



Gateway Chamber Orchestra

Family Concert

November 3, 2013

Instrument Petting Zoo and Crafts start at 2:00 p.m.

Concert begins at 3:00 p.m.

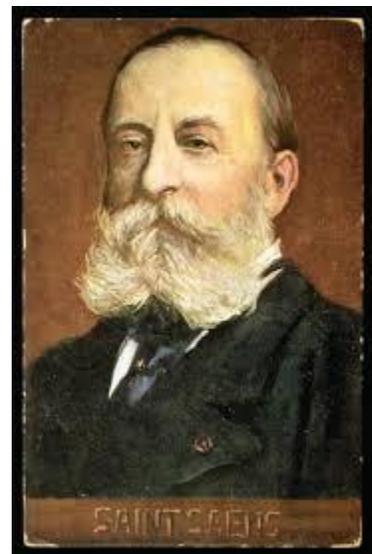
Carnival of the Animals

Youtube recording of *Carnival of the Animals*:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBGEf4urGNo>

About the composer

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 – 1921) was a French composer, conductor, and pianist. He began playing the piano when he was two years old, and was performing for large audiences by the time he was five. His most well-known compositions include *Carnival of the Animals*, *Samson and Delilah* (opera), and his third *Symphony*, written for orchestra and pipe organ.



About the music

Carnival of the Animals is a *suite* of 14 movements that uses different orchestral instruments to represent various animals.

What is a suite: A suite is a collection of smaller sections, or movements, of music that are all part of a larger composition. In the case of *Carnival of the Animals*, each movement represents a different animal:

- Introduction and March of the Lions
Listen for the lion, the king of the jungle, portrayed by the piano, marching in to check on his royal subjects
- Hens and Roosters
Listen for the strings and pianos pecking and clucking around the hen house.
- Wild Donkeys
Listen for the pianist's fingers running up and down the keyboard like a pack of wild donkeys.
- Tortoises
Listen for the contrast between the strings and the piano: the piano's quicker rhythm and the slower melody in the strings, portraying the tortoise (turtle). If you listen closely, you may recognize a famous melody in the string section, performed very slowly.
- The Elephant
This section features the string bass. Picture a slightly clumsy circus elephant balancing on a large ball.
- Kangaroos
Listen to the pianist's fingers bouncing up and down the keyboard, and then pausing to rest for a bit, like Kangaroos in the outback.
- Aquarium
In this section, the strings portray the smooth, flowing waves, while the pianos and percussion imitate the sounds of bubbles moving through the water.
- Persons with Long Ears
Imagine the violins imitating the sound of a braying donkey.
- The cuckoo in the Deep Woods
Although you may not be able to see him, if you listen closely, you can hear the clarinet sounding like a quiet cuckoo bird in the distance
- Aviary
In this section, the flute flutters and twitters like a flock of song birds.
- Pianists
Two pianists compete for top prize in a quarrel series of scales and finger exercises.
- Fossils
Imagine the sound of drumming on the bones of a T-Rex skeleton at the science museum. In the movement, also listen for two well-known melodies that the composer felt were so old, he compared them to fossils.
- The Swan
The graceful swan, portrayed by a cello solo, glides across the water of a still pond.
- Finale
In a last curtain call, all the animals make one final appearance to take their bows.

Teaching Resources

Youtube recording of *Carnival of the Animals*:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBGEf4urGNo>

Gateway Chamber Orchestra's instrumentation will differ slightly than the video.

Carnival of the Animals poem by Ogden Nash

<http://www.informatik.uni-hamburg.de/RZ/lehre/C++/4/carnival>

Note: In some translations, Wild Donkeys is referred to by a different title and may need some editing for young readers.

For the Family Concert, we will read the *Carnival of the Animals* story by John Lithgow. This book is based on the Saint-Saëns' composition and was written as a libretto for the New York City Ballet production of *Carnival of the Animals*. In the book, Lithgow tells a story of a young boy who accidentally gets locked in the Museum of Natural History. As he sleeps, he dreams of the animals coming to life and what would happen if his friends, classmates, teachers and parents were turned into one of the animals.

Instrument Lessons Options

1. Print and use the matching sheets and coloring sheets on this website
 - a. <http://www.tlsbooks.com/musicworksheets.htm> (scroll down to bottom of page)
2. Print instrument flashcards from this site and modify any current flashcard game (matching, memory, identification, etc.) for use with instrument names and families
 - a. <http://quizlet.com/4739056/musical-instruments-flash-cards/>
3. Have your child make their favorite instrument from recycled materials
 - a. Ideas on pinterest <http://pinterest.com/maestroclassics/homemade-musical-instruments/>
 - b. Ideas from Family Fun <http://spoonful.com/crafts/educational-crafts/music-instruments>
4. Research what instruments look like in different cultures or countries
 - a. Use Google search, or resources available in your school's library

Carnival of the Animals Lesson Option 1

To introduce students to various famous artists and their distinct styles of painting, have students paint any of the animals from *Carnival of the Animals* in the style of one of the famous painters you would like to study.

Carnival of the Animals Lesson Option 2

In keeping with the theme of Lithgow's book, and as a further extension of the art / music lessons, ask students to write a short story on the following theme:

- If you were turned into one of the animals listed above, which would you choose to be?
 - What would you do?
 - Where would you go?

Write a short story about your experiences as a(n) _____(the animal).

Then draw or paint a caricature of yourself as that animal doing something from your story