

Rochester's fivebyfive music ensemble to offer sensory-friendly performances

By: [Velvet Spicer](#) [October 11, 2021](#)

The Rochester-based music ensemble fivebyfive will partner this fall with the Strong National Museum of Play and the Rochester Public Library to perform a series of four short performances called "Playful Music."

Three of the [performances](#) are sensory-friendly and designed for audiences with special sensory, developmental or physical needs.

"Sensory-friendly performances are an opportunity for everyone — especially people on the spectrum — to enjoy the fun and beauty of a musical event," said AutismUp Family Navigator Mary Brzustowicz in a statement. "Expressive music helps people connect with emotions that might be difficult to communicate, and these concerts fill and soothe the senses while creating an unforgettable experience."

Performances begin Nov. 6 and continue on Nov. 13 at different locations in Rochester.

Officials said the skateboard, bubbles, puppets, the super soaker and the blanket — all National Toy Hall of Fame inductees — provided inspiration for newly-commissioned music by composers Shannon Sea, Logan Rutledge, Olivia Kieffer and Emer Kinsella.

"I've always loved puppets. I was raised an only child and I often created fictional characters for my own entertainment," Sea said. "I would often make puppets out of socks and shadows, so this invitation seemed only right."

"We're thrilled to be working with the talented fivebyfive musicians to bring playful music to our guests, inspired by the toys in the National Toy Hall of Fame," said the Strong's Director of Public Programs Cathy DeBellis. "Music itself can be a form of play, and we look forward to seeing how classics like puppets and bubbles come to life through notes and rhythms."

Fivebyfive is an artist-led ensemble formed in 2015 with a mission to engage audiences in the collaborative spirit and creativity of today's chamber music. The five instruments include flute, clarinet, electric guitar, bass and piano.

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