



**Holiday Pops with the Midland Symphony Orchestra**  
**December 17, 2022 / 3:00 pm**  
**Doors open at 2:45 pm for seating**

**RELAXED PERFORMANCES AT THE CENTER**

The Midland Center for the Arts is committed to providing a supportive and welcoming environment that makes live performance and our museums accessible to those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), developmental and physical disabilities, sensory processing disorder, PTSD, and other sensory-sensitive people and their families.

**What are Relaxed Performances?**

Relaxed performances feature the same content and performers as other performances of a show, with some simple changes to the environment, including:

- Lower light and sound levels, with special effects like strobe lights and smoke removed
- House lights kept at a low level to allow movement around the auditorium
- House doors are kept open; audience members are welcome to stand, move around, and leave as need be
- Audience members are welcome to bring their own manipulatives, seat cushions, comfort objects, headphones, electronics, special snacks, and other support items to the show.
- A designated Take-A-Break Space available with quiet activities near the theater
- Trained volunteers on hand
- A Social Story that portrays the theatre-going experience with pictures and text
- A scene-by-scene summary of the plot of the show or a playlist of the concert repertoire
- The performance is a **shush-free zone** - audience members can talk quietly or express themselves freely during the performance

**What can I do to prepare for the show?**

Review the **Social Story on our website** with your family and friends to learn about what your experience at the Center will be like. You can also come visit the Center ahead of time to see the spaces you'll be experiencing beforehand.

**What is the seating area like?**

Holiday Pops will be performed in the Auditorium. You can see the stage clearly from any seat location. The seats rise like in a stadium, and aisles are labeled with letters and the seats with numbers. The seats stretch all the way across the theater with aisles on the ends of the rows. You may have to climb some stairs to access most of the seats. There are multiple doors to allow patrons to easily enter/exit the theatre. There will be low ambient lighting throughout the performance so patrons are able to see should they need to move around or exit the theater.

**Will seats be reserved?**

The seats for the Holiday Pops concert will be reserved when you purchase them. If you need recommendations in regards to seating, please contact the Ticket Office. If you are uncomfortable in your seat, please ask an usher if you can be moved to a different location.

**At least one of my party uses a wheelchair. Can you accommodate us?**

Yes; a limited number of accessible seats are available. Please inform the Ticket Office of any mobility issues or other seating requirements when purchasing your tickets. Please note there is not an elevator in the Auditorium.

**When will the theatre open/how early can I arrive?**

The lobbies will be open 30 minutes before the performance. The seating area will open 15 minutes before the performance.

**How long is the performance?**

The performance will be about 70 minutes long without an intermission. Patrons are welcome to stand up, move around, and leave the auditorium and come back in as necessary during the concert.

**Is photography or videography allowed in the theatre?**

No photography or videography is permitted inside the theatre. You are welcome to take pictures in the lobbies or the Take-a-Break space.

**Are ushers and ticket staff trained to assist individuals with sensory sensitivities and disabilities?**

Yes; our staff and volunteers have been trained to welcome and assist persons with ASD, other sensory sensitivities, and disabilities.

**Are masks required in the Center for the Arts?**

As of April 26, 2022, **masks are no longer required for patrons at Midland Center for the Arts** unless specifically requested by the artists we present on our stages. In the interest of caution and caring for one another, **the Center continues to strongly encourage patrons to wear masks while visiting and attending events at the Center.** Midland Center staff, educators and volunteers will continue to wear masks when interacting with all of our guests.

**Who can I talk to if I have questions?**

Feel free to contact our Katie Miller, our Community Engagement Manager, with questions via [email](#) or call 989-631-5930 x 1208.