

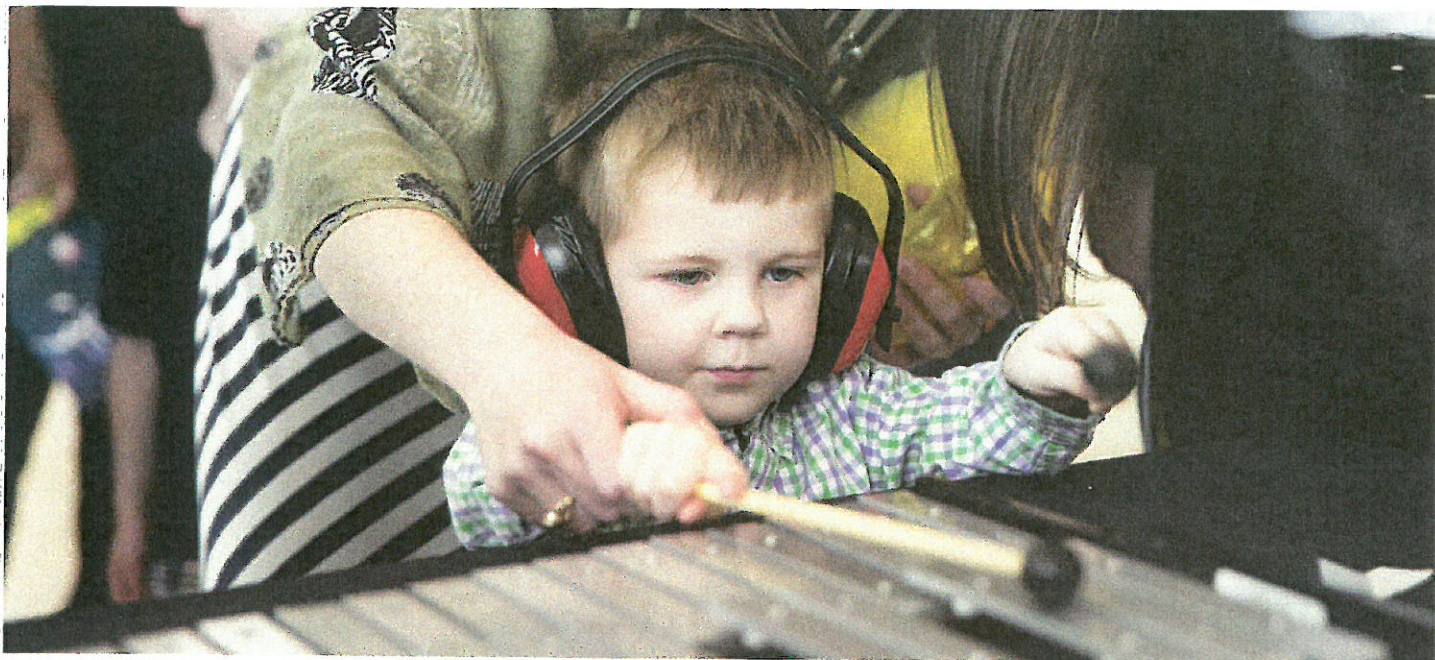
PULSE

DALLAS SYMPHONY



PROGRAMS

- 15** THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
JAN 5-8
- 17** BEETHOVEN 8
JAN 12-14
- 19** REMIX | FROM PROMETHEUS TO PROKOFIEV
JAN 20-21
- 21** JASON ALEXANDER
JAN 27-29



MY DSO CONCERT

the joy of music for everyone

By Leeanne Rebic Hay

The *My DSO Concert* returns on February 5, 2017 with a program of exciting, classical selections for a very special community - children and adults with autism and developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers. The concert is free with a reservation.

For those who are not familiar, it can be very challenging for music lovers on the autism spectrum to adapt to a traditional concert environment. Before the first My DSO Concert, this community was often concerned about bringing autistic children and adults to the concert hall because of social convention - even though music therapy is a key tool in aiding learning and listening skills.

Making sounds, exiting and re-entering during a performance, and hearing comforting words from a loved one are all encouraged to make the concert experience a welcoming and enjoyable time. Additionally, there will be special quiet rooms set-up for those who might be overwhelmed by the music, and brighter house lighting will be used for the wellbeing of patrons.

Over 1,100 guests attended last year's *My DSO Concert*. This year's pre-concert activities will include a see-touch-play experience with an "instrument petting zoo" in the Meyerson lobby along with several Dallas agencies providing information about programs and services available throughout North Texas. Here's a preview of just a few of them.

My Possibilities opened in 2008 as the first program of its kind in Collin County. Designed for young adults' post-high school years, the full-day, full-year continuing educational program serves those with autism, down syndrome and other cognitive disabilities. By providing vocational education, socialization and health and wellness opportunities, students with special needs are able to have a chance at full, independent lives. Find out more at: www.mypossibilities.org

The **Autism Treatment Center (ATC)** in Dallas was established in 1976 and offers residential and educational services, as well as autism-specific outpatient therapy for children and adults. For forty years, ATC has endeavored to meet the needs of 1 in 68 children who have been diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

“Using the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), our focus for children is on (1) identifying struggles with functional communication, social and academic skills; (2) documenting each child’s performance; and (3) determining the adequacy of each child’s response to instruction,” according to Mariel Fernandez, program coordinator for the ABA program. Further information is available on the website: www.atcoftexas.org/dallas.html

Best Buddies is a national volunteer organization that serves to create one-on-one friendships and integrated employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. In Texas, there are 80 chapters with over 5,100 volunteers impacting the lives of more than 50,000 people. Many chapters in North Texas are located in middle and high schools and colleges. According to State Director, Sharyn L. Casey, “We are building a more inclusive world, one friendship at a time, by erasing the invisible line that too often isolates those with disabilities within schools, workplaces, and lives.” To learn more see: <https://bestbuddies.org/find-programs/texas>

We look forward to performing for these members of our community in the second annual *My DSO Concert*.

