the Taylor Orchestra trip to New Orleans.

Student Name (Print neatly please): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____