



 Boston Symphony
Orchestra

 Boston Pops  Tanglewood  Symphony Hall

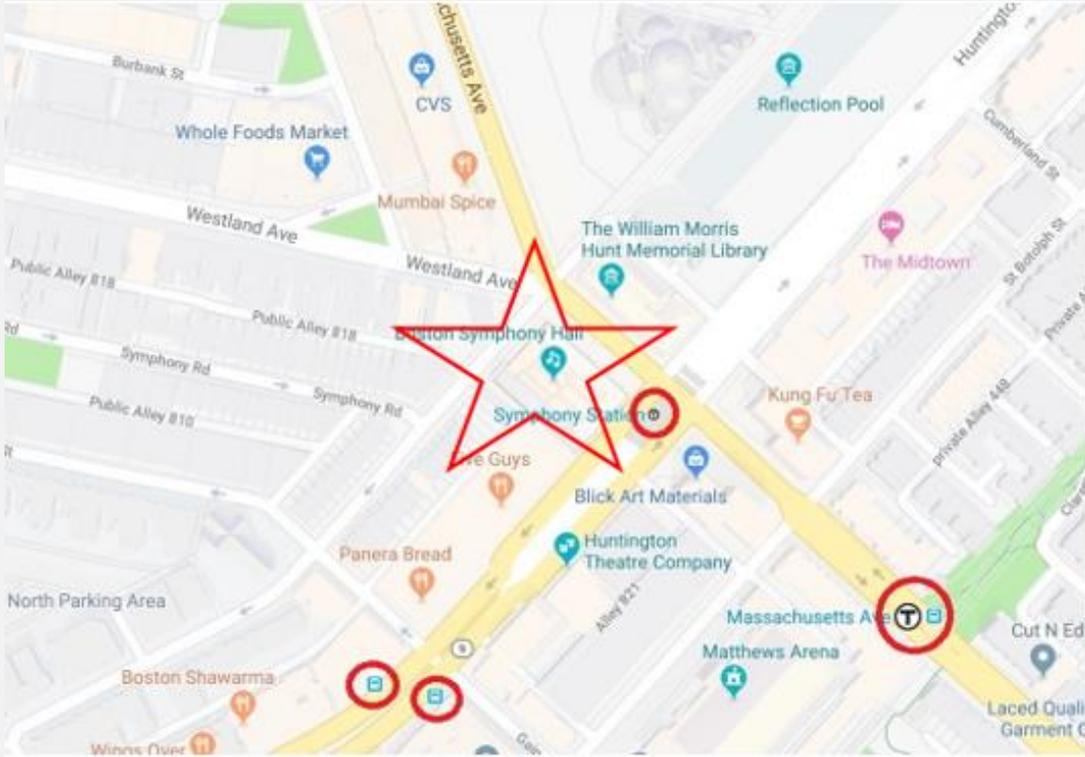
Social Narrative

BSO Sensory-Friendly Concert

We look forward to seeing you at Symphony Hall for a fun musical time!



I am excited about
visiting Symphony
Hall!



- Symphony Hall is located at 301 Massachusetts Ave, Boston, MA 02115.
- I can get to Symphony Hall by driving, taking the T, or riding the bus.
- If I have to cross the street, I will make sure to hold hands with a person I came with.

