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Mayor Greenberg announces new season of 'Once Upon an Orchestra' at local libraries
LOUISVILLE, Ky. (October 15, 2026) - Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg, the Louisville Free Public Library and the Louisville Orchestra are pleased to announce the 2026-27 season of "Once Upon an Orchestra," a free interactive musical storytelling series for children.

"Our libraries have so many opportunities for Louisville families to learn, connect and discover new opportunities. This is another great example," said Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg. "By bringing together the Louisville Free Public Library and the Louisville Orchestra, children across our city will have a fun, free way to experience the joy of books and live music right in their neighborhood."

Beginning in November, Louisville Orchestra (LO) musicians will take to various Louisville library branches to present these storybook-based classical performances. Each performance takes children on a journey through a beloved kids' book, inviting them to engage with the book–and classical music–in a new way.

"Our goal is to foster both a love of reading and spark an interest in instruments kids don't always get to see up close," said Heather Lowe, executive director of LFPL. "By offering this immersive musical experience, we hope to foster a lifelong interest in books and the arts."

Each Once Upon an Orchestra experience will even invite children to make a musical craft and play along with the LO ensemble.

"We're proud to continue our partnership with the Louisville Free Public Library to bring Once Upon an Orchestra to families across our community for another season," said Jude Vaclavik, CEO of the Louisville Orchestra. "This program makes live music accessible to our youngest

audiences, introducing children to the orchestra through storytelling and inspiring a lifelong love of music and reading."

Performances are scheduled through April 2027 at all LFPL branches. See below for full information.

11/3/2026, 11 a.m. - Parkland Library (Book: "Bear Snores On" by Karma Wilson)

11/7/2026, 10 a.m. - Jeffersontown Library (Book: "Fly" by Brittany J. Thurman)

11/14/2026, 1 p.m. - Shively Library (Book: "The Knowing" by Ani DiFranco)

12/2/2026, 10:30 a.m. - Fairdale Library (Book: "Bear Snores On" by Karma Wilson)

12/3/2026, 11 a.m. - Highlands Community Ministries (Book: "The Knowing" by Ani DiFranco)

12/9/2026, 6 p.m. - Middletown Library (Book: "Fly" by Brittany J. Thurman)

12/10/2026, 11 a.m. - Shawnee Library (Book: "Fly" by Brittany J. Thurman)

12/18/2026, 10 a.m. - Bon Air Library (Book: "Bear Snores On" by Karma Wilson)

1/21/2027, 6 p.m. - Northeast Regional Library (Book: "Dragons and Giants," a Frog and Toad story by Arnold Lobel)

1/30/2027, 10 a.m. - South Central Library (Book: "And Tango Makes Three" by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell)

2/2/2027, 10:30 a.m. - St. Matthews Library (Book: "And Tango Makes Three" by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell)

2/5/2027, 10:30 a.m. - Newburg Library (Book: "And Tango Makes Three" by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell)

2/6/2027, 2 p.m. - Southwest Regional Library (Book: "Dragons and Giants," a Frog and Toad story by Arnold Lobel)

2/17/2027, 5 p.m. - Western Library (Book: "Dragons and Giants," a Frog and Toad story by Arnold Lobel)

2/27/2027, 10 a.m. - Portland Library (Book: "The Knowing" by Ani DiFranco)

3/6/2027, 10 a.m. - Iroquois Library (Book: “Dragons and Giants,” a Frog and Toad story by Arnold Lobel)

4/12/2027, 2 p.m. - Crescent Hill Library (Book: “Bear Snores On” by Karma Wilson)

TBA - Fern Creek Library (Book: “Fly” by Brittany J. Thurman)

TBA - Main Library (Book: “The Knowing” by Ani DiFranco)

For more information, visit lfpl.org/orchestra.

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About Louisville Free Public Library

Louisville Free Public Library connects the residents of Louisville and Jefferson County to knowledge and information at our library locations and on the web at LFPL.org. Come on in, the whole world’s inside.

About Louisville Orchestra

Since its founding in 1937, the Louisville Orchestra has been a trailblazer in the world of classical music, known for embracing bold ideas and expanding the role of an American symphony orchestra. Learn more at louisvilleorchestra.org.