

Access to Music

2023

Access to Music is an annual concert presented by Utah Symphony | Utah Opera for children with special needs and their families. This year, our concert at Abravanel Hall was enjoyed by 556 people, with students in the audience from 108 different schools.



“We had so much fun. Coming early was great in order to soak up the atmosphere at Abravanel Hall. The pre-concert music was fun, and it's always great to see old friends in the crowd. The concert was exceptional this year (it always is), and the positivity of the conductor, symphony members, opera singers, and staff was so wonderful. We loved it all!”

“We LOVE this event. We have looked for this every year and are so glad the event is back. I literally cannot express in words how much this event means to my family and how much fun it is to come knowing that I don't have to worry about this or that, or my son making a noise or whatever. My son was actually one of the kids that got up and danced last night and we just had the biggest smiles ... we don't get the opportunity to go other places because of logistic and sensory concerns ... So this event is one of a kind. Please thank everyone that puts on this event and please keep doing it. I wish there were more events like this. This is really neat that you guys do this.”



UTAH SYMPHONY
THIERRY FISCHER, MUSIC DIRECTOR

UTAH PERA
CHRISTOPHER MCBETH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



“We absolutely loved the concert. I am amazed that something like this is available. My son is autistic. He loves music and instruments and was very excited to go. We dressed up and made it the best experience we could for him. He brought his noise canceling headphones, but he was so engrossed in the music, he didn't use them! For once, I wasn't worried that he wiggles or might whisper too loud. Everyone was so kind and inclusive that my husband and I were able to relax and enjoy the music just like everyone else. I wasn't sure what to expect. I thought it would be a casual performance, but all the musicians and artists and the conductor put on a professional and incredible concert. I was brought to tears by this experience. Our family cherished this opportunity. Thank you!”



“Everyone loved it. My son McKay calls it “The most important night of the year.” He was thrilled to have Trepak on the schedule. It’s so great that we can take him and not worry about disturbing anyone, though we are thinking about getting tickets to a few Utah Symphony concerts during the year, because he’s really had the chance to learn to be a great concert-goer. He’s had a lot of opportunities to practice now, and I think he could go and do great! What a valuable program! He has done so well at our local high school musicals and band/orchestra concerts, and it all comes from his early chance to develop his love of music and practice concert-going from these concerts. It’s just amazing.”

“We recorded our daughter's reaction of excitement that night. When she couldn't stop talking about her experience the next morning, we showed her the video and she enjoyed watching it over and over and loved singing and dancing to it all morning while getting ready for the day!”

