



Symphony Storytime

Venue Guide & Fact Sheet

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TSO  Toronto
Symphony
Orchestra

LIVE in the LIBRARY

TODAY!

KIDS &
FAMILIES



Symphony Storytime
with Toronto Public
Library

Friday, January 19, 2024
2:00 PM to 2:45 PM

Spend your P.A. Day at the library! Join us for a musical Storytime, where you'll discover your next favourite reads while enjoying an unforgettable performance from violinist James Wallenberg. Hosted in partnership with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

For Kids ages 6-12. Space is Limited. This is an in-person program.
Drop-In. No Reservations.

Welcome!

You are invited to Symphony Storytime, a fun afternoon of music and books! You will hear stories read by a librarian from the Toronto Public Library and hear live music played by a musician from the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

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Quick Tips for Planners

Are you planning the trip? Here is information that you'll need to know:

Symphony Storytime details:

- **Venue:** Beaches Library
- **Address:** 2161 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M4L 1J1
- **Room:** Program Room
- **Date:** Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025
- **Time:** 2:00pm to 2:45pm
- **Age:** Suitable for school-aged children ages 4 and up.
- **How to Register:** Space is limited. Please call 416-393-7703 to register.

Getting to the library:

- **Directions:** Closest major intersection Queen Street East and Lee Ave. Branch located on the south side of Queen Street at the entrance to Kew Gardens.
- **Public Transit:**
 - TTC Main Bus 64S (Queen Street) from Main Street subway station.
 - TTC Queen Streetcar 501 to Neville Park.
- **Parking:** Paid - public parking lot on Lee Ave., south of Queen St. street parking.

Accessibility:

- **Seating:** This is a non-traditional auditorium space. There are chairs, cushions, and carpet to sit on. Mobility device seating is available throughout the space. The auditorium is one level. There are no steps to get into the auditorium.
- **Elevator:** There is an elevator.
- **Washroom:** Public and wheelchair accessible washroom on the lower level (elevator available).
- **Food & beverage:** Food and drink are allowed in the library.
- **Quiet Room:** There is no Quiet Room.

Below are some things you can do to enjoy Symphony Storytime more:

- Wear comfy clothes.
- Grab your favourite pillow, blanket or stuffy, and bring them with you.
- Sit on a chair, carpet or cushions; wiggle in your seat; walk around; dance to the music—do whatever feels right while watching.
- Vocalize, feel free to make sounds, clap, laugh, sigh—whatever you need to do to share how you feel.
- Take breaks if needed—you can leave the auditorium and go to the Sensory room or just hang out in the library.
- Doodle, fidget, stim, sing—just be you!

Symphony Storytime Facts:

- This event includes a librarian reading books aloud, a musician playing an instrument live, and a movement song.
- If your child relies on sound-dampening headphones, please bring them with you for this event.
- If your child is light sensitive, please consider bringing sunglasses for this event.
- If you need a break at any time you can leave the auditorium.
- You can come and go from the event as much as you need to.
- The library is open to the public—some people may be going to Symphony Storytime, but others may not be.

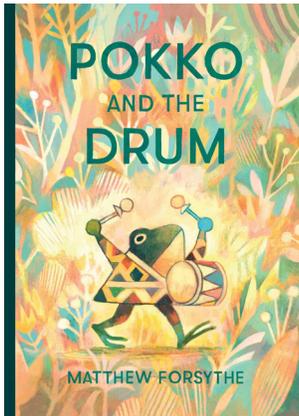
Fact Sheet

Structure of Symphony Storytime:

- The event will begin with a welcome and a Land Acknowledgement.
- The librarian and the musician will introduce themselves.
- The librarian will read the first story
- After the story, the librarian will lead a movement song. You can join in however is best for you, or you can choose not to participate. The musician may play music during the movement song.
- The librarian will read the second story.
- The musician will play some music.
- The librarian will read the third story.
- After the third and final story there might be time for questions from the audience
- If possible, you will be asked to raise your hand to let the librarian and the musician know you have a question. If you cannot raise your hand, a member of your family can let the staff know you have a question.
- You will have to wait your turn to ask your question.
- There may not be time to answer all of the questions, and you may not get called on to ask a question. It does not mean anything bad if you did not get asked about your question—it just means that we ran out of time.
- After the questions, the librarian will end the event with some closing remarks.
- Once the librarian has said goodbye, you can exit the auditorium, but you do not need to leave the library right away. You can stay look around and at books if you and your family would like to.

