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The Cleveland Orchestra announces 2026–27 Family Concerts and Music Explorers Series at Severance Music Center



Photo credit: Scott Esterly

CLEVELAND— The Cleveland Orchestra invites families to experience the joy of classical music with its 2026–27 Family Concert Series and Music Explorers Series at Severance Music Center.

Family Concerts, sponsored by Akron Children’s, offer performances in beautiful Mandel Concert Hall that blend education and entertainment for children ages 7 to 12. Each concert is designed to spark curiosity and imagination, pairing engaging performances with interactive pre-concert activities that begin one hour prior.

“The Cleveland Orchestra has inspired generations of families through the power of music, and we’re proud to support its Family Concert Series. Music helps children learn, imagine, and connect with the world around them. Experiences like these can spark curiosity, encourage creativity, and create lasting memories for families,” said Akron Children’s CEO Chris Gessner.

“As we continue to strengthen our presence across Northeast Ohio, partnering with an organization like The Cleveland Orchestra reflects our commitment to supporting children beyond the walls of our hospitals,” Gessner said. “By helping make these concerts more accessible to families, we’re investing in experiences that bring joy, inspire learning, and support overall well-being.”

The series opens on Sunday, October 25 with the ***Halloween Spooktacular***, featuring the Baldwin Wallace Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Douglas Droste. With both a sensory-friendly performance at 1 p.m. and a traditional family concert at 4 p.m., the program blends spooky favorites

with festive fun, encouraging audiences to arrive in costume and take part in a lively seasonal celebration.

The Cleveland Orchestra, led by Assistant Conductor Taichi Fukumura, presents ***The Snowman in Concert*** on Sunday, January 10, at 3 p.m. The Orchestra accompanies the Oscar-nominated film adaptation of Raymond Briggs's beloved classic, following James and his snowman on a magical journey through wintery skies.

The Orchestra and Fukumura conclude the series with ***The Magical World of Music*** on Friday evening, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. and the sensory-friendly option on Saturday morning, April 10, at 11 a.m. This captivating program introduces young audiences to a range of musical storytelling, from the enchanting music from the *Harry Potter* film series to Grieg's always popular *In the Hall of the Mountain King*.

Throughout the series, sensory-friendly concerts provide a welcoming and inclusive experience for people of any age who may benefit from a more flexible concert environment, including those with autism spectrum disorder or other sensory sensitivities. Audience guidelines are modified to welcome talking, clapping, and moving around in Mandel Concert Hall. Guests have access to noise-reducing headphones, fidgets, and on-site support provided by our community partner, the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities.



Photo credit: Scott Esterly

Complementing the Family Concert Series, the Music Explorers Series offers an ideal first concert experience for children ages 3 to 6. Held in cozy Reinberger Chamber Hall, these interactive 30-minute programs introduce one instrument at a time through storytelling, performance, and audience participation. Led by Cleveland Orchestra musicians and a lively host, each program encourages young listeners to discover the unique sounds of the instruments that make up the orchestra.

The series begins with **Brilliant Bassoon** on October 9 and 10, featuring Mark DeMio, who introduces audiences to the rich, expressive voice of the bassoon. The **Holiday Brass Quintet** brings the series to

Mandel Concert Hall on December 11 and 12, with festive favorites performed by Michael Miller, Lyle Steelman, Hans Clebsch, Richard Stout, and Kenneth Heinlein.

In late winter, audiences can discover the noble sound of the **Heroic Horn** on February 26 and 27, featuring Cleveland Orchestra Principal Horn Nathaniel Silberschlag. During **Playful Percussion** on April 2 and 3, percussionists Tanner Tanyeri and Peter Nichols showcase the Orchestra's awesome array of rhythmic instruments.

The Music Explorers Series concludes with **Vibrant Viola** on April 30 and May 1, featuring Cleveland Orchestra violist William Bender, who introduces young audiences to the middle voice of the string family.

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

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 Cleveland Orchestra audiences 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 2026–27 Family Concert Series is sponsored by Anne H. Jenkins and Tom H. Jenkins.

The Cleveland Orchestra's Family Concert Series is presented by Akron Children's.

The Cleveland Orchestra's Music Explorers Series is sponsored by PNC.

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.

2026–27 Family Concerts and Music Explorers at Severance Music Center

Music Explorers: Brilliant Bassoon

Friday, October 9, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 11 a.m.

Reinberger Chamber Hall

Mark DeMio, *bassoon*

Halloween Spooktacular

Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 1 p.m. (Sensory Friendly)

Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 4 p.m.

Baldwin Wallace Symphony Orchestra

Douglas Droste, *conductor*

Music Explorers: Holiday Brass Quintet

Friday, December 11, 2026, at 11 a.m.

Saturday, December 12, 2026, at 11 a.m.

Mandel Concert Hall

Michael Miller, *trumpet*

Lyle Steelman, *trumpet*

Hans Clebsch, *horn*

Richard Stout, *trombone*

Kenneth Heinlein, *tuba*

The Snowman in Concert

Sunday, January 10, 2027, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Taichi Fukumura, *conductor*

Music Explorers: Heroic Horn

Friday, February 26, 2027, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, February 27, 2027, at 11 a.m.

Reinberger Chamber Hall

Nathaniel Silberschlag, *horn*

Music Explorers: Playful Percussion

Friday, April 2, 2027, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, April 3, 2027, at 11 a.m.

Reinberger Chamber Hall

Tanner Tanyeri, *percussion*

Peter Nichols, *percussion*

The Magical World of Music

Friday, April 9, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 10, 2027, at 11 a.m. (Sensory Friendly)

The Cleveland Orchestra

Taichi Fukumura, *conductor*

Music Explorers: Vibrant Viola

Friday, April 30, 2027, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 1, 2027, at 11 a.m.

Reinberger Chamber Hall
William Bender, *viola*

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