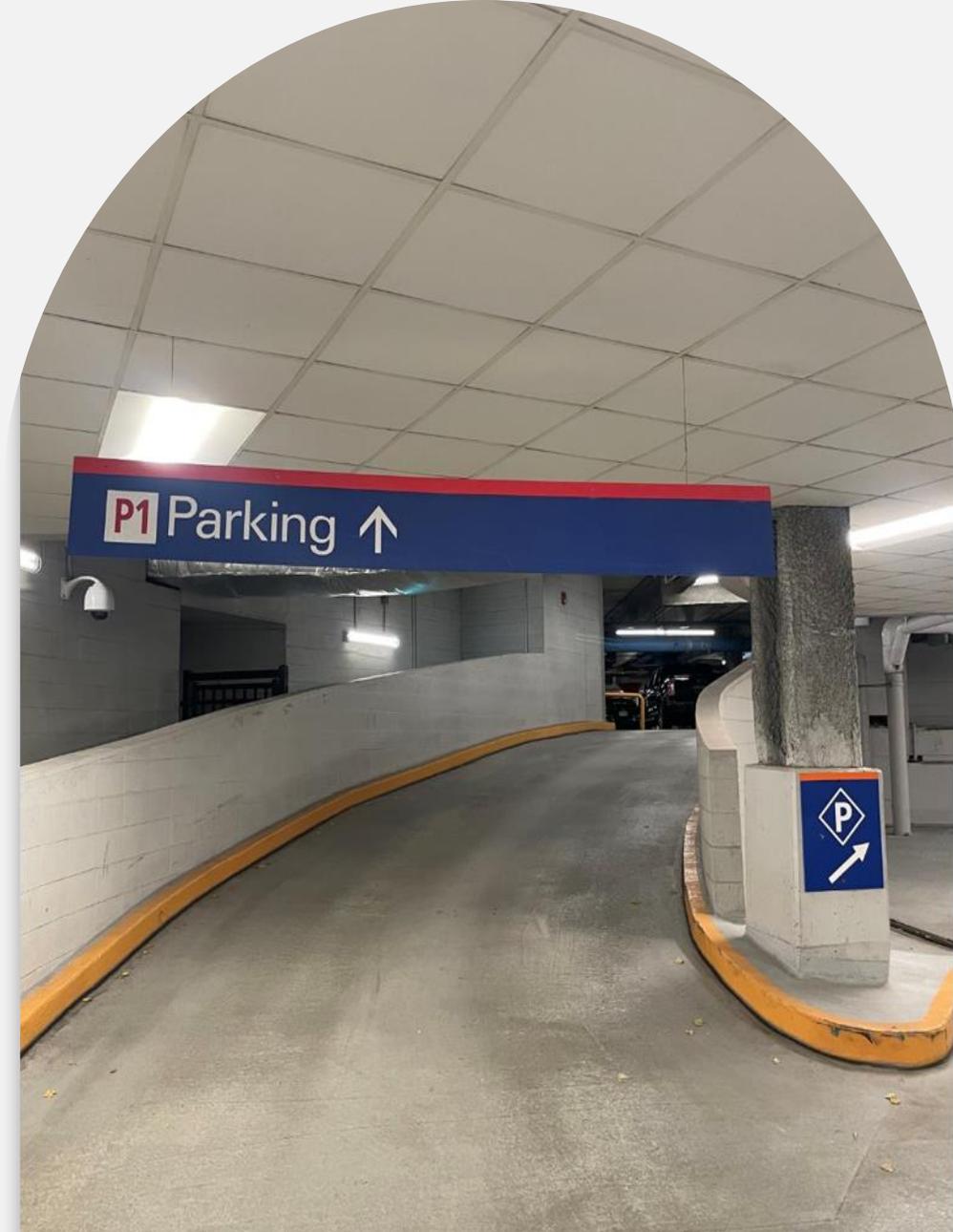
If we drive, we can park near the hall at a public parking space or garage.

- On-street parking is available for people with disabilities on a first-come, first-served basis on St. Stephen Street near the Stage Door and on Huntington Avenue near the Cohen Wing.
- There is also space on Huntington Avenue near the Cohen Wing entrance reserved for drop-off and pick-up only.

We can park at:

- The Christian Science Plaza Garage 235 Huntington Ave Boston, MA 02115
- Prudential Center Garage 800 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02115
- Westland Avenue Garage 35 Westland Avenue Boston, MA 02115
- Westland Avenue Gainsborough Garage 10 Gainsborough Street Boston, MA 02115





- We can also visit the [Boston Symphony Orchestra SpotHero Parking Page](#) to reserve a parking space at discounted rates.
- These parking spots include garages, valets, and independent parking spaces.
- We can Contact SpotHero customer service at 844-324-SPOT (7768) with any questions.





Mass Ave. Entrance

- When we arrive at Symphony Hall, the area may be very busy with lots people and cars.
- To ensure our safety, it's important to stay close to my family or group.
- There are 2 entrances:
 - Massachusetts Avenue (main entrance)
 - Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue

