Sensory-Friendly Family Concert

Going to Orchestra Hall

PRE-VISIT STORY
I am going to Orchestra Hall.

This is where the Minnesota Orchestra performs music.
There are three ways that I can enter the building.

Two entrances are on the street level. I can also enter from the skyway.
When I arrive, I will see a greeter. The greeter will welcome me into the Orchestra Hall lobby.
The lobby might be crowded and noisy. I will stay close to the person I came to the concert with.

If I don’t like the crowds, I can find a quiet area at Orchestra Hall.
When I go to the auditorium, I may have to wait in lines.

I may have to wait in line to get into the auditorium, to get to my seat, or to enter the bathroom.
Bathrooms

I will let the person I am with know if I have to go to the bathroom.

I can go to the bathroom any time I need to.

The sound of the toilets flushing may be loud but it will only be for a short time.
If I need quiet time, I will tell the person I came with.

I can leave the lobby activities or the concert anytime I want to go to a quiet area.

I can relax in the quiet areas.
The usher is a friendly helper.

I will give my ticket to the usher to enter the auditorium. The usher will use a scanning machine to check my ticket.

The usher helps me and my family find our seats. If I need help I can ask the usher.
I can match the number and letter on the ticket with the number and letter on the seats.

When I find a match, this is my seat.
Ushers in aisle

I can ask the usher:

• to help me find my seat
• to help me find the bathroom
• if I have a question about the concert

Other people will want to ask the usher questions too. I will keep my questions to the usher short.
Volunteers are helpers at the concert.

Some volunteers will have headphones, earplugs, fidgets, and other items I can use during the concert.
When I am in the concert hall, I will see white cubes on the ceiling and walls.

During the concert, the cubes may change color, have pictures on them, or provide me with information.
When the orchestra is on the stage, I will see a person standing in front of the orchestra. This person is called the conductor. The conductor uses a stick called a baton to lead the orchestra. I will see the conductor move the baton in the air to let the musicians know how fast or slow to play the music.
An orchestra is a group of musicians playing different instruments. Sometimes the musicians play together and sometimes they take turns.
If the music is too loud, I can move to another place in the concert hall to listen to the music. I can wear headphones or cover my ears if I like quieter sounds.

If I want to dance to the music, I can dance to the music.
If I need a break from the concert, I can go to the lobby or the quiet spaces in Orchestra Hall.

I can still listen and watch the concert on a TV monitor in the lobby.
I can clap if I like what I hear or see.

People around me may also be clapping. People clap for a short time and then the clapping is over.

If the clapping sound is too loud for me, I can cover my ears until it is over.
When the concert is over, the conductor and musicians will stand up and bow. I can clap or say “Bravo” to let the musicians know I liked the concert.
After the concert, I will leave my seat and walk in the aisle to leave the concert hall. All the people will leave the concert hall at the same time. The aisles will be crowded. I will walk slowly while leaving the concert hall.
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