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Kids' Orchestra Goes 100% Virtual to Kick Off 10th Anniversary and New School Year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BATON ROUGE, LA (September 15, 2020) – As Kids' Orchestra (KO) enters its 10th anniversary year and looks forward to the new school year, the nonprofit organization is committed to supporting the East Baton Rouge Parish community through accessible music education. To help keep music alive for local elementary-age children, KO will be 100% virtual for this school year, providing students with a safe and fun virtual learning environment through its signature virtual learning program, [KO@Home](#).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, KO pivoted from its traditional site-based afterschool program model to [KO@Home](#) in early spring and will continue to provide a virtual experience for students with expanded course offerings for the 2020-2021 program year. Starting this fall, KO@Home will include:

- Pre-recorded music lessons that are open to students in Kindergarten and above.
- Live virtual group lessons that are open to students Kindergarten and above.
- Live virtual private music lessons that are open to students in 2nd grade and above.
- Free learning resources, including instrument care guides, virtual social-emotional learning, *Music for All* Videos, and lagniappe music resources.

"We are committed to keeping our mission alive despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. Through KO@Home, we are working to keep youth and families connected to musical enrichment and engaging musical opportunities outside of the school day to build a community of creative, confident, and socially engaged students through music education. KO@Home will keep families connected to a community of artists and teachers in East Baton Rouge Parish that are excited to explore, create, and perform with young people," says Sam Trevathan, KO's Education Director.

Each KO@Home course differs in size, cost, and availability across grade levels. A program eligibility guide can be found [here](#). All enrolled KO students will receive not only a KO t-shirt but also access to online performance opportunities. Families across East Baton Rouge Parish and the community at-large are invited to [apply online today](#). KO's virtual classes will begin on Monday, September 28.

KO's Executive Director, Jody Hanet says, "Who would have guessed that our 10th year would include a full-on virtual program? I think it just magnifies our adaptability. We pivot and accommodate to ensure the students of our community continue to receive the benefits of participating in KO. Parents can have peace of mind that their kids are receiving high quality music lessons in the comfort of their homes without having to worry about exposure to COVID-19. What a great way to kick off our 10th Anniversary!"

Kids' Orchestra's programming, is supported by the community, including the Capital Area United Way, Aetna for a Better Louisiana, The Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Division of the Arts, and Rotary Club of Baton Rouge Foundation, among other partners and supporters.

For more information about KO@Home, visit: <https://kidsorchestra.org/koathome/>.

About Kids' Orchestra

Kids' Orchestra's (KO) mission is to build a community of creative, confident, and socially engaged students through music education. KO serves over 300 elementary-age students across East Baton Rouge Parish and gives them the opportunity to study music, play an instrument, and perform in an ensemble. Learn more: www.kidsorchestra.org.

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