Fact Sheet

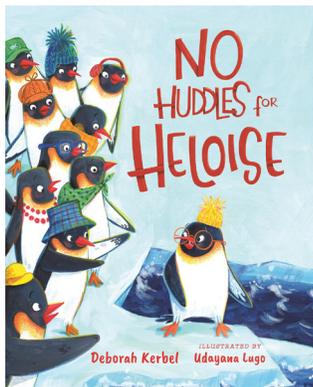
These are the three books being read on Nov. 15, 2025:



1. *Pokko and the Drum*

Written and illustrated by Matthew Forsythe

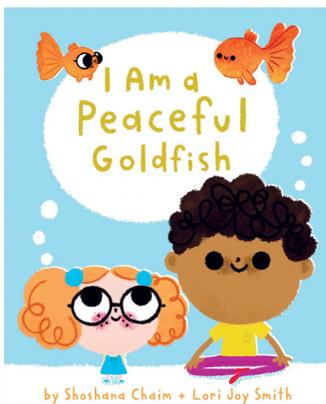
Synopsis: “The biggest mistake Pokko’s parents ever made was giving her the drum. When Pokko takes the drum deep into the forest it is so quiet, so very quiet that Pokko decides to play. And before she knows it she is joined by a band of animals —first the raccoon, then the rabbit, then the wolf—and soon the entire forest is following her. Will Pokko hear her father’s voice when he calls her home? *Pokko and the Drum* is a story about art, persistence, and a family of frogs living in a mushroom.”



2. *No Huddles for Heloise*

Written by Deborah Kerbel
Illustrated by Udayana Lugo

Synopsis: “Heloise likes a lot of things: sledding, giving rocks to her friends, and eating fish popsicles. She does NOT like certain things, like crowds, close-talkers and huddles. The problem is, huddles are a big part of being a penguin. Everyone gathers together to keep warm and stay safe from leopard seals. But huddles give Heloise the collywobblers! Heloise sets off to find others like her. Along the way, she meets other animals who don’t seem so friendly, and after a close brush with a leopard seal, Heloise realizes that she needs to get back to her community. Is there a way for Heloise to be a penguin and keep her personal space?”



3. *I Am a Peaceful Goldfish*

Written by Shoshana Chaim
Illustrated by Lori Joy Smith

Synopsis: “When we are overcome with emotions, our breath (and a bit of imagination) can bring us back to a peaceful place. In *I Am a Peaceful Goldfish*, two children learn how to settle their difficult feelings with imaginative breathing techniques, pretending they are elephants, flowers, and even dragons!

Symphony Storytime

Venue

Guide

I am going to **Symphony Storytime** at the Toronto Public Library.



Getting there

I can take the subway, bus or our personal vehicle to get to Symphony Storytime.



Arriving

When I arrive at the library, I will see a sign that says "Beaches Branch" beside a large owl sculpture. I can walk down the stairs or the accessible path to enter the library through the front doors.



Entering

After entering, I will see a circulation desk with library staff members who can answer any questions I have. They can direct me to the program room where the Symphony Storytime will take place.



Where can I sit?

In the program room, I can sit on a chair or a mat. If I want to change where I am sitting during the event, I can.



During the concert

During Symphony Storytime, I can clap, laugh, smile, and feel any way that the event helps me to feel.



I can be myself!

I can do what I need to enjoy it more: I can doodle, fidget, stim, dance, move, vocalize, sit, lie down, talk, and more! I can be me!



Reading stories

The librarian may use different voices while they read the stories. Some of the voices might be funny, some may sound scary – it is ok, they are all coming from the librarian.



Loud or quiet

Sometimes the reading or the music may be loud, other times they may be quiet – the volume depends on the emotions that the characters are feeling.



If it's too loud...

If it's too loud I can cover my ears with my hands, or wear sound dampening headphones – whichever feels best for me.



If it's too bright...

If it's too bright I can wear sunglasses or I can cover my eyes – whichever feels best for me.



End of the concert

At the end of Symphony Storytime, I can show the librarian and the musician how much I liked it by clapping, saying "Bravo," or by using any other way that feels good for me.



See you soon!

We look forward to welcoming you to
Symphony Storytime!

Credits

This Symphony Storytime Venue Guide & Fact Sheet was created by the **TSO**, the **Toronto Public Library**, and Relaxed Performance consultant **Rachel Marks**.