

I am going to a concert!

An experience guide to prepare me for my visit to the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra at Powell Hall at the Jack C. Taylor Music Center.



ST. LOUIS
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

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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. A musician is someone who sings or plays an instrument.

To get to the concert, I will take a bus. The bus will pick me, my classmates, and my teacher up at our school.



Powell Hall at the Jack C. Taylor Music Center is a large building where people go to concerts. I will enter Powell Hall through this entrance.



There will be lots of activities I can do before the concert. Since lots of kids will be doing musical activities, it may be noisy. There will be a lot of people at this concert, so it is important that I stay with my group.



I may get to play instruments.

I can pretend I'm a conductor and use a baton to lead the orchestra.

I can even learn some dance moves or do an obstacle course!

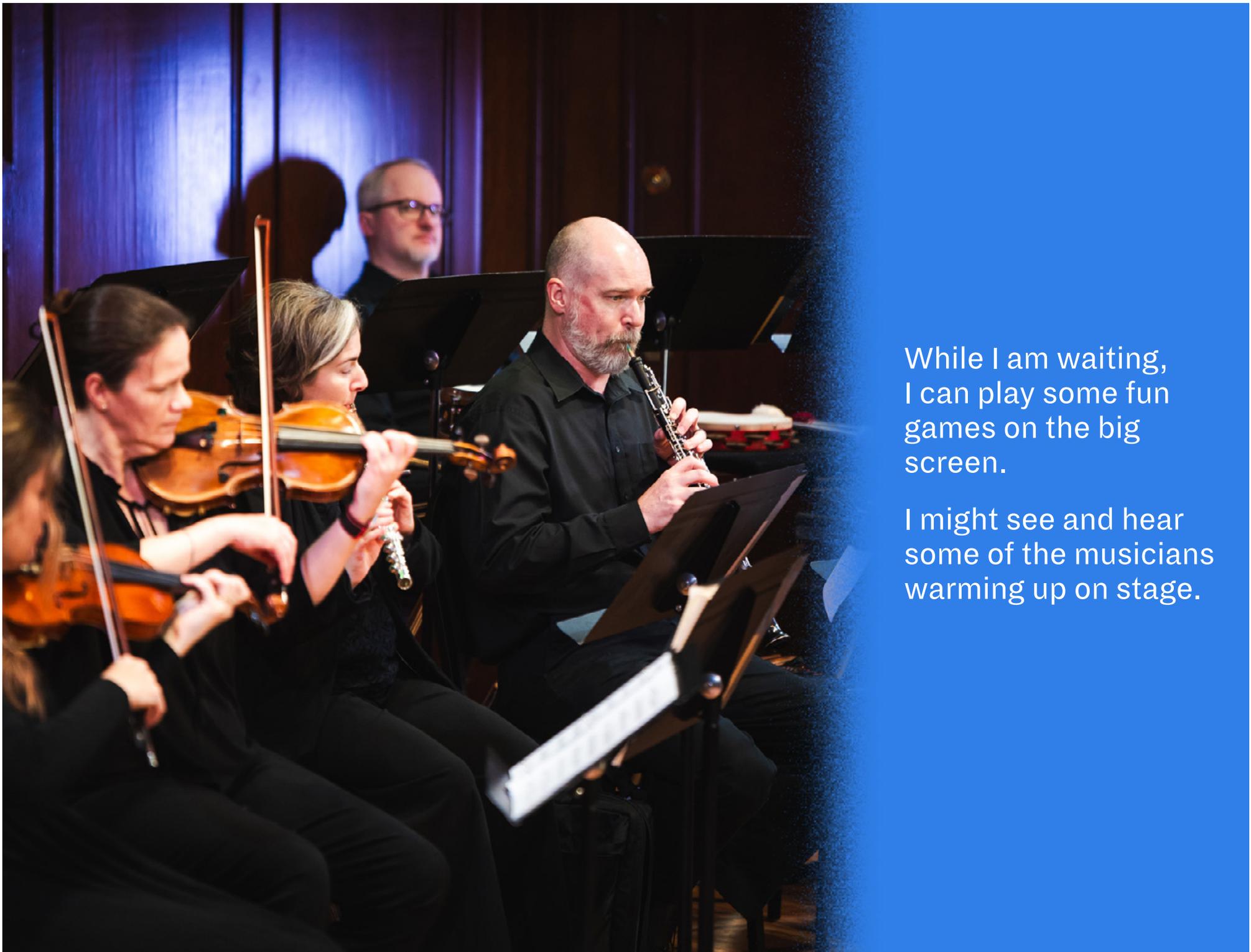


When it is close to the time that the concert starts, I will go to the Education and Learning Center (ELC). The ELC is a large space with many seats and an area up front where the musicians will perform. This is what I will see when I enter the ELC. An usher will take me to the seat where I will sit for the concert.



When I get to my seat, I will sit down and patiently wait for the concert to begin. At my seat, I will find a colorful scarf. There will also be an egg shaker under my chair. I can leave both of those things where they are. I will get to use them later in the concert.





While I am waiting,
I can play some fun
games on the big
screen.

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. Once everyone is quiet, the concertmaster will lead the orchestra in tuning.



Mr. Kevin is the conductor or the leader of the musicians. The concert will begin when he uses his arms to tell the musicians that it is time to begin playing.



There will be a narrator who will tell the story of *Giraffes Can't Dance*. Her name is Ms. Michelle. Ms. Michelle and Ms. Sarah will also lead the movements. I can watch either of them to know how I can participate in the concert.



The musicians will add music to the story of *Giraffes Can't Dance*. Once the music begins, I will try to be as quiet as I can so everyone can hear the music and the story.

I can watch Ms. Michelle and Ms. Sarah to know when I can be part of the concert. They will show me when I can play my egg shaker or use my scarf to move with the music.



There will also be a dancer dressed like a giraffe who will act out the story.



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



1. Cover your ears



2. Ask for headphones



3. Take a short break in the lobby or quiet area

If I feel like I need to take a break from the concert, I can ask an adult to take me to the quiet room. I can stay in the quiet room until I feel better and I am ready to go back to my seat in the ELC.



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 clapping is done, that means the concert is over and it is time to get back on the bus to go back to school.



I will walk with my class to our bus, and then tell our helpers “thank you” before getting on the bus.

Back to school I go! What a great time I had going to a concert and listening to the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

