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LPO ACADEMY JOINS HOME IS HERE NOLA AND PRESERVATION HALL BRASS BAND IN WELCOMING SYRIAN REFUGEE PUPPET LITTLE AMAL TO NEW ORLEANS

The 12-foot puppet makes stop in New Orleans with a series of free events as part of American tour



NEW ORLEANS – Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO), the region’s premier orchestra, Home is Here NOLA and Preservation Hall Brass Band welcome LITTLE AMAL, the 12-foot puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee, to New Orleans with LPO’s Musical Storytime on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at Lafitte Greenway. Part of the performance art project known as The Walk, Little Amal journeys across the US for a two-month walk as a symbol of human rights and raising refugee awareness. For more information, visit <https://www.walkwithamal.org/events/when-you-hear-the-beat/>.

“The Louisiana Philharmonic is excited to partner with these wonderful organizations to extend a New Orleans welcome to Little Amal,” says LPO Executive Director Anwar Nasir. “Our city represents a myriad of heritages, backgrounds, and lived experiences, and the LPO proud to be part of a moment that celebrates the many people who call New Orleans home through music.”

The LPO’s Musical Storytime begins at 10:30 AM with a live reading and accompaniment of Wynton Marsalis’, “Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp! A Sonic Adventure” by LPO viola Catherine Matushek and LPO Academy students. Immediately following at 10:45 AM, Mayor LaToya Cantrell will

extend an official welcome to Little Amal and Home is Here NOLA will share about building community with refugees in New Orleans. LPO Academy students and Home is Here NOLA will then walk with Little Amal New Orleans style in a second line down the Lafitte Greenway led by New Orleans' resident brass band, Preservation Hall Brass Band. For more information, visit www.lpomusic.com.

"Preservation Hall Foundation is honored to welcome Little Amal to New Orleans. Traditional New Orleans music plays a major role in the city's magic and in keeping our communities connected," says Preservation Hall Program Manager Pamela Blackmon. "As she walks alongside the Preservation Hall Brass band, she will be undoubtedly uplifted and restored by tunes from some of New Orleans' finest musicians."

"We are thrilled to welcome Little Amal to New Orleans," says Lafitte Greenway's Alexis Marceaux "What could be a better starting point for her journey than the Lafitte Greenway, our community's ultimate connector."

The LPO Academy music mentor program provides New Orleans youth the opportunity to intensively study instrumental music in one-on-one and small group settings with a Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra Music Mentor. The program partners with existing music ensemble programs in the Greater New Orleans area to offer this service to students as part of their regular school day.

WHO: Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Home is Here NOLA, and Preservation Hall Brass Band

WHAT: The Walk with Little Amal makes stop in New Orleans at LPO's Musical Storytime

WHERE: Lafitte Greenway Plaza (Intersection of the Lafitte Greenway and Norman C Francis Parkway)

WHEN: 10:30 AM

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ABOUT LOUISIANA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Steeped in history yet focused on innovation, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) is the only full-time collaboratively governed and operated orchestra in the United States. Under the leadership of Music Director, Matthew Kraemer, the LPO is rooted in a culturally diverse community with a two-hundred-year orchestral music tradition, the LPO sets the standard for orchestral programming and performance in Louisiana. For our sixty-seven musicians, achieving the highest level of artistry is integrally linked with a personal investment in our organization and our community.

Visit lpomusic.com to learn more.

ABOUT HOME IS HERE NOLA

Home is Here NOLA is a local nonprofit organization that connects recently arrived immigrants and asylum-seekers to community-based systems of support, housing and other and resources. Home is

Here builds community alongside newly arriving immigrants in the Gulf South who are impacted by detention, don't know anyone in the U.S., and are ineligible for government-funded social services. We do this to ensure that everyone is connected to a network of support and solidarity.

Visit homeisherenola.org to learn more.

ABOUT PRESERVATION HALL BRASS BAND

Following in the footsteps of the great Dejan's Olympia Brass Band, The Preservation Brass is the resident brass band of New Orleans most treasured jazz venue, Preservation Hall. Comprised of members of some of New Orleans' finest brass band performers, this All-Star brass band lineup tours worldwide spreading the musical gospel of New Orleans' unique musical and cultural heritage. Led by renowned trumpeter Mark Braud, the Brass' repertoire spans from traditional New Orleans classics, spirituals, and the hard-hitting marching tunes heard in New Orleans parades.

ABOUT LAFITTE GREENWAY

The Lafitte Greenway is a 2.6-mile long linear park and multi-use trail in the heart of New Orleans. The Greenway features recreational facilities, fitness and cultural programming, open green space, and innovative stormwater management features. Managed by New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORD), the Greenway opened in 2015 after years of community driven support to turn a formerly abandoned railroad corridor into a public green space that connects an array of diverse New Orleans communities.

Today, Friends of Lafitte Greenway is the official private partner to the City of New Orleans in planning, programming, and operations on the Greenway. We deliver high-quality programming, advocacy and improvements to make the Greenway great.