

ATTENDING A CONCERT FOR KIDS PERFORMANCE

The San Francisco Symphony has been providing concerts appropriate for school-age children since 1919. Designed specifically to introduce young people to live symphonic music, more than 30,000 students, teachers, and chaperones attend these concerts each season. We are proud to work in concert with teachers, parents, and guardians who believe the arts are an essential part of any educational process that hopes to produce well-rounded, engaged, and aware adults.

Attending a concert by the San Francisco Symphony in Davies Symphony Hall may be the most exciting event in your students' school year. We know it's an event they will never forget. The San Francisco Symphony is a world-class orchestra prepared to give your students its very best.

In order to ensure you are fully prepared for one of the most memorable off-campus educational outcomes your students will ever experience, we hope to enhance your first-time *Concerts for Kids* attendance consideration by providing the following logistical guidelines:



OUTSIDE DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

1. **PLEASE PLAN TO ARRIVE AT THE HALL AT LEAST FORTY MINUTES PRIOR TO CONCERT TIME.** Doors open approximately 45 minutes before the concert. **When you arrive, you or another adult must be at the FRONT of your group.** Be prepared to give ushers the exact number of people in the group, including all children, adults, and yourself. **Please designate one lead chaperone to carry the tickets for the ENTIRE GROUP.**
2. **UPON YOUR ARRIVAL TO DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL, PLEASE LINE UP YOUR ENTIRE GROUP BEHIND THOSE THAT HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED.** The ushers will take you to the end of the line. Please **remain on the sidewalk** as you enter and exit the building.
3. If your group is arriving at Davies Symphony Hall by multiple drivers, and you wish to be seated together, please have all members of your group join the line together **before** you get in line.
4. If you are arriving by charter or school bus, please ask the bus driver to pull to the **CORNER OF GROVE AND VAN NESS FOR UNLOADING. PLEASE DO NOT UNLOAD YOUR PARTY IN FRONT OF THE DOORS OF DAVIES.** Please remember to make arrangements with your bus driver about the location of pick-up on Van Ness Avenue or Franklin Street after the concert. We recommend exchanging cell phone numbers, if possible.
5. **We regret that we CANNOT offer INDIVIDUAL OR SECTIONAL SEATING ASSIGNMENTS.** Your **entire group** will be seated together in the hall on a **first-come, first-served basis. Wheelchair seating is available.** Please contact us at **(415) 503-5337** at least 7 (seven) days in advance of your concert date if a member of your group requires wheelchair seating or any other special accommodations.
6. **SAFETY IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY.** When you arrive, **please look for our ushers wearing turquoise alligator shirts and Symphony staff in bright orange vests.** We ask that you be attentive to their directions to ensure that all of our young patrons are able to line up and enter the hall safely.



INSIDE DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

Attending a concert by the San Francisco Symphony in Davies Symphony Hall is a very exciting occasion in your students' school year. We know it is an experience they will never forget! The San Francisco Symphony is a world-class orchestra prepared to give your students its very best. Please do not distract our audience and our orchestra by **bringing toddlers** to the concerts. The programs have been designed for kindergarten through ninth grade, and are **not** appropriate for children under the age of five. Children's Concerts (grade K-3) run approximately 35 minutes, and Youth Concerts (grades 4-9) run approximately 45 minutes.

Your students will be a part of an audience of 2,500 patrons. They will be sharing a musical experience designed just for them inside one of the greatest musical venues in the world! For complete details on how to draw your students' attention to the features of the building, please see "Pre-Concert Preparation" in the Study Guide.

In order to ensure you and your students have the very best day possible, and to enhance everyone's comfort and enjoyment during the concert, we offer a few simple guidelines:

When entering the building...

1. **LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE USHERS.** Our ushers know our building, and they know how to quickly fill the hall, but they rely upon **you** to ensure students are following instructions.
2. It is very important that all chaperones understand that **THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPERVISION OF THE STUDENTS.** In turn, please make it clear to your students that they need to listen to the chaperones as they listen to you.

Once you've been seated...

