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The Cleveland Orchestra announces 2025–26 Family Concerts and Music Explorers Series at Severance Music Center



(Photo credit: Scott Esterly)

CLEVELAND— The Cleveland Orchestra is thrilled to announce its 2025–26 Family Concert Series and Music Explorers Series at Severance Music Center, designed to introduce children and families to the magical world of classical music.

Family Concerts, aimed at children ages 7 to 12, offer performances that blend education and entertainment in the beautiful Mandel Concert Hall. Whether it's the excitement of Halloween, the timeless music of Beethoven, or the delightful world of author Mo Willems, each program is created to leave a lasting impression

Kicking off the season is the ***Halloween Spooktacular*** on Sunday, October 19, 2025. This beloved annual event offers a spooky, family-friendly twist on classical music, giving families the chance to enjoy an afternoon of thrilling music and whimsical fun. Held days before Halloween, the concert encourages kids to wear their Halloween best and join the Orchestra for an afternoon filled with musical treats and playful tricks. Pre-concert activities begin an hour before the performance, ensuring an immersive experience for attendees. There are two performances of the *Halloween Spooktacular*. The first performance at 1 p.m. is sensory friendly with a limited audience size, and the second performance begins at 4 p.m.

The Family Concert Series continues with a unique performance of ***Beethoven Lives Upstairs*** in collaboration with Classical Kids LIVE! on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Through a series of lively

letters exchanged between young Christoph and his uncle, the story explores Beethoven's life and music in an accessible, imaginative way. As Christoph learns more about the "madman" living upstairs, young audiences will experience more than 25 musical excerpts from Beethoven's most famous works, including the "Moonlight" Sonata, *Für Elise*, and the powerful Fifth and Ninth symphonies.

Rounding out the series is **Mo Willems's *Because***, an enchanting program that brings the beloved author and illustrator's story to life. These two concerts, on May 1 at 7:30 p.m. and May 3 at 3 p.m., feature Jessie Montgomery's symphonic music paired with Amber Ren's captivating illustrations. The performance mixes music and storytelling in a way that will spark imagination and wonder in audiences of all ages. The May 3 concert is sensory friendly.

Alongside the Family Concert Series, The Cleveland Orchestra's Music Explorers Series offers a perfect first concert experience for the youngest music lovers — children ages 3 to 6. Held in the intimate Reinberger Chamber Hall, these 30-minute interactive programs introduce one instrument at a time through storytelling and live music, led by Cleveland Orchestra musicians and a lively host.

The 2025–26 Music Explorers Series begins with the **Fantastic Flute** on November 7 and 8, 2025, featuring Assistant Principal Flute Jessica Sindell and the graceful sounds of the flute. On December 12 and 13, 2025, families can ring in the season with the **Holiday Brass Quintet** in Mandel Concert Hall. It's a festive celebration filled with bright, brassy cheer and holiday favorites.

In the new year, the series continues with the **Velvet Violin** on February 27 and 28, 2026. Kathleen Collins guides kids through the instrument's lyrical sounds. Next up is the **Tuneful Trombone**, a fun-filled exploration of the trombone's playful personality, featuring Richard Stout on April 3 and 4, 2026.

The season wraps up with the **Clever Clarinet** on April 24 and 25, 2026, where Robert Woolfrey leads children through the instrument's warm tones and melodies.

Photos for the Family Concert Series and Music Explorers Series are available for [download here](#).

Sensory-Friendly Concerts

The Cleveland Orchestra first introduced its Sensory-Friendly Concerts in November 2023 in collaboration with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. These events offer accommodations to create a more inclusive concert atmosphere for people of all ages with autism spectrum disorder or sensory sensitivity. Audience guidelines are modified to allow for talking, clapping, and moving around in Mandel Concert Hall. Guests have access to noise-reducing headphones, fidgets, and quiet spaces, and staff from the Board of Developmental Disabilities are on site to provide additional support and guidance.

Under 18s Free

The Cleveland Orchestra's Under 18s Free program offers free tickets (one per regular-priced adult paid admission) to young people 17 and under, for the Family Concert Series. Under 18s Free tickets are not available for box seating.

Under 18s Free is a program of The Cleveland Orchestra's Center for Future Audiences. The Center, created with a lead endowment gift from the Maltz Family Foundation, was established to fund programs to foster new generations of audiences for Cleveland Orchestra concerts in Northeast Ohio. Under 18s Free continues to develop young audiences by making Orchestra concerts affordable for

families, offering free tickets to young people, 17 and under, for select Severance Music Center performances. More information on Under 18s Free and other Center for Future Audiences ticketing programs [here](#).

With Gratitude

The Family Concert Series is sponsored by Anne H. Jenkins and Tom H. Jenkins.

Halloween Spooktacular sponsored by The Meisel & Pesses Family Foundation

Sensory-Friendly Concerts are presented in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Sensory-Friendly Concerts are supported by FirstEnergy Foundation

Sensory-Friendly Concerts are generously sponsored by an Anonymous donor.

Ticket Information

For tickets, contact the Severance Music Center Ticket Office at 216-231-1111 or visit clevelandorchestra.com. The ticket office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

2025–26 Family Concert Series and Music Explorers Series at Severance Music Center

Halloween Spooktacular

Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 1 p.m. (Sensory Friendly)

Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 4 p.m.

Mandell Concert Hall

The Cleveland Orchestra

Taichi Fukumura, *conductor*

Music Explorers: Fantastic Flute

Friday, November 7, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, November 8, 2025, at 11 a.m.

Reinberger Chamber Hall

Jessica Sindell, *flute*

Music Explorers: Holiday Brass Quintet

Friday, December 12, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 11 a.m.

Mandel Concert Hall

Music Explorers: Velvet Violin

Friday, February 27, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 11 a.m.

Reinberger Chamber Hall

Kathleen Collins, *violin*

Beethoven Lives Upstairs

Classical Kids LIVE!

Friday, March 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Mandel Concert Hall

The Cleveland Orchestra

James Feddeck, *conductor*

Music Explorers: Tuneful Trombone

Friday, April 3, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, April 4, 2026, at 11 a.m.

Reinberger Chamber Hall

Richard Stout, *trombone*

Music Explorers: Clever Clarinet

Friday, April 24, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 11 a.m.

Reinberger Chamber Hall

Robert Woolfrey, *clarinet*

Mo Willems's Because

Friday, May 1, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 3, 2026, at 3 p.m. (Sensory Friendly)

Mandel Concert Hall

The Cleveland Orchestra

James Feddeck, *conductor*

All programs and artists are subject to change.

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