

The Music Arsenal

presents

Carnival of the Animals

**A zoological fantasy for two pianos and orchestra
by Camille Saint-Saëns**

The Music Arsenal will soon visit your school



to present this classic of great music. To get the most out of our performance, we request that you prepare for our visit.

We ask you to please respect the following rules during the performance:

- Children must remain seated on the floor
- No entering/exiting.
- No bells ringing.

The artists will arrive one and a half hour prior to the show. They may need your assistance for the transport of the material. We also ask you to provide a room where they can change and rest.

The performance will last 45 minutes.

We thank you for your cooperation and hope you enjoy our show!

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

A ZOOLOGICAL FANTASY FOR TWO PIANOS AND ORCHESTRA

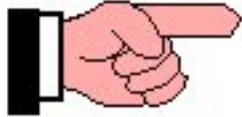


Carnival of the Animals is not only a performance, but also a remarkable piece of music written by French pianist Camille Saint-Saëns in the 19th century.

Born in Paris on October 9, 1835, Camille Saint-Saëns learned the piano at an early age. Gifted with an exceptional talent, he instinctively composed at the age of five, gave his first concert at Pleyel Theater at eleven, and entered the Conservatory, at thirteen. Very quickly, his talent earned admiration from the great names in music and created an important reputation for the young Saint-Saëns. Apart from *Carnival of the Animals*, his work includes 12 operas, notably the renowned *Samson and Delilah*, 3 symphonies, 5 concertos for piano, 3 concertos for violin, 2 concertos for cello and more than 100 melodies.

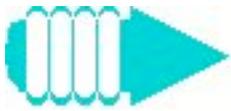
While resting in Austria after a difficult tour, Camille Saint-Saëns composed the music for *Carnival of the Animals*. Saint-Saëns' brilliant idea for this joyous zoological carnival was to reproduce the sounds, attitudes and movements of animals like the kangaroo, the lion, the swan, and even the cuckoo bird. A fantastic work that illustrates the marvelous technique and spirit of its composer, *Carnival of the Animals* was composed during a brief, intense period of several days.

Despite its whimsical nature beloved by audiences today, Saint-Saëns forbade the publication of *Carnival of the Animals*. Other than "The Swan", (which inspired Anna Pavlova's famous dance *The Death of the Swan*), *Carnival of the Animals* was never performed during Saint-Saëns' lifetime. The world finally discovered *Carnival of the Animals* after Saint-Saëns' death in Algiers, on December 16, 1921.



LEARNING ACTIVITIES

In order to be well-prepared to understand and to listen to the music, we suggest that students complete an activity in class before attending the show. The preparation includes an arts and crafts activity, blended with a musical and educational component.



HOW TO BUILD A MAROTTE

We encourage teachers to help students build a *marotte* (a “puppet on a stick”, i.e. a miniature hobby-horse). First the students choose one animal from the eleven represented in the musical work. Each student must draw the animal, cut it out and then glue it on a little wooden stick. During this activity, we suggest that the teacher play the music of *Carnival of the Animals*. Following is a list of animals to be used:

The Lion

The Chickens

The Dzigettai (Mongolian wild donkey)

The Turtle

The Elephant

The Kangaroo

The Fish

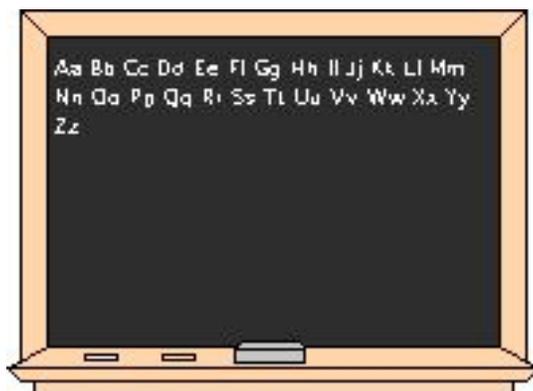
The Donkey

The Cuckoo

The Aviary (flock of birds)

The Swan

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANIMALS



On the chalkboard, write a list of animals, and ask your students to identify the principal characteristics of each. Next, print the characteristics pertaining to each one.

