

I Am Going to a Concert!

An experience guide
to prepare me for my
visit to the St. Louis
Symphony Orchestra



St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra

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On Sunday, March 23rd, I am going to an orchestra concert.

A concert is a musical performance given by many musicians. The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra is the group of musicians who will perform for me.

The concert starts at 3:00pm, but if I want to, I can arrive as early as 2:00pm to participate in the pre-concert activities.





The concert will be performed at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Missouri—St. Louis.

There are many entrance doors to the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Depending on the door I choose, I may see this:





When I walk into the building it may be noisy. There will be many other people coming to this concert, so it is important that I stay with my family or group.

If I choose to, I can participate in the pre-concert activities until it is time for the concert to start. Or I can choose to find my seat first. If I want to find my seat, I can ask an usher. An usher is someone who takes people to their seats.



If I participate in the pre-concert activities, I can do a scavenger hunt and get my picture taken. I can also participate in activities from the Metro Theater Company and Ballet 314.



I may participate until I hear the chimes. When I hear the chimes, it means I have ten minutes to find my seat and get ready for the concert.

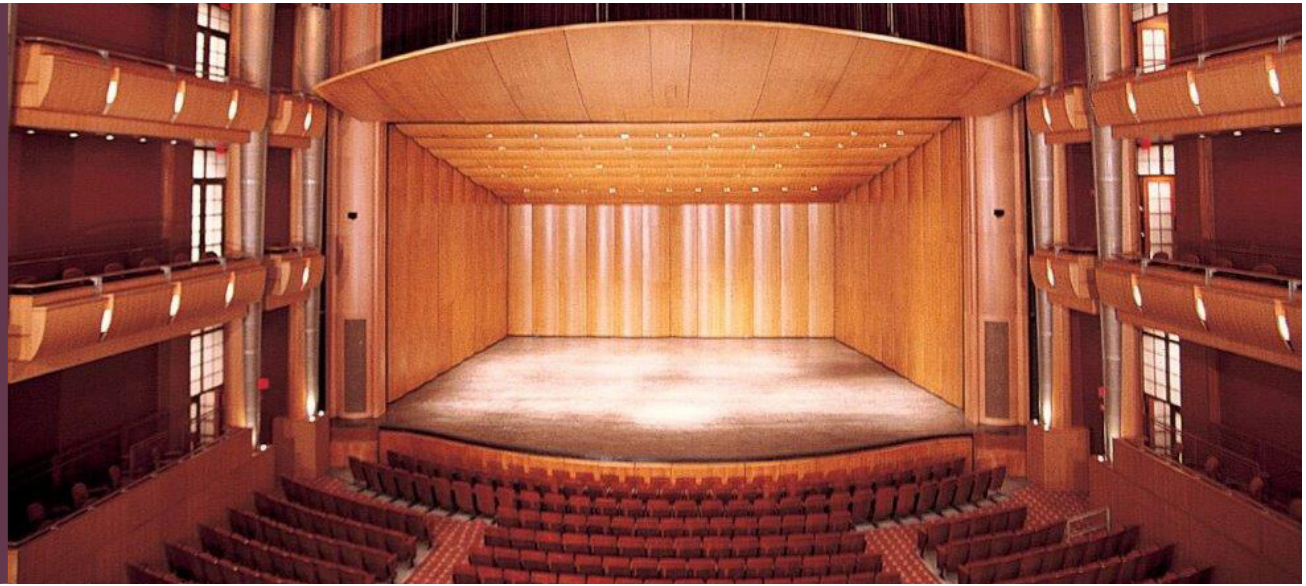


An usher will lead me to the doors to enter the auditorium when it is time to find my seat. An auditorium is another word for a concert hall. Before I enter, the usher will scan my ticket.



This is what I will see!

The auditorium is a large space with many seats and a big stage where the musicians will perform.



An usher will take me to the seat where I will sit for the concert. The usher will also hand me a program. A program is a piece of paper that tells me the names of the pieces of music that I will hear at the concert.

When I get to my seat, I will sit down and patiently wait for the concert to begin. While I wait, trivia questions will be projected on a screen above the stage. If I know the answer, I can quietly tell the person sitting next to me.

I might see and hear some of the musicians warming up on stage.



I will hear an announcement at the start of the concert. This means it's time to be quiet.

Then the concertmaster, a musician who plays the violin, will walk on stage. I will clap for the concertmaster. Then they will lead the orchestra in tuning.



The concert will begin when the conductor, who is the leader of the musicians, comes on the stage. I can clap for the conductor. His name is Samuel Hollister.





The musicians will perform music that was written to go along with the book *Because* by Mo Willems. Actors from Metro Theater Company will act out the story as the musicians play the music.

Once the music begins, I will try to be as quiet as I can so everyone can hear the music and the story.

Some of the music may sound loud or unsettling at times. If the music becomes too loud, hurts my ears, or makes me feel nervous, there are a few strategies I can use. I can...



1. Cover my ears



2. Ask for headphones



If I feel like I need to take a break from the concert, I can ask to leave the auditorium and go to the quiet room. An adult will need to go with me.

I can stay in the quiet room until I feel better and I am ready to go back to my seat in the auditorium.

If I need to use the restroom while I am at the concert, I will tell an adult who will take me.





When each piece of music is finished, everyone will clap (also known as applause). Clapping is a nice way to let the musicians know that I liked the music.

After the last piece of music, when the applause is done, the concert is over.

I will leave the auditorium and exit the Touhill Performing Arts Center through the same doors I came in.



What a great time I had going to a concert and listening to the music of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