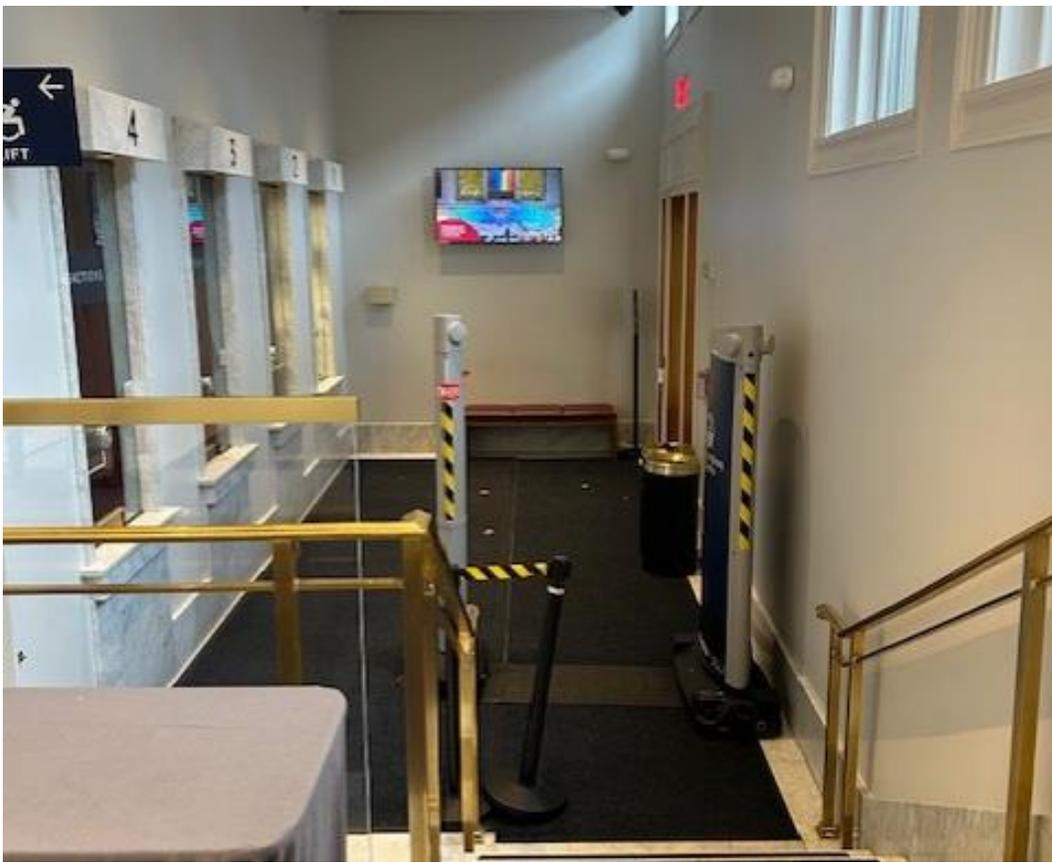
We may enter through the Mass Ave main entrance.
We may also enter through the Cohen Wing Entrance on Huntington Avenue if Mass Ave is crowded.



Main Entrance - Massachusetts Avenue Entrance



Cohen Wing - Huntington Avenue Entrance



We might have to wait in line at the Box Office to say our names and pick up our tickets. That's ok.

Lines move quickly!



If we already have our tickets, let's head toward the double doors of Symphony Hall to get our tickets scanned!

Cohen Entrance on Huntington Ave.

(Exterior)



Evolv weapon detection gates are present at the Cohen, Box Office, and Main Lobby entrances. **To ensure safety, we will be asked to walk through metal detectors.**

We may need to take off coats, jackets, purses, and bags.

Cohen Entrance (Lobby)



Should the scanner identify a questionable object, we may be subject to further security procedures, including bag search, emptying pockets, and/or screening with a handheld wand.

This ensures everyone's safety. Listening, following



- I will show my paper ticket or mobile ticket to the usher at the door to be scanned.
- Ushers will welcome me and scan my ticket for entry.
- Ushers wear black and white uniforms & nametags.
- Ushers can help me navigate Symphony Hall and find my seat. Ushers are very friendly.
- Volunteers often help, too. They are also very friendly.
- During Holiday Pops, some volunteers may wear red, green, or blue t-shirts.
- Signs are posted throughout Symphony Hall to help you find your way.
- There is also a program card for Holiday Pops directing you to the program online.



- Symphony Hall is spacious.
- Signs throughout the building help you find your seats.

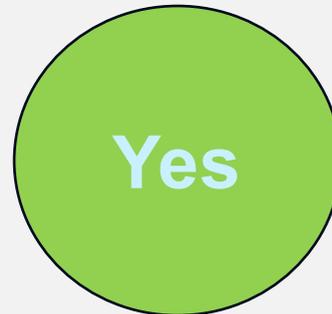


There may be people with cameras filming or taking photographs during my visit to Symphony Hall.

