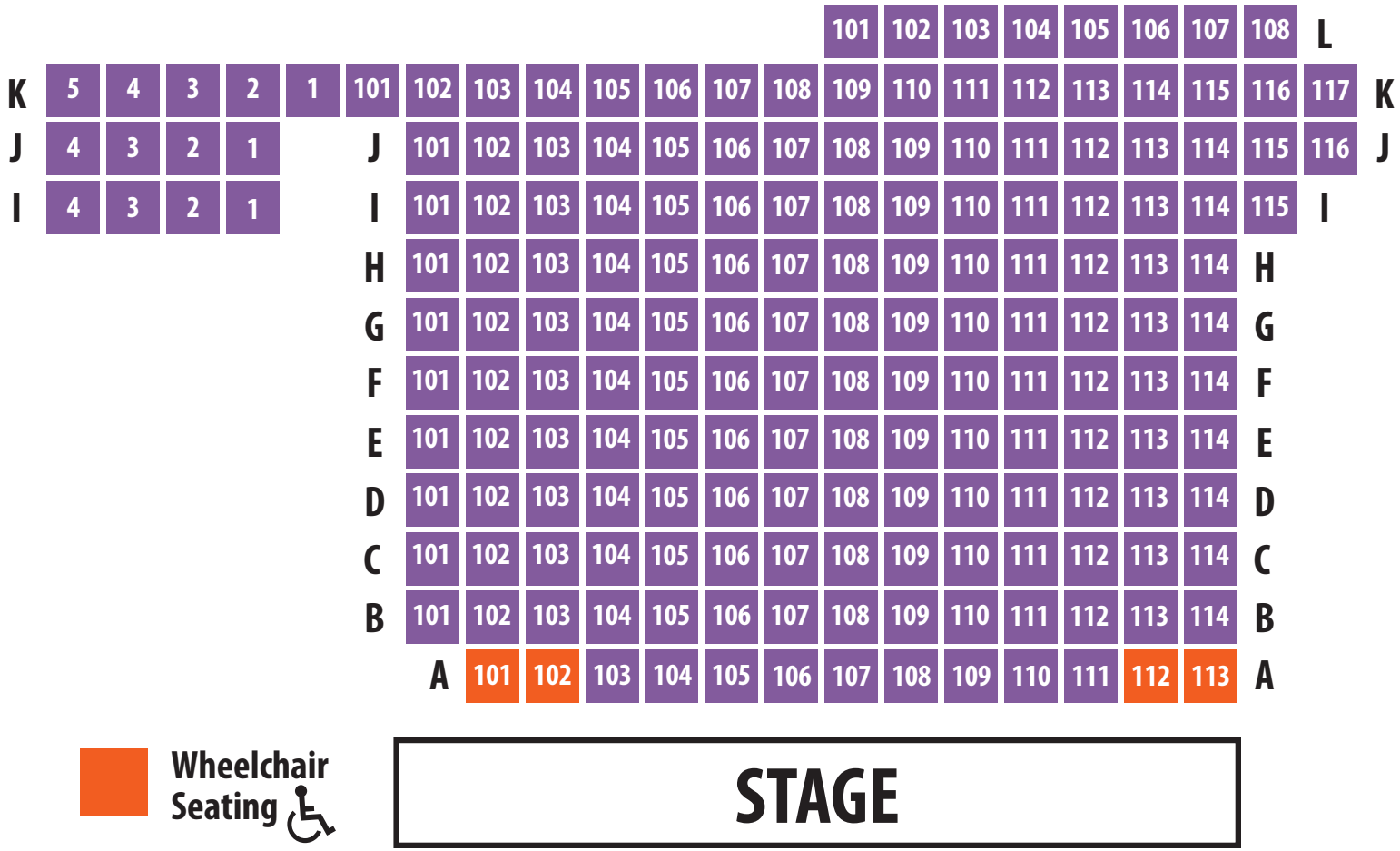THE FIELDING STAGE