



Dear GNOYO Members,

To kick off our 32nd season, I am delighted to announce the thirteenth annual GNOYO Fall Retreat! The retreat will include an introduction to the fall repertoire, ice breakers, indoor and outdoor activities, and sectionals featuring prominent musician educators from the region. This will be a time for musicians to safely get to know and interact with their peers and respective conductors in preparation for the season. Students will be chaperoned by GNOYO Staff, Counselors, and the Music Director. The retreat is a mandatory and impactful element of the program that will enrich and nurture our GNOYO family. Please make every effort to be there and please let us know if you need assistance that might facilitate your participation.

**The Tentative Retreat Schedule:**

1. Saturday September 19th, (9:30am-1:45pm): Philharmonias – orientation – ice-breakers – music activities – team building activities – lunch (Allergies and food requirements are respected) – check out – **Philharmonias departs/Sinfonia arrives**
2. Saturday September 19th, (2:30pm-6:00pm): Sinfonias – orientation – ice breakers – sectional/orchestra rehearsals– team building activities – Dinner - check out– **Sinfonias departs in early evening**
3. Sunday September 20th, (10:00am-2:30pm): Symphony – orientation – ice breakers – sectional/orchestra rehearsals– team building activities – Lunch – check out – **Symphony departs in mid afternoon**

**Location:**

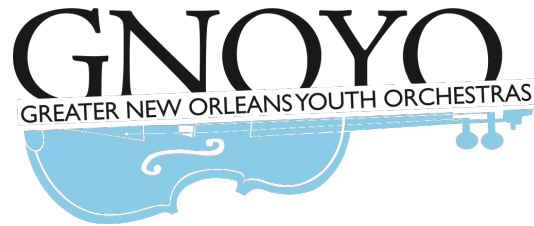
Solomon Episcopal Conference Center A Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, <https://seccla.org/> 54296 Hwy 445, Loranger, LA 70446 (1 hour or so from New Orleans/ 30 minutes from Mandeville)

**Transportation: \*\*\*Please note that GNOYO is able to provide bus to and from the retreat this year \*\*\* Please plan accordingly. \*\*\*Please contact the GNOYO Office to reserve your seat on the bus!\*\*\***

We are looking forward to a great 2026-2027 Season at GNOYO!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jean Montès, Music Director



Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestras | 2026-2027  
**GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING RETREAT PREPARATION**

1. Bring your Instrument, Music, Pencil & a Music Stand to all rehearsals as you will not be sharing chairs and stands.
2. Menu will vary. Please let us know if you have any food allergies, or if you are a vegetarian or vegan.
3. Dr. Montès will be attending the retreat and staying overnight to coordinate all facets of the retreat.
4. All adults who will be attending the retreat as staff or chaperones have been or will be subjected to background checks.
5. There will be limited free time; please, see retreat schedule.
6. The retreat is mandatory for all GNOYO members. If a student does not attend the retreat without prior notification, they will forfeit their participation in the Orchestra for the rest of the year.
7. Please visit our website for a link to the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center website.
8. Limited kitchen facilities are available for those who must bring their own food.
9. We are providing additional options to facilitate parents and family members who will be waiting for their young musicians.
10. The Solomon Center has graciously offered to accommodate for parents who would like to stay overnight Friday and/or Saturday see details below.

**Things to do at and around Solomon Episcopal Center**

- Solomon Disc Golf, Walking Trails, and Lake fishing
- St. Tammany Trace
- Bogue Falaya Wayside Park
- Escapology Escape rooms
- Fontainebleau State Park
- Mandeville Lake Front and Lakefront Splash Park
- Joyce Wildlife Management Swamp Walk
- Global Wildlife
- Elevation Station Trampoline Park
- Tickfaw State Park
- Ponchatoula Antique Shopping
- Covington Lee Lane Shopping
- Columbia Street Farmers Market Covington, LA 8a -12p Saturdays
- Downtown Hammond Farmers Market Hammond, LA 8a- 12a Saturdays

**For those families who would like to stay overnight Friday and/or Saturday here is the approximate pricing so you can make arrangements directly with the Solomon Center; just let them know you are a GNOYO Parent.**

- 2 Night stay with 6 meals included would be \$236.00 per person
- 1 Night stay with 3 meals included would be \$118 per person
- A Day at Solomon with Lunch would be \$25 per person (for Parents who are interested in remaining at the property and utilizing the grounds)
- 1 Night and 0 meals would be \$75 per room, per night

Contact: via email at [info@solomoncenter.org](mailto:info@solomoncenter.org) or call 985-748-6634 as prices are subject to change.



