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Photos by George Lange

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Announces 25/26 Fiddlesticks Concerts

**Fiddlesticks Musical Exploration for children enters its 35th season
with programs centered around America250**

Pittsburgh, PA – Today, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) announced its 2025-2026 **Fiddlesticks** concerts, the series' 35th anniversary, presenting three Saturday morning concerts for children ages 3-8 (pre-school to second grade) and their families. The concerts include “Festival of Music,” “American Tunes,” and “Sing, Dance, Play!” which explore elements of American musical life and are programmed as a part of the PSO’s larger America250 focus in its 25/26 season.

“The road to becoming a musician or simply loving music begins with magical encounters, and our Fiddlesticks concerts are the place that happens,” said **Melia Tourangeau, President & CEO**. “Through our incredible Learning & Engagement programs, we’re honored to be the catalyst for around 30,000 young people’s appreciation of music and the orchestra, and I invite all families to begin or continue their music learning journey at a Fiddlesticks concert.”

Subscription packages starting at \$51 are available now for all three concerts. [Subscribe online](#), call the [Heinz Hall Box Office](#) at 412-392-4900 or visit the box office in person to purchase. Single tickets will go on sale July 22.

About Fiddlesticks Musical Exploration

Since 1991, generations of Pittsburgh families have trusted Fiddlesticks (the PSO's seven-foot tall, cuddly feline friend who loves to dance, clap, and celebrate music with his friends) to introduce kids ages 3-8 to music through fun & imaginative musical adventures. Each Fiddlesticks program features a variety of pre-concert activities throughout the Heinz Hall lobby, followed by a short concert designed to be as entertaining as it is educational, ending in a meet-and-greet with Fiddlesticks and his artist friends. Noise-cancelling headphones, fidgets, a quiet room, a family restroom, and ASL interpretation are available at all concerts as sensory friendly accommodations.

Pre-concert activities:

- Discover instruments of the orchestra with demonstrations by PSO musicians
- Practice singing Fiddlesticks' theme song in sing-alongs with vocalist Katy Williams
- Activity books with interactive exercises and fun, educational graphics
- Music-inspired arts and crafts tables
- Story room with Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA) children's librarian
- Music and movement room in partnership with Slippery Rock University's Music Education Department which includes dancing, clapping and singing

2025-2026 Fiddlesticks Programs

Festival of Music

Saturday, November 1, 2025, at Heinz Hall

Pre-Concert Activities begin at 10:00 a.m.

Concert begins at 11:15 a.m.

Moon Doh, PSO Associate Conductor

Fiddlesticks has a curious heart and this season he's wondering how his friends celebrate the holidays! At Festival of Music, come along as Fiddlesticks and your Pittsburgh Symphony explore festive sounds of holidays celebrated by families in our community. From the colorful traditions of Diwali and Día de los Muertos, to the joy of Thanksgiving, Sukkot, Yalda Night, Kwanzaa and more, this concert is filled with warmth and laughter as we come together to share through the universal language of music.

American Tunes

Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Heinz Hall
Pre-Concert Activities begin at 10:00 a.m.
Concert begins at 11:15 a.m.

Byron Stripling, PSO Principal Pops Conductor

Fiddlesticks is packing his bags for a musical road trip, and you're invited! With his good friend Byron by his side, Fiddlesticks is ready to cruise across America in search of the country's most toe-tapping, sing-out-loud music. From folksongs to Motown, blues to jazz, gospel and beyond, this concert celebrates the incredible variety of music born right here in the U.S.A. Come Clap, sing, and dance along as your Pittsburgh Symphony brings these sounds to life.

Sing, Dance, Play!

Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Heinz Hall
Pre-Concert Activities begin at 10:00 a.m.
Concert begins at 11:15 a.m.

Jacob Joyce, PSO Associate Conductor

What happens when you mix a cuddly cat, a stage full of musicians, and your favorite songs from movies, musicals, and TV? You get Sing, Dance, Play, a concert full of imagination and fun! Fiddlesticks can't wait to share the music he loves with all his friends (that's you!) and has asked his friends Katy and Jacob to bring their top tunes, too. With plenty of chances to sing along, move your body, and get inspired, this concert is all about the joy of music and how it brings us together.

With Gratitude

- Fiddlesticks Musical Exploration is supported by FedEx.
- Fiddlesticks concerts are endowed by Gerald and Audrey McGinnis, honoring the Center for Young Musicians.
- The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is grateful for overall support from local and state government entities: Allegheny Regional Asset District, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

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