

BRAINERD HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

National Festival of the States Concert Series

New Orleans, Louisiana

Chris Fogderud, Director
Michael Sommerness, Director
March 8-12, 2025

Airline Information

Group Flight: 70 Seats

<u>Depart</u>	<u>Return</u>
<p>Saturday, March 08, 2025 <i>Southwest Airlines Flight #1882</i> Depart: Minneapolis (MSP) 1:15pm Arrive: Nashville (BNA) 3:15pm</p> <p><i>Southwest Airlines Flight #3847</i> Depart: Nashville (BNA) 4:05pm Arrive: New Orleans (MSY) 5:45pm</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 12, 2025 <i>Southwest Airlines Flight #1704</i> Depart: New Orleans (MSY) 10:45am Arrive: Nashville (BNA) 12:15am</p> <p><i>Southwest Airlines Flight #470</i> Depart: Nashville (BNA) 2:15pm Arrive: Minneapolis (MSP) 4:20pm</p>

Baggage Fee Information

*Please note that baggage fees are **not** included in your tour cost and are subject to change.*

Southwest Airlines
Website: [Click Here](#)

*(2nd bag is limited to instrument or musical equipment only to properly accommodate luggage for both air **and** onboard the motorcoach)*

Hotel Information

New Orleans
Check-in: *March 8*
Check-out: *March 12*

Hotel Indigo New Orleans French Quarter
705 Common Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: (504) 595-5605
Website: [Click Here](#)

Group Operating Itinerary

Day 1	Saturday, March 8	(D)
1:15pm	Depart from Minneapolis via Southwest Airlines Flight #1882	
3:15pm	Arrive in Nashville	
4:05pm	Depart Nashville via Southwest Airlines Flight #3847	
5:45pm	Arrive in New Orleans	
	Meet your full-time local Tour Managers, Wolf Kassimier & Robert Easley, who will remain with you for your entire time in New Orleans and will guide you through the duration of your activities	
8:00pm	Evening dinner with live jazz music at Mulate's – The Original Cajun Restaurant	
9:30pm	Check-in the Hotel Indigo for overnight	
Day 2	Sunday, March 9	(B,D)
7:30am	Group 1 – Breakfast included at the hotel	
8:30am	Group 1 – Transfer to Preservation Hall	
8:50am	Group 1 – Arrive at Preservation Hall	
9:15am	Group 1 – Attend a private Jazz Concert and Q&A at Preservation Hall (1 hour)	
8:50am	Group 2 – Breakfast included at the hotel	
9:50am	Group 2 – Transfer to Preservation Hall	
10:10am	Group 2 – Arrive at Preservation Hall	
10:30am	Group 2 – Attend a private Jazz Concert and Q&A at Preservation Hall (1 hour)	
	Enjoy a Private Concert and Q & A with the Preservation Hall Jazz Ensemble. Established in 1961 to honor one of America's truest art forms - Traditional New Orleans Jazz, this hall and the jazz musicians who perform here serve as a cornerstone of New Orleans music and culture	
	Lunch, on own	
12:15pm	Transfer to Loyola University	
12:45pm	Arrive at Loyola University to prepare for clinic	
1:30pm	Brainerd High School Band Program afternoon private clinic with Brent Echols, Director of Bands at Loyola University (1 hour)	
	Enjoy a panoramic tour of New Orleans that includes the French Quarter, Frenchman Street, Jackson Square – a National Historic Landmark nestled in the center of the French Quarter, the historic St. Louis Cathedral – the oldest Cathedral in North America and the Cabildo – once the site of the Louisiana Purchase transfer and now home to the Louisiana State Museum. Also enjoy the Royal Street Promenade – one of the original streets of the city, dating from the early 18th century, well known today for its antique shops, quaint markets, and art famous galleries	
7:00pm	Evening dinner at Hard Rock Café	
	Return to the hotel for overnight	
Day 3	Monday, March 10	(B,D)
8:30am	Depart your hotel	
9:00am	Enjoy a Jazz Brunch – Breakfast Buffet at the legendary Court of Two Sisters	
11:00am	Enjoy a music and history walking tour of New Orleans. Your Master Storyteller will educate and fascinate your group with the history of music in New Orleans, and the Treme neighborhood where jazz music was born. Your group will learn about some of New Orleans' greatest musical icons, including the great Louis Armstrong, as well as the origins of your favorite musical genres, and more!	
	Late lunch, on own	
3:00pm	Arrive at Homer Plessy Community School	

3:45-4:30 *Brainerd High School Band Program afternoon visit and shared/exchange musical experience with Homer Plessy Community School with Andy Bower's Orchestra program as part of the National Festival of the States Concert Series(45 minutes)*

4:45pm Clear space and depart

6:00pm *Pre-cruise Performance at the Spanish Plaza Wharf (45 minutes)*

6:15pm Boarding begins for the Creole Queen

7:00pm Dinner included aboard the Creole Queen, the authentic Paddle-wheeler Mississippi River Cruise

Return to your hotel for overnight

Day 4 **Tuesday, March 11** **(B,D)**

7:30am Breakfast at the hotel

8:30am Depart your hotel

9:40am Today we will explore the Swamps in and around New Orleans, as you explore acres of authentic and iconic Louisiana mossy swamps and waterways. Board your boats, as your knowledgeable guide leads you down the Bayou on our swampland adventure and marvel at the swamp's natural beauty. Enjoy this thrilled "uniquely New Orleans" experience as you See alligators, Egrets and other abundant wildlife as we explore Louisiana's wilderness paradise (1.5 hours)

Lunch, on own

1:15pm Arrive at the New Orleans Jazz Museum for your experience with the Hot 8 Jazz Band (space available starting at 1:00pm)

2:00pm Enjoy an afternoon private performance by the Grammy Award Winning Hot 8 Brass Band, for the Brainerd HS Band Program. Get ready to groove to the electrifying sound of New Orleans with the Hot 8 Brass Band! With their contagious energy and soulful melodies, this Grammy-winning powerhouse ensemble blends traditional jazz with modern funk, creating a pulsating rhythm that'll have you grooving all afternoon. Renowned for their lively performances and innovative arrangements, the band brings the spirit of the Big Easy to life, igniting audiences worldwide with their irresistible blend of brass brilliance and irresistible beats (subject to confirmation)

4:45pm Dinner at the Acme Oyster House

7:30pm *Attend an evening Broadway Musical performance of Funny Girl in the historic Saenger Theatre*

Return to your hotel for overnight

Day 5 **Wednesday, March 12** **(B)**

6:15am Breakfast at the hotel

7:15am Hotel check-out and load motorcoaches

7:30am Transfer to the airport for your flight home

10:45am Depart New Orleans via Southwest Airlines Flight #1704

12:15pm Arrive in Nashville

Lunch, on own, at the airport

2:15pm Depart Nashville via Southwest Airlines Flight #470

4:20pm Arrive in Minneapolis

***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.*

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