

# Access to Music 2026

Access to Music is an annual concert presented by Utah Symphony | Utah Opera specifically for people with sensory sensitivities or other disabilities and their families. This year's concert, conducted by Jessica Rivero Altarriba at the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre, was enjoyed by 448 people.

During this free sensory-friendly performance, the house lights remain on and there is no expectation to remain quiet or seated. Other accommodations include ASL interpretation, projected English captions for sung portions, sensory items such as headphones and lap pads available for check out, and a designated quiet space.



“It is hard to express the appreciation we have for this event. To not have to worry that my daughter with autism may clap too loud or cheer when it is not typically socially acceptable in these situations is a total game changer. To have you guys encourage the audience to be who they are and accept and appreciate them for that means more than I can express in words. Thank you Thank you Thank you”



“We look forward to this every year. My son loves music and this is such a safe place for him to be exposed to live music.”

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“My 7 year old daughter, who has grown up with her 12 year old autistic brother, told me afterwards that when she heard others in the audience make noises or shout she got a peaceful feeling, because those are the kinds of noises we are used to at home and she felt like we belonged. It was truly an honor to be counted among that amazing audience and to be a recipient of that beautiful music. Thank you.”



“It was phenomenal. We are SO grateful for this opportunity. My son who is on the spectrum was overcome with emotion and in tears because he was so touched by the music. He said, ‘It was so beautiful!’ Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!”

“Our son loved it and had a great time. Not just the performance, but meeting some of the performers in the lobby afterwards was something he really enjoyed. The whole evening made him feel wanted and included.”



“It was perfect. My daughter had a wonderful time. The length of the concert was perfect, the variety of music kept her interested. We loved it.”

“My son is 25, and he loves very few things, but the symphony is one of those things. Nothing makes me happier than to see him so happy and enjoying something.”



“This was a lovely experience! My son was super excited to be there and we had a wonderful time. It was especially nice to meet the performers and musicians after.”

“My son LOVES live music. But his disabilities make it impossible for him to still still and quiet. We have been kicked out of even school performances. Access to music means so so much to my family. Thank you!”

“We have been coming to Access to Music every year for the last 10 yrs. My son really enjoys it. He comes every year to hear the “Can can” and I cannot tell you the joy i have in my heart and the tears that it brings to see him enjoy himself and everyone else in the audience!!!  
all we can say is Thank you!”



“My son was having a hard night and didn't want to go. Until he got there, then realized what concert we were at and got very excited. By the end of the concert he was laughing and clapping and stomping along to some of his favorite songs.”