

70 YEARS OF SYMPHONY BOOK FAIR



A City Rich In Cultural Traditions

- **French Opera House – first in the New World**
- **Birthplace of Jazz – New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival**
- **Mardi Gras and Carnival clubs**
- **Symphony organizations begin - early 20th Century**
- **Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra forms 1991**



French Opera House, ca. 1859

A New Tradition Is Born - Symphony Book Fair

- **Organizations struggle financially**
- **Classical music lovers contribute their time, talent and treasure**
- **1953 – SYMPHONY BOOK FAIR is born**
- **2023 - 70th Anniversary is celebrated**



Symphony Book Fair

- **Run solely by volunteers**
- **Innumerable homes**
 - private basements
 - library basements
 - warehouses
- **Rising operating costs**
- **Volunteers persist!**



What Keeps Our Volunteers Going?

- **Love for the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra**
- **Shared sense of purpose to keep the Orchestra and the music alive**
- **A deep-rooted love of BOOKS!**



The Nitty Gritty

Open to the public

- **Tuesdays & Fridays for donations - 10 a.m - 2 p.m.**

The process:

- **Open bags, boxes, piles**
- **Assess condition**
- **Price**
- **Sort into categories**
- **Pack into moving boxes**
- **Repeat until June**



Shared Purpose & Common Goal

- **September – May**
 - Process, sort, price, and pack donations
- **September – secure venue for next year**
- **January – finalize details**
 - Moving company
 - Publicity
 - Supplies
 - Refreshments
 - Extra volunteers
 - Company for unsold books
- **2 days before sale – move books to venue**
- **Day before sale – unpack 800 boxes of books in 8 hours**



Pandemic Threatens Our Future

- **2020**
 - **COVID lockdowns shut down collection and annual sale**
 - **All inventory sold online, and turned a profit**
 - **Lost our warehouse**
- **2021 – What is our future?**
- **Return in 2021? Or create some other new business to support the Orchestra?**



2022 - One More Sale...then Decide

2021 - host one more sale to test local market

2022 - Record-breaking annual sale grossed > \$89,000

Increased expenses cut our contribution to the Orchestra, yet we still donated \$45,000



How Much Do We Raise?

**Over our 70 years,
Symphony Book Fair has
contributed more than
\$1.5 million to our
Orchestra.**

**New Orleans wants the
Symphony Book Fair so
we'll continue going
strong!**

Our Annual Expenses

Warehouse Rent - \$18,000
Sale Venue Rent Rent - \$10,000
Transporting Books - \$6,000
Advertising - \$4,000
Forklift Rental - \$2,000
Book Boxes - \$1,080
Utilities at Warehouse
Other Expenses



THANK YOU!

About LPO Volunteers & Symphony Book Fair

LPO Volunteers is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated solely to service and support for the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

LPO Volunteers is staffed nearly entirely by volunteers. We run two businesses to raise funds for the LPO, the oldest of which is Symphony Book Fair.

For more information, visit LPOvolunteers.org or follow us

