Relaxed 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.

There are two entrances on the street level. There is one entrance on the skyway level.
When I arrive, I will see a greeter.

The greeter will welcome me into the Orchestra Hall lobby.

The greeter will offer me a fidget and a map of the lobby activities.
Lobby

The lobby might be crowded and noisy. I will stay close to the person I came to the concert with.

If the lobby gets too loud, I can look at my map and find a quiet area at Orchestra Hall.

I can go to the quiet area to relax.
If I need to take a break, I will tell the person I came with.

I can take a break in the quiet areas anytime during the lobby activities or the concert.

I can relax in the quiet areas. I can use the tools in the quiet areas to help my body feel calm.
The usher is a friendly helper.

There is an usher at the Audience Services Desk. I can ask the usher questions about Orchestra Hall or the concert.

The usher has headphones, earplugs, and fidgets I can use during the concert or lobby activities.

I can visit the Audience Services Desk anytime I need help.
When I am at Orchestra Hall, I may have to wait in line. 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 tell the person I am with if I have to go to the bathroom.

I can go to the bathroom anytime I need to.

When I flush the toilet, the sound may be loud, but it will only be for a short time.

I may hear announcements about the concert through speakers in the bathroom or the lobby. The announcements may loud, but they will only be for a short time.
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.
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

Volunteers are helpers at the concert.

Some volunteers will have backpacks with headphones, earplugs, fidgets, and other items I can use during the concert.
An orchestra is a group of musicians playing different instruments.

Sometimes the musicians play together and sometimes they take turns.

Some of the music is loud, and some is soft. Some of the music is fast, and some is slow.
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.
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 or videos on them, or provide me with information.
Everyone attending the concert is here to experience music.

When I listen to music, I may feel an emotion. People often express feelings about the music by humming, singing, or waving their arms.

I can wear headphones or cover my ears if I like quieter sounds. If I am feeling overwhelmed, I can go to a new seat or a quiet area to listen to the music.

If I want to move my body to the music, I can dance to the music.
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.
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.
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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