Please note that each animal's specific personality trait is represented in the music. Emphasize this important point with your students. Refer to the following list as your guide:

The Lion		ROARS FEROCIOUSLY
The Chicken		PECKS FURIOUSLY
The Dzigettai		RUNS QUICKLY
The Turtle		MOVES SLOWLY
The Elephant		IS VERY HEAVY
The Kangaroo		HOPS HAPPILY
The Fish		SWIM FLUIDLY
The Donkey		BRAYS LOUDLY
The Cuckoo		SINGS MUSICALLY
The Aviary		BUSTLES RESTLESSLY
The Swan		GLIDES GRACEFULLY

LISTENING TO THE MUSIC



After clearly identifying each animal's characteristics, it is very important to "listen" to them in the music. In order to do this, students must be able to recognize the animal in the music and the instrument which represents it.

Begin by playing each excerpt of music, and ask your students to name the animal to which it applies. Once you have identified and distinguished each part of the music, invite them to concentrate on the music, so they can recognize the instruments representing each animal. Carefully note the variations and modulations of the music. They will guide the way.

Note, that the music includes an introduction prior to the arrival of the lion, the fossils, the pianists and the finale. The following hints will assist in locating them in the music:



INTRODUCTION

The piano imitates a brass band announcing an important character, the lion!



THE LION

The King of the jungle, is represented by the piano, which imitates his commanding gait and his powerful roar.



THE CHICKENS AND THE ROOSTERS

The piano accompanies wind and strings instruments for a perfect imitation of a barnyard's cackling sounds.



THE DZIGETTAI (Mongolian wild donkey)

This quick moving animal dashes with great speed, represented by the piano's ascending and descending scales.



THE TURTLE

Moving with exasperating sluggishness, this animal dances the can-can in slow-motion.



THE ELEPHANT

Enormously huge, weighing a ton, it arrives to the sound of a double bass.



THE KANGAROO

Happily, this skipping animal jumps and hops on the piano keys.



THE FISH

Masters of their aquatic universe, they slowly glide over the piano's arpeggios.



THE DONKEY

As a headstrong creature, it stubbornly brays a duet with violin and cello.



THE CUCKOO BIRD

This bird sings its song, interpreted by the clarinet.



THE AVIARY

Excitedly flapping their wings, the birds are represented by the flute and the violin.



THE FOSSILS

Inspired by Saint-Saëns' "Danse Macabre", the Fossils are represented by the clarinet and the xylophone.



THE SWAN

A bird of majestic beauty, the swan is accompanied by the piano and the cello.



THE PIANISTS

They playfully do their scale exercises on the piano.



THE FINALE

This portion represents the grand parade, where we recognize animals such as chickens, the dzigettai, the kangaroo, and the donkey.

Now that students are more familiar with the work, start the music from the beginning. Ask them to raise and wave their own *marotte*, as each animal is presented

This simple, pleasant activity will facilitate students' understanding of the music, allowing them to grasp and appreciate the performance's complexity of sounds.

FOLLOWING THE PERFORMANCE

After the show, students will certainly have comments on what they saw and heard. Encourage them to share their experience and their impressions. Which was their favourite passage of music and why? What did they enjoy the most in the show? Which animal was their most and least favourite and why? Did they like the clowns?

Propose a second activity of craft-making. This time ask students to draw something that especially caught their attention during the performance.

We invite you to send us some drawings and comments, so that we can share this beautiful adventure!



Creative Team

Ariane Bisson McLernon : actress - puppeteer

David Magny: actor - puppeteer

Isabelle Thivierge: stage director

Mazouz and Lorena Corradi: assistance to the stage director

Lorena Corradi and Reggi Ettore: research, concept and artistic direction

Claire Brisson: props, costumes and puppets design

THE MUSIC ARSENAL'S SHOWS

Conscious of the importance and the specific nature of childhood, our shows are conceived and adapted according to teaching and social standards which you have suggested to us over the years

This year, in addition to *Carnival of the Animals*, we offer:

The Sound Factory



A duo of musicians pluck, strum, scrape and bang on some of the most curious instruments with infinite acoustic possibilities: the Baschet sound sculptures. Improvising playfully, the performers and the audience go down some really wild and inspired musical avenues together.

An interactive work where everyone can share in this dynamic, refreshing, unique and innovative experience.