When we come into the building, we will have a choice to give permission for photography or to say we don't want to be photographed.

We will get a sticker to wear on our clothing that tells the photographers...

"Yes, pictures are OK." OR **"No pictures, please."**



Activities

If I arrive early, I may get to participate in pre-concert activities, a scavenger hunt, or receive swag bag!

I can use the items in my swag bag whenever I would like.



Swag bags



- If we arrive early, we can participate in fun preconcert activities like coloring and an instrument playground.
- At the instrument playground I can explore lots of instruments: woodwind, brass, string, or percussion instruments.



- If I need to, I can use the bathroom.
- The bathrooms are in the hallways outside the concert hall.
- I may have to wait my turn to use the bathroom.





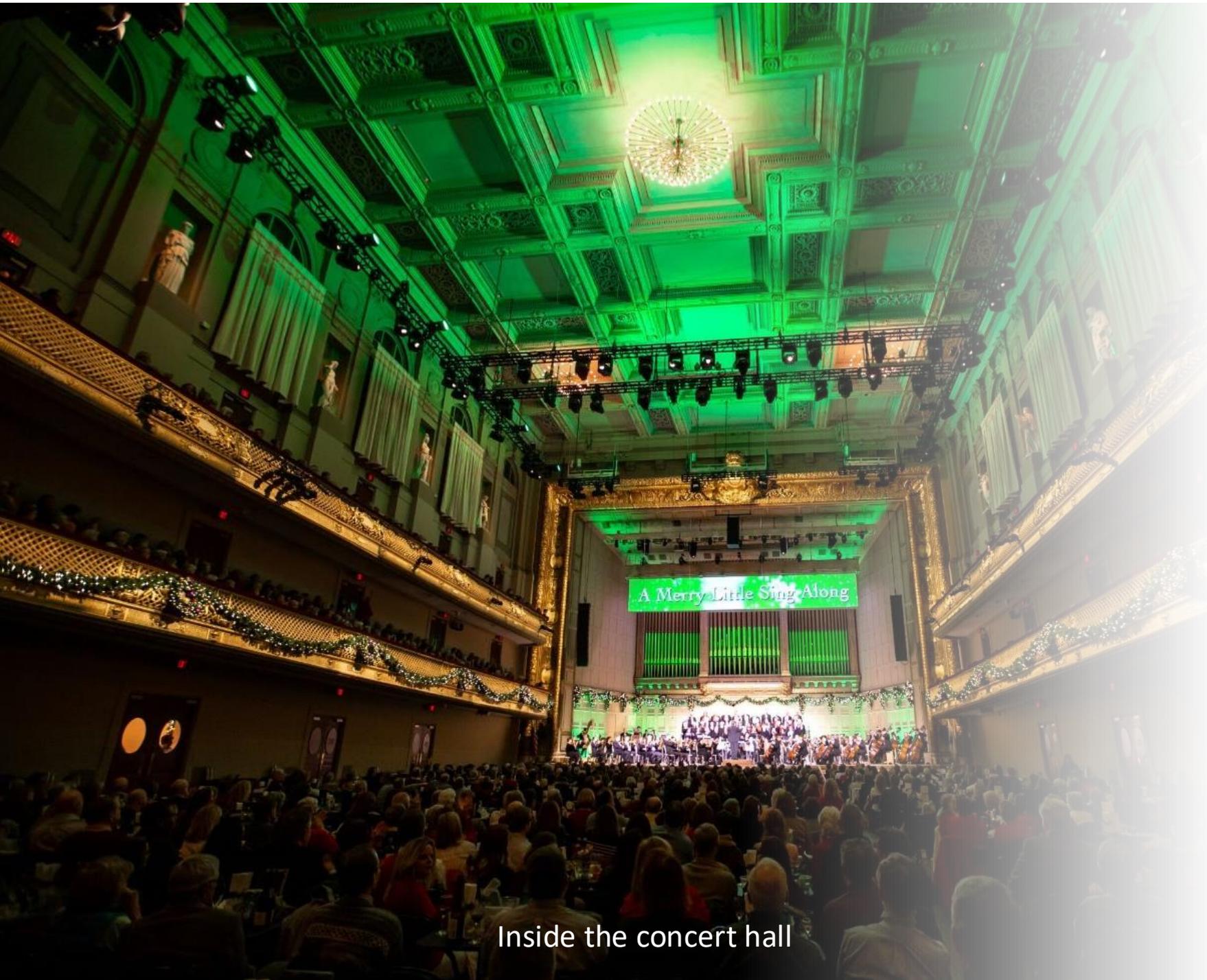
If I need to, I can use the restroom.