3. **TEACHERS AND CHAPERONES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THEIR STUDENTS. ADULTS SHOULD PLAN TO SIT AMONG THE STUDENTS.** We recommend at least one chaperone for every 10 students. **Please ensure everyone's enjoyment by taking immediate action in the event of talking or other inappropriate behavior.**
4. Let your students know what **BEHAVIOR** is expected of them. The concert will be exciting, but students should know in advance that they will be required to sit quietly in their seats for a fairly long time. Please reference the "Pre-Concert Preparation" page in your Study Guide.
5. It is important to have your students **visit the RESTROOMS before** the concert begins or before your arrival at Davies Symphony Hall. **THERE IS NO INTERMISSION.**
6. Please understand there is **NO FOOD, DRINK OR CHEWING GUM ALLOWED INSIDE THE HALL.** If possible, please have your students leave their lunches on the buses until the concert is finished. We also recommend securing them in a large bag and either giving them to an adult, or leaving them at our coat check when you enter the hall.

7. **FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY and RECORDING OF ANY KIND (using a camcorder, digital camera, cell phone, etc.) IS NOT ALLOWED INSIDE THE HALL.** Please remind your students and chaperones to be respectful of this rule.
8. **IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, PLEASE LEAVE BACKPACKS AND ROLLING BACKPACKS EITHER AT SCHOOL OR ON THE BUS.** They present hazards in the hall aisles, and negatively impact seating efficiency and safety.

After the concert...

9. Ushers and Symphony staff will be on hand to direct your group out of the hall utilizing the most efficient exits. **WE KINDLY ASK THAT YOU FOLLOW THEIR DIRECTIONS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS ABLE TO EXIT AND REACH THEIR MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION SAFELY.**
10. **LOST AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL?** Occasionally students become separated from their groups and are too shy to approach an usher for assistance. Please point out the ***bench across from the Symphony Store*** to your students as you enter the hall, and instruct them to go directly there if they become lost. Ushers will be on duty to help them find their way back to their group.
11. **LOST AND FOUND:** If a member of your group leaves something behind at Davies Symphony Hall, please telephone 415-503-5409 the same day. After that, please call the Lost and Found Office at 415-621-6600 Monday – Friday from 8:30am–11:30am.

Thank you for your cooperation and your attention to these important guidelines. Please share them with each chaperone before you arrive. These guidelines are provided to ensure that everyone has the best possible musical experience we can offer. If you have any questions about these or any other aspects of the Concerts for Kids program, please feel free to phone the **Education Department** at **(415) 503-5337**. The San Francisco Symphony looks forward to welcoming you and your students to Davies Symphony Hall.

Enjoy the concert!



Ronald Gallman, Director of Education & Youth Orchestra
San Francisco Symphony

NOTICE TO TEACHERS:

PARKING

Parking is available for buses at bagged meters around Davies Hall. Early arrival will assure you a space. Private vehicles must find street parking or use the lots in the general vicinity. The largest public parking lot in the private area is located under Civic Center Plaza (the park in front of City Hall) on McAllister between Polk and Larkin Streets, one block from Davies Symphony Hall (note location below). Parking for private vehicles is also available at the Performing Arts Garage on Grove between Franklin and Gough Streets (note location below). Regardless of where you park your vehicle, you will enter Davies Symphony Hall on the Grove Street side of the building (note below).

DIRECTIONS TO DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

From the East Bay:

Take Bay Bridge to San Francisco, exit at "9th Street/Civic Center". At the bottom of the exit ramp, make an easy left onto Harrison Street moving into the right lane. Take a right on 9th Street. Depending upon parking preferences, follow the map below.

From the South Bay:

Take Highway 101 North, or, 280 North to 101. Follow exit signs for Golden Gate Bridge and take the 9th Street/Civic Center exit. 9th Street will take you to Civic Center. Depending upon your parking preference, follow the map below.

From the North Bay:

Take Highway 101 South across Golden Gate Bridge to San Francisco. After the toll gates, follow Highway 101 "Downtown" signs to Lombard Street exit. Turn left on Lombard and follow along to Van Ness Avenue. Turn right on Van Ness and follow along to City Hall area. Depending upon your parking preference, please use the map below.

