Going to

The Academy of Music

The Philadelphia Orchestra Sound All Around
Relaxed Sensory Friendly Pre-visit Stories
The Academy of Music is a venue where musicians from The Philadelphia Orchestra perform.

I am going to the Academy of Music.
I can enter the theater through the front entrance or I can use the ramp outside.
When I enter the Academy of Music, I will enter into a big lobby.

The lobby might be a bit crowded and noisy.

If I don’t like the lobby, I can go to the quiet area upstairs near the Ballroom.
When I go to the Academy of Music, I may have to wait in short lines. I may have to wait in line to pick up a ticket. I may have to wait in line in the Bathroom.
If I have to go to the bathroom, I will let my mom or dad know.
I can go to the bathroom any time during the performance.
The sound of the flushing toilet can be loud but it will only be for a short time.
I will need a ticket to get into the Academy of Music Ballroom.

I can bring a printed ticket from home or get a ticket from the ticket booth in the lobby.
The theater usher is a friendly helper. I will give my ticket to the theater usher to enter the theater. The usher will check my ticket.
When it’s time for the performance, I will take the stairs up to the second floor.

I can hold onto the handrail for safety as I walk up the stairs.
If I do not want to use the stairs I can use the elevator.

The elevator might be crowded.
I will enter the ballroom through large doors.

The Ballroom is an open space used for the concert.

This Ballroom has chandeliers, mirrors, and patterns on the carpet.
A chandelier is a large light that hangs from the ceiling. It may be very bright and sparkly.

The Chandeliers
I can sit on the carpet anywhere I want.
I can listen to the music coming from the speakers before the concert starts.
When the concert starts, Ms. Charlotte and Mr. Hugh will walk into the ballroom. Ms. Charlotte is the host for Sound All Around. Mr. Hugh is the piano player. Ms. Charlotte will ask me to sing. I can sing if I want to.
This is Ms. Charlotte Blake Alston. Ms. Charlotte will be the host. She will tell stories and sing songs.
This is Nathaniel West.
He plays bass.
I will hear him play bass during the concert.
This is Hugh Sung.

He plays a big black instrument called the piano.

I will hear him play the piano in the concert.
People clap when they like what they are hearing or seeing.

I can clap if I like what I hear or see.

People clap only for a short time then the clapping is over.

If the clapping sound is too loud for me, I can cover my ears until it is over.
If I need a break during the concert, I can go into the hallway. There are fidget toys and noise-cancelling headphones in the quiet space.
After the concert, I can meet the musicians and ask them questions. The musicians might let me touch their instruments. I need to ask before touching the instruments.
When the concert is over, I will leave the Ballroom.

The room might be crowded.

I will wait my turn to leave the ballroom.
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