The restrooms are in the hallways outside the concert hall on the 1st and 2nd floors.

All Gender Restrooms are also available.

I may have to wait my turn to use the restroom.





When we're ready, we can find our seats inside the concert hall.

If our seats are in the balcony, we can walk up the stairs or take the glass elevator.

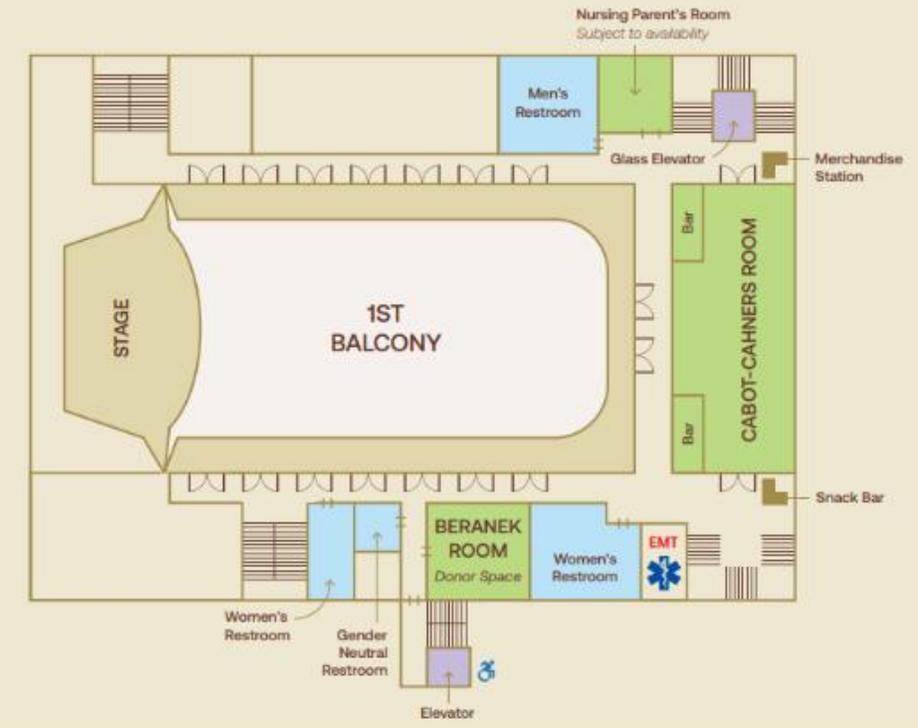
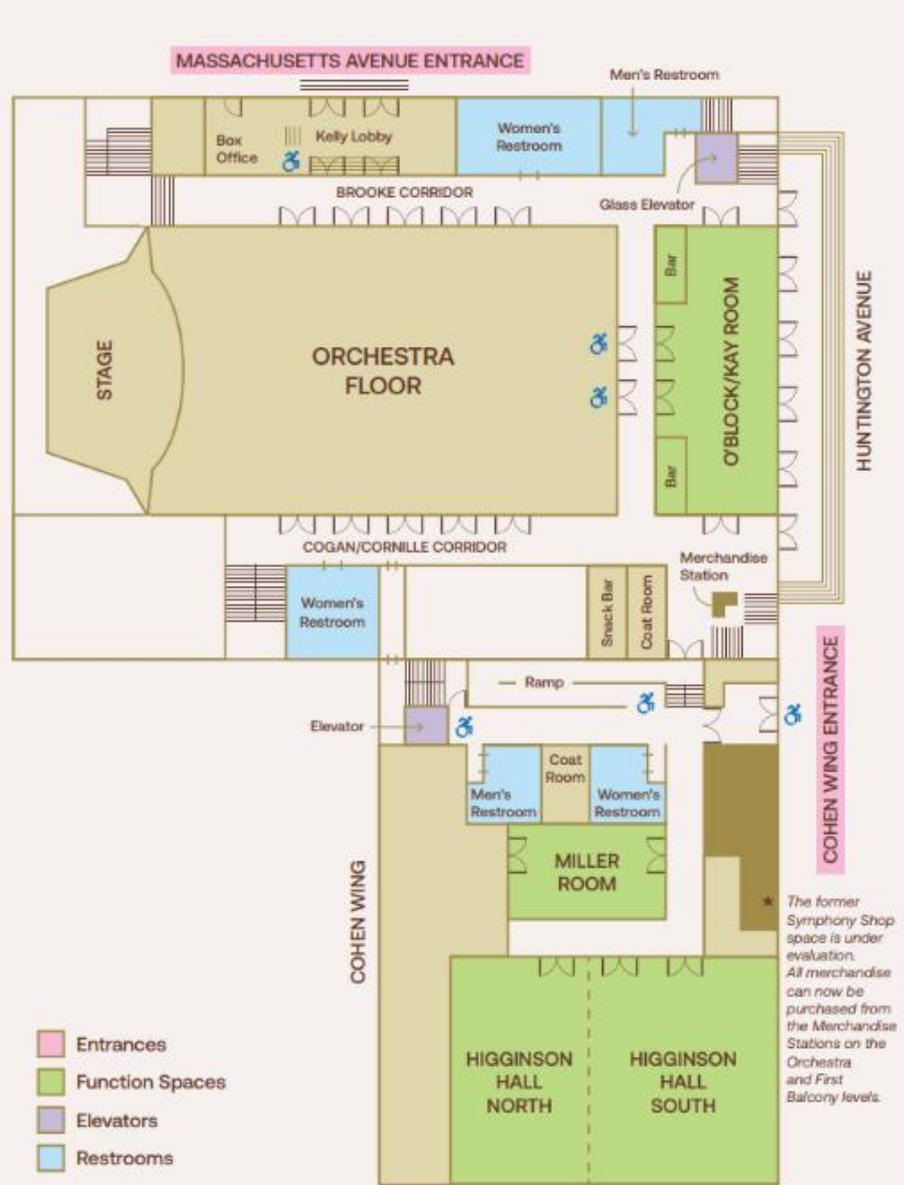
Symphony Hall is very big! There are a lot of seats. I will see other groups of families and friends at this Holiday Concert.