**2026 GNOYO Retreat  
Solomon Episcopal Conference Center  
Dr. Jean Montès, Music Director  
September 19-20, 2026**

**GNOYO RETREAT GUIDELINES AND WAIVER FORM**

(Fill it out and return ASAP and no later than September 15<sup>th</sup> or scan/email to gnoyo@gnoyo.org ) note you may also use the online version instead at the GNOYO Retreat Page

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to represent the Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestras during the 2026 GNOYO Retreat with integrity and respect and follow **the GNOYO Health Rehearsal/Performance Protocol**.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, also understand and agree that the GNOYO retreat of which I am a member involves certain risks regardless of the precautions taken by the GNOYO Staff.

In addition, I understand and agree that GNOYO may need to respond to accidents and potential emergency situations. Therefore, I hereby give my consent for any medical treatment that may be required during my participation with the understanding that the cost of any such treatment will be my responsibility.

I have read the above and fully agree to its content. Participant represents that he/she is eighteen years of age or older and is otherwise competent to execute this agreement, or that his/her legal guardian is also signing.

Musician Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Guardian Signature (if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contact person/number \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance information will be available in your personal belongings if needed (Initials) \_\_\_\_\_

List any medications you are currently taking  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any special services you may require due to an existing medical condition, physical disability, food allergies, or If you are a vegetarian or vegan:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in bus transportation to and from New Orleans. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_\_ **By checking yes, a seat will be reserved for your child automatically.**

**Contact:** Dr. Jean Montès  
Music Director  
Cell: 504-616-1652



**2026 GNOYO Retreat-Schedule**  
**Solomon Episcopal Conference Center**

**Dr. Jean Montès, Music Director**  
**September 19-20 2026**

**Saturday September 19th (Philharmonia and North Shore Philharmonia)**

7:30am Bus Load in NOLA  
8:00am Bus Depart to Solomon  
9:00am Registration/Check in Begins at the Solomon Lodge  
9:30am Orientation  
10:00am Ice Breaker  
10:30am Music Activity  
11:30am Team building activity  
12:30pm Wrap up  
1:00pm Lunch  
1:30pm Check out begins  
1:30pm Bus Load by Solomon Lodge  
1:45pm Bus Depart to NOLA  
2:45pm Bus Unload in NOLA

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**Saturday September 19th (Sinfonia and North Shore Sinfonia)**

12:30pm Bus Load in NOLA  
1:00pm Bus Depart to Solomon  
2:00pm Registration/Check in Begins at the Solomon Lodge  
2:30pm Orientation  
3:00pm Ice Breaker  
3:30pm Music Activity (Sectional/Orchestra Rehearsal)  
4:30pm Team building activity  
5:25pm Wrap up  
5:30pm Dinner  
6:00pm Check out begins  
6:00pm Bus Load by Solomon Lodge  
6:15pm Bus Depart to NOLA  
7:15pm Bus Unload in NOLA

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**Sunday September 20th (Symphony)**

8:00am Bus Load in NOLA

8:30am Bus Depart to Solomon  
9:30am Registration/Check in Begins at the Solomon Lodge  
10:00am Orientation  
10:30am Ice Breaker  
11:00am Music Activity (Sectional / Orchestra Rehearsal)  
12:30pm Team building activity  
1:25pm Wrap up  
1:30pm Lunch  
2:00pm Check out begins  
2:00pm Bus Load by Solomon Lodge  
2:15pm Bus Depart to NOLA  
3:15pm Bus Unload in NOLA

Contact: Dr. Jean Montès - 504-616-1652 (Cell)

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Welcome to GNOYO's 2026 retreat at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center!

This is going to be a memorable experience for all of us!

Every effort has been made to make this retreat to run smoothly, but we may need to make adjustments when we get there. Please remain flexible, follow **all the GNOYO Health Rehearsal/Performance Protocol** and keep a positive attitude,

**Let's have a great retreat!**

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