



I'm Going to a Concert!

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



I am going to a St. Louis Symphony Orchestra Concert. A concert is a musical performance given by musicians. The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra is the group of musicians who will perform for me.



The concert will be performed at Powell Hall at the Jack C. Taylor Music Center. There are several entrances to the building. Depending on where I enter, I may see this.

I can arrive as early as one hour before the concert starts to participate in the pre-concert activities.





The lobby of the Jack C. Taylor Music Center may be noisy. If I see a “Headphone Zone” sign, it means I may be entering a loud space.

There will be many other people coming to this concert, so it is important that I stay with my family or group.

When I enter the music center, an usher will scan my ticket. Ushers are friendly people who are there to help me with what I need—like finding my seat or answering questions.

If I want, I can do pre-concert activities until it's time for the concert to start. Or, I can go to my seat right away. If I'm not sure where to go, I can always ask an usher for help.



I can visit Guest Services in the lobby. There, I can check out noise canceling headphones, a weighted lap pad, or ear plugs. They also have fidgets available. A quiet room is available if I need to take a break.



If I choose to participate in the pre-concert activities, 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.



When I enter the auditorium, 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 can 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.



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

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



3. Take a break

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.



Sometimes there is a post-concert talk back, where I can stay and ask the musicians questions about the concert. If there isn't one, then I will leave the auditorium and exit Powell Hall.

If I borrowed a sensory tool, I should return it to an usher or to Guest Services.



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

