SOCIAL NARRATIVE
for the
Sensory-Friendly Performance of

The Beautiful Sounds of Friendship
March 14, 2020 at 12:00pm
I am going to Symphony Hall to see the Boston Symphony Orchestra perform *The Beautiful Sounds of Friendship* on March 14th, 2020 at 12:00pm.
I can get to the hall with my family by driving, taking the T, or by riding the bus. If I have to cross the street, I will make sure to hold hands with a family member.

Symphony Hall is located at 301 Massachusetts Ave. Boston, MA 02115.
When we get to Symphony Hall, we will walk in the front doors. The front doors will open for the concert at 11:00am.
I may see security guards wearing uniforms standing near the doors. They are here to be sure everyone has a safe and fun experience at Symphony Hall.
We may already have our tickets or we may have to pick them up at the Box Office.
A person called an usher will help us find our seats. They will help by looking at our tickets and will tell us which seats are saved for us. The ushers wear uniforms and nametags.
Once we are inside, there will be other children and families around. They are here to see the concert too!
Before the concert, I can visit the Instrument Playground and try out the instruments. If I don’t want to play the instruments, I can watch.
Before the concert, I can use the bathroom or get a drink of water at a water fountain. The bathrooms are in the hallways outside the concert hall. I may have to wait my turn to use the bathroom.
When I’m ready, I can find my seat inside the hall. Symphony Hall is very big! There are a lot of seats in Symphony Hall. If our seats are located in the balcony, we will walk up stairs or take an elevator.
If I attended the Pops sensory-friendly concerts last year, I’ll notice that there are no tables on the orchestra floor. For Boston Symphony concerts, the seating is set up in rows.
Some of the musicians might be warming up on stage by playing their instruments. If some of the sounds are too loud, I can cover my ears.
When the concert is about to begin, someone may ask us to turn off our cell phones and the lights may dim. Everyone in the hall will get quiet. I will try to be as quiet as I can during the concert, so that everyone can hear the music.
The conductor, Thomas Wilkins, will walk on stage at the start of the concert. He helps the musicians play the right notes at the right time. People may clap for him. I can clap for him too, if I want to.
Once he is on the podium, the musicians will start playing the concert. Sometimes the musicians will play softly.
Sometimes the musicians will play louder. I may find the music is too loud. If the music is too loud, it is alright for me to cover my ears or ask an usher to borrow a pair of headphones.
When each piece is over, the conductor will lower his hands and the audience will clap for the musicians and the conductor. If I want to clap, I can clap too!
Thomas will turn around and speak to the audience between each piece. While speaking, he may step off the stage and walk down the center aisle. I will try to listen carefully to hear what he has to say.
If I need a break at any point during the concert, I can go out into the hallway or visit the Quiet Space. An usher or volunteer will be happy to show me where the Quiet Space is located.
When the concert is over, people might stand up and clap. This is their way of telling the musicians “good job” and “thank you”. I can clap too.
Now that the concert is over and I’ve visited the Instrument Playground, it’s time to leave.

I may have to take the elevator or walk down stairs to leave the hall.
I am so excited to see the Boston Symphony at Symphony Hall!