

The Cleveland Orchestra Family Concerts at Severance Hall introduces children to the life and music of composer Ludwig Van Beethoven.

“Mr. Beethoven wanted to change the world with his music. Maybe he will do it, bit by bit.”

Children and families with an interest in classical music will be introduced to Beethoven’s classics in a lively sixty-minute concert program at Severance Hall on Saturday, February 17. Performed by The Cleveland Orchestra, the performance of “Beethoven Lives Upstairs” Symphony Concert (based on the award-winning Classical Kids® recording) is a factual story revealed through narrative letters exchanged between fictional characters detailing the unusual and eccentric life of the 18th century composer.

After the death of his father, 10-year-old Christoph writes his uncle describing the “madman” that has moved into their house. Christoph, seemingly irritated at the goings-on of his new neighbor, tells his uncle the stories of Beethoven’s strange and unpredictable behavior. He soon recognizes the torment of Beethoven’s hearing loss, and the composition of his beautiful music produced only by the sounds in his head. Christoph’s realization of Beethoven’s genius concludes through experiencing the famous first performance of the Ninth Symphony.

This exciting and informational program includes over thirty excerpts from Beethoven’s admired pieces, such as: Für Elise, “Moonlight” Sonata, Ninth Symphonies (“Ode to Joy”), and his Sixth Symphony “Storm” as heard on Walt Disney’s *Fantasia*. A stage presentation accompanies Beethoven’s music to vividly portray the disruption to Christoph’s home when Beethoven moves into the apartment upstairs.

What is Classical Kids®?

Susan Hammond’s award-winning Classical Kids® concerts are stories designed to captivate and entertain young children with theatrical presentations of classical music. Children gain insight and appreciation for popular classical musicians through an important moment in history. These programs move children to become active participants in the creative arts. Developed in coordination with the U.S. National Standards for Arts Education, The Boston Herald regards the Classical Kids® program as “far and away the best for introducing children to classical music.”

Classical Kids® is best known for its child-centered dramatic stories based on historical fact, combined with music from the world’s best-loved composers. With historical works like *Beethoven Lives Upstairs*, *Vivaldi’s Ring of Mystery* and *Tchaikovsky Discovers America*, Classical Kids® has changed the way children – and many adults – perceive classical music.

The Classical Kids® concept includes audio recordings, books, videos, educational resources, and interactive CD-ROM. Classical Kids® have received honors and recognitions from *Learning Magazine*, National Parenting Publications Honors Award, American Library Association Notable Children’s Recordings, and Parents’ Choice Gold Awards.

Quality family time

Cleveland Orchestra Family Concerts are designed to entertain children ages 7 and up and their families through age-appropriate concerts that include narration guest artists and young musicians to which kids can relate. Family Concerts are an affordable opportunity to hear top-quality orchestral music while spending valuable family time together.

One hour prior to each concert, ticket holders can take part in fun, free activities throughout Severance Hall designed to enrich the concert-going experience for children. Activities for Classical Kids® “Beethoven Lives Upstairs” include the Children’s Museum of Cleveland make-and-take craft activity, Instrument Discovery where children are invited to try their hand at a variety of musical instruments, and a music presentation with renowned songwriter/musician Jeff Moyer.

The Cleveland Orchestra's Family Concerts are part of a broad array of educational programs designed to foster a love of music and a lifetime of participation in the musical arts. Other programs include Musical Rainbow concerts for ages three to six, school fieldtrip Education Concerts, and several programs to nurture aspiring young musicians (Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, Youth Chorus, and Children's Chorus). For more information about the Orchestra's educational programs, call (216) 231-7355.

Upcoming Family Concerts and Musical Rainbow programs:

Family Concert: "Sorcerer's Apprentice," Saturday, May 5 featuring Enchantment Theatre Company.

Musical Rainbow performances: "The Velvet Violin," Friday, February 23 and Saturday, February 24;

"Heavenly Harps," Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28

"The Treasured Trombone," Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19.

Visit clevelandorchestra.com for more information.

The Cleveland Orchestra Family Concerts are sponsored by Giant Eagle.

Cleveland Family Magazine is the proud media partner of these concerts.

Tickets for "Beethoven Lives Upstairs" start at \$10. Call (216) 231-1111 or visit www.clevelandorchestra.com to order.

Classical Kids Symphony Concerts are presented by Pement Enterprises, Inc. *Classical Kids is a registered trademark of Classical Productions for Children Ltd. used under exclusive license to Pement Enterprises, Inc.*