TIP SHEET
for attending Nashville Opera’s performance of
The Enchanted Forest

VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER
TREATMENT & RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

February 24, 2018 @ 2:00pm
Noah Liff Opera Center- Studio Theatre
3622 Redmon Street
Nashville, TN 37209

Nashville Opera TRIAD Partnership

We are pleased to offer the 5th annual Nashville Opera and TRIAD Partnership Opera Experience. This is an inclusive performance where families are invited to do what is necessary to make this experience more successful for your family (e.g., take a break in our quiet space, stand during the performance, etc.) The two organizations have collaborated to develop supports to bolster opera accessibility for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and related disorders in order to open new learning opportunities and experiences surrounding the performance’s themes of friendship and courage as well as how different voice parts are used to tell an operatic story.

Supports

1. Social Story™
   We have developed and provided multiple versions of a Social Story™ for your child’s use prior to the opera. Social Stories™ describe a situation or experience in order to provide children with an idea of what to expect. Creating predictability can be reassuring for children entering a new situation and can allow children to respond to challenges in an adaptive way. We recommend reviewing this social story with your child prior to attending the opera. Social Stories™ are an evidence-based practice identified in the autism intervention literature review, Evidence-Based Practice for Children, Youth, and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (2014) by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

2. Story Board
   We have developed and provided a story board online that will also be projected during the performance. A story board is a visual schedule that outlines the sequence of events. Visual Schedules can be used to outline what might happen at a doctor’s visit, the sequence of events occurring over a whole day, or, as in this case, the sequence of events occurring within the plot of the opera. Reviewing the story board prior to the performance will also familiarize your child to the story and prepare them for what to expect; both of which may enhance their experience at the opera. Visual schedules are an
evidence-based practice as identified in the autism intervention literature review, Evidence-Based Practice for Children, Youth, and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (2014) by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

3. Quiet Space

If you or your child needs to take a break from the noise and/or commotion, the kitchen will be open and designated as a “Quiet Space” to visit. It is located in the hallway to the left of the theatre near the bathrooms. Please feel free to visit the quiet space as needed.

Refreshments

Cookies will be available in the lobby upstairs outside the theatre. Your family is welcome to enjoy refreshments. If you would not like your child to have or see the refreshments available, you can enter the theatre using the first door on the right after coming upstairs. Please finish all refreshments before entering the theatre.

Resources

- **VKC-TRIAD Community Engagement Initiative**: [http://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/triad/community/](http://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/triad/community/)
  The Community Engagement Initiative Includes the Families First and Organizational Engagement Programs. Families First is a free workshop series for caregivers of young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Organizational Engagement Program focuses on supporting organizations in building capacity for inclusion by providing training, developing supports, and collaborating on modified events.

- **Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line**: Local 322-7565 or Toll-Free (877) ASD-VUMC (273-8862)
  A toll-free helpline for families and professionals to access information about autism-related clinical, research, and outreach services at Vanderbilt University.

- **Tennessee Disability Pathfinder**: 1-800-640-4636 or pathfinder@vanderbilt.edu
  The Tennessee Disability Pathfinder is a free, statewide, information and referral service for persons with disabilities, family members, service providers, and advocates.

- **National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders**: [http://autismmpdc.fpg.edu](http://autismmpdc.fpg.edu)
  The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders is a multi-university center to promote the use of evidence-based practice for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders.

- **Mayer-Johnson**: [www.mayerjohnson.com](http://www.mayerjohnson.com)
  DynaVox Mayer-Johnson is the leading provider of speech generating devices and symbol-adapted special education software used to assist individuals in overcoming their speech, language, and learning challenges.