Inside the concert hall

Location 19: Emergency Map

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY:

*Follow any lighted exit sign to the street.
DO NOT use elevators.
Walk. Do not run.*



PLEASE NOTE:
There are no restrooms on the 2nd balcony level.



- I will see other groups of families and friends. To get to our seats, we may need to walk in front of other people or other people may need to walk in front of us.
- If someone accidentally bumps into me, it is no big deal and I will say “Sorry.” We will do our best to find our seats to get ready for the show.



- Once I am seated, it is OK to quietly talk to my neighbors. While I am waiting, I may see some of the musicians on stage with their musical instruments. They are getting ready, too!
- I will know the concert is about to begin when the concertmaster (a violin player) plays the pitch 'A' for the other instruments to tune to. I will remain quiet during tuning so the musicians can hear.



- We may purchase snacks or beverages from a concession stand in the hallway before and during the concert.





- Just before the concert starts, the conductor, will arrive on the stage. The conductor is very special and important because the conductor leads the musicians, so we can clap for the conductor!
- When the clapping is finished, I will try to be quiet so everyone can focus.



- The conductor will introduce him/her/themselves.
- He will share information and ideas about the music and composers during the concert.
- He might give me hints about what to listen for in the music!

CONDUCTOR

Thomas Wilkins



- The program is available online before the concert.
- Once the conductor is on the podium, the musicians will start playing the concert.
- During the concert, we will hear the songs that are on the program.
- If the music is too loud or harsh for me, it is okay to wear headphones, ask an usher to borrow noise-reduction headphones, or cover my ears.
- We can even ask an usher to help the people I came with and me to find seats farther from the stage.

Noise-Reduction Headphones

- I can bring my own noise-reduction headphones to wear during the concert.
- If I forget them, there will be some at Symphony Hall that I can borrow.



- If I need a break at any point during the concert, I can go out into the hallway or to a Quiet Space.
- An usher or volunteer will be happy to show me where those rooms are located.
- I will tell the people I came with where I am going, or they may come with me.



Quiet Space



- After the last song, I can stand up and clap to show the orchestra and Maestro Wilkins that I thought they did a great job!
- They might bow to thank me for being a good audience member, too!
- The clapping may be loud, and it's OK to wear my headphones or cover my ears if I need to.

Now that the concert is over, it's time to leave with the people I came with.

We may have to take the elevator or walk downstairs to leave the hall.



Exit near the Box Office

- I am ready and excited to see the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Hall!

