

## LMEA Annual Conference Proposal to move the Conference to New Orleans

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**Goals:**

- To have all disciplines in the same building at the same time
- Move the conference dates to Martin Luther King weekend beginning January 16th-18th, 2025
- Add middle and junior high all-state ensembles from each division
- Include more outside performance opportunities during the conference
- Provide a larger and more attractive exhibit space for attendees and vendors
- Provide multiple performance venues within the same facility
- Increase participation from music educators and administrators to attend the conference
- Move the conference to the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel Convention Center
- Providing a positively life-changing experience for educators, students, parents, and families

Current Number of Participating Students	
Senior High Concert Band	84
Senior High Jazz	21
Senior High Mixed Choir	160
Senior High Orchestra	98
Senior High Symphonic Band	66
Senior High Women's Choir	60
Guitar Ensemble	20
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>509</b>

Projected Number of Students in 2025	
Junior High Band	90
Junior High Jazz 1	20
Junior High Mixed Choir	160
Junior High Orchestra	90
Senior High Concert Band	84
Senior High Jazz	21
Senior High Mixed Choir	180
Senior High Orchestra	98
Senior High Symphonic Band	66
Senior High Women's Choir	60
Guitar Ensemble	20
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>889</b>

**Additional Considerations**

- Holding the conference in New Orleans will attract top clinicians and vendors who want to come to New Orleans. More vendors will attract more attendees and vice-versa
- We can offer excursions and events for parents of the all-state students and families to tour New Orleans. Many excursions are within walking distance of the convention
- Hilton Riverside Hotel Convention Center provides four times the meeting space of the Crowne Plaza
- Realistically, students will not have to leave the hotel as the New Orleans Riverwalk is connected to the Hilton with interior access to 16 dining options
- Onsite food and beverage outlets include Drago's Seafood Restaurant, Le Croissant, River Blends Café (Starbucks), Crescent City Marketplace, and the Public Belt Lounge
- Moving the LMEA Convention to the Hilton Riverside Hotel in New Orleans will allow for the potential to add more student ensembles beyond 2025, such as, a second junior high/middle school honor band, jazz and elementary choirs, Orff Ensembles, additional jazz groups, percussion ensemble. The possibilities are limitless.

## Costs

### **Sleeping Rooms and Parking**

- The current offer by the Hilton includes a room rate of \$199 per night plus taxes
- Covered/Off street parking in the Hilton Hotel parking lot which is attached to the hotel for \$25 per 24 hour overnight/hotel guests (normally around \$45-50) and \$10 per day for commuters.

### **Meals**

- Meal costs through the hotel can be between \$50-\$60 per person, per meal.
- The hotel is asking for a Food and Beverage minimum commitment of \$70,000. Any food purchased from the hotel and served as part of the conference shall go towards this minimum.

NOTE: We can feed the students, and possibly the attendees 1 meal per day or pay for the meeting/rehearsal space. The meeting/rehearsal space is currently being quoted at \$26,000 per day. (Typically cost is \$1 per square foot per day. LMEA would be using over 105,000 sq. ft of space,)

### **Audio Visual**

- We would have the option to use our own AV equipment, hire an outside AV company, or use the in-house AV company.
- LMEA provides projectors, screens, speakers, cords, and other items necessary for clinicians

### **Additional Conference Registration Rates to consider for Students (based on 889 performers)**

- The current registration fee is \$65 for students and will increase based on one of the two options listed below

<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2</b>
An increase of \$90 to cover the cost of the space with no meal	An increase of \$100-120 to cover the cost of the space & two buffet lunches
<b>Registration fee would be \$155</b>	<b>Registration fee would be \$165-185</b>

- **PRO** - provide a convenience for students & their parents
- **PRO** - provide an opportunity for students to socialize with members of the all-state ensembles
- The meal plan would be optional for conference attendees
- We will solicit sponsorships from vendors to help reduce the additional costs for students