Visiting the Virginia Symphony Orchestra

Sensory Friendly Pre-Visit Story
I am going to the Ferguson Center for the Arts today. I will hear the Virginia Symphony Orchestra perform a concert.
When I get to the Ferguson Center for the Arts, I may have to wait in line to enter. I may also have to wait in line to get to my seat, go to the bathroom, or do the lobby activities.
I will need a ticket to enter the Ferguson Center for the Arts. I may need to stop at the Ticket Office to pick up my ticket.
When I enter the Ferguson Center for the Arts, I will enter into a big lobby. The lobby may be crowded and noisy. There are activities I can do before entering the theater. If I don’t like the lobby, I can go to a quiet space.
The usher is a friendly helper. I will give my ticket to the usher before entering the theater. The usher will rip a portion off before giving it back to me. In the theater I can sit in any seat that is not taken by another person.
If I need quiet time and need to leave the theater at any time, I can visit the lobby or ask a staff member to access their quiet space. I can listen and watch the concert on a TV monitor in the quiet space.
A concert is a musical performance. The music will get louder and softer at times during the concert. The music will get faster and slower at different times during the concert. If the music is too loud, I can cover my ears or put on headphones.
An orchestra is a group of musicians playing different instruments. Sometimes all of the musicians will play at once, other times only a few musicians will play at a time.
When the conductor is on stage, I will see a person standing in front of the orchestra. This person is called the conductor. I will see the conductor use a stick called a baton to lead the orchestra.
People will clap at the ends of pieces when they hear something that they like. If the clapping is too loud, I can cover my ears or put on headphones.
When the concert is over, I will leave my seat and walk in the aisle to leave the theater. All of the people will leave at the same time and the aisles will be crowded. I will walk slowly and stay with my group while leaving the theater.
I had a great day seeing and hearing the Virginia Symphony Orchestra at the Ferguson Center for the Arts. The Virginia Symphony Orchestra hopes to see me again at another performance.
Special Thanks To:

Faith Inclusion Network
Ravens Way
FACT (Families of Autistic Children in Tidewater)
Tidewater Music Therapy
TRDance

Sensory-Friendly Partners:

League of American Orchestras
Faison Center
Children's Hospital of The King’s Daughters

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