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Concert Program

The Carnival of the Animals

Composer: Camille Saint-Saëns

Presented by the Redlands Symphony

- ★ **University of Redlands Orchestra**
- ★ **Co Nguyen, Conductor**



1. Introduction and Royal March of the Lion
2. Hens and Roosters
3. Wild Donkeys Swift Animals
4. Tortoises
5. The Elephant
6. Kangaroos
7. Aquarium

8. Characters with Long Ears
9. The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods
10. Aviary
11. Pianists
12. Fossils
13. The Swan
14. Finale

The Carnival of the Animals Script

Note to teachers:

At certain spots in the video, the Ringmaster will ask you to engage with your students in the classroom. Press Pause at this time.

RINGMASTER

Boys and girls, teachers, and friends – welcome to the Redlands Symphony's special performance of Carnival of the Animals!

RINGMASTER

Hello. I'm Lorenzo the Magnificent *[he bows flamboyantly]* your Ringmaster for today's musical adventure. Get ready for lots of fun because we're going to a Carnival -- a Carnival of the Animals by French composer Camille Saint-Saens.

Let's identify the parts of an Orchestra.

First, we need a Concertmaster.

And finally, we need a Conductor.

Hello, Maestro Co. Please tell us what a Conductor does.

RINGMASTER

Oh and, of course, we need the Orchestra.

RINGMASTER

Music is magical. It can create wonderful pictures and take us on exciting adventures. Composers sometimes write pieces of music that tell stories or paint sound pictures. The composer Camille Saint-Saens used his musical imagination to paint sound pictures of animals. Listen.

[ORCHESTRA plays the Introduction]

RINGMASTER

Did you hear any animals? Teachers, perhaps you can ask your class what they heard.

(Teachers – Press PAUSE now for class feedback)



**RINGMASTER**

Now who is the King of Beasts?

That's right the Lion! Presenting his Majesty.

[ORCHESTRA plays The Royal March of the Lion]

RINGMASTER

Wasn't that great?

What was that? You're right – a rooster. Let's hear the whole section called Hens and Roosters.

RINGMASTER

You know, music doesn't have to imitate sounds to paint a picture for us. Sometimes, it gives us the feeling of movement.

Animals all have their special way of moving. Some animals are super-fast!

And in our Carnival, they sound like this.

[ORCHESTRA plays Swift Animals]

**RINGMASTER**

Whew! Let's take a rest with some very slow animals. Can you think of an animal that's super slow?

[Teachers – Press PAUSE now for class feedback]

Yes. Tortoises. Maybe they move something like this.

[ORCHESTRA performs Tortoises]

**RINGMASTER**

Fast animals, slow animals, and then there are huge animals like our friend the Elephant. Here's how his walk might sound.

[ORCHESTRA plays The Elephant]

RINGMASTER

Now listen.

What was that? Sort of jumpy. Maybe a kangaroo?

Here's the composer's idea of Kangaroos.

[ORCHESTRA plays Kangaroos]



RINGMASTER

But there's more to our Carnival than lions and turtles and elephants and Kangaroos...

Have you ever been to an Aquarium? Or maybe some of you have an Aquarium at home?

Listen to this.

[ORCHESTRA plays The Aquarium]



RINGMASTER

Didn't that feel like being in the ocean? Fish are so...

What was that?

Do you think that's a donkey?

[ORCHESTRA plays Donkeys/Creatures with Long Ears]



RINGMASTER

Wasn't that fun to listen to!

So. Large animals, fast animals, slow animals, fish...that's land, sea

But we can't forget air...

There are all kinds of birds, even some who sound funny.

Let's put them all together.



[ORCHESTRA plays The Cuckoo and Aviary]



RINGMASTER

You know musicians can make animal sounds too. The winds can sing like birds, and the strings can sound like a donkey. And the pianists are a little like fish – because they have so many scales!

[ORCHESTRA plays Pianists]

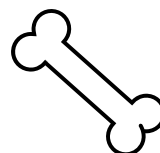
RINGMASTER

And now let's go back, back, back in time to the world of dinosaurs.



Close your eyes and imagine you're in a museum... filled with dinosaur bones. And they're dancing. What do you think a dancing dinosaur skeleton might sound like?

[ORCHESTRA plays Fossils]





RINGMASTER

Wasn't that fun – and maybe a little silly!

You know, some animals are really beautiful, and their music is, too. For instance, imagine this beautiful swan gliding across the water.

[ORCHESTRA plays The Swan]

RINGMASTER

Wasn't that wonderful?

We've seen and heard so many animals in our Carnival today. What was your favorite?

(Teachers – Press PAUSE now for class feedback)

Let's have a final musical adventure together in our grand finale of Carnival of the Animals.

[ORCHESTRA plays Finale]

I hope you enjoyed our musical carnival. Thanks for coming. And see you next time!



Musicians

1st Violin

Ian Kaminski, Concertmaster

2nd Violin

Jace Elliot

Viola

Vincent Francis

Cello

Anthony Schnell

Bass

Fatima Baeza

Flute & Piccolo

Christopher Figueroa

Clarinet

Isaiah Solares

Percussion

Abigail Mellado

Tim Laguna

Piano

Hanako Duffie

Joseph Candelaria



The Conductor for this performance will be:



Co Nguyen
Assistant Conductor

Co Boi Nguyen serves as Assistant Conductor of the Redlands Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Nguyen is an Associate Professor of Music at the University of Redlands School of Music, principal conductor of the University of Redlands Orchestra and Opera, and Principal Conductor for the Redlands Symphony's OrKIDstra youth concerts.

From 2005 to 2007, Ms. Nguyen was conductor and faculty member of the C.W. Post Chamber Music Festival at Long Island University, New York. At the same time, she also worked as assistant conductor to Oscar-winning composer Tan Dun and the Cosmopolitan Orchestra in New York.

A native of Hanoi, Ms. Nguyen returns regularly to perform and to give master classes. She made her highly acclaimed debut with the Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra at the Hanoi Opera House in July 2002, making her the first woman and the youngest conductor ever to lead the ensemble. In December 2011, she gave conducting master classes at her alma mater, the Vietnam National Academy of Music.



Ms. Nguyen is a graduate of the conducting programs at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and the Juilliard School in New York.



THE CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

Composed by Camille Saint-Saëns

Camille St. Saëns was wracked with pains
When people addressed him as "Saint Sains."
He held the human race to blame
Because it could not pronounce his name.
So he turned with metronome and fife
To glorify other forms of life.
Be quiet, please, for here begins
His salute to feathers, furs, and fins.
-Ogden Nash

Camille Saint-Saëns



Camille Saint-Saëns was born in Paris on October 9, 1835. Before the age of three years old, young Saint-Saëns showed signs of having perfect-pitch and enjoyed picking out tunes on the piano. Saint-Saëns mother, knowing her son was a prodigy, did not want her son to become too famous at such a young age. Though, Saint-Saëns would give occasional performances for small audiences from the age of five, it was not until he was ten that he made his public debut.

Perfect Pitch, also known as Absolute Pitch, is the ability to identify a note by hearing it. This rare ability is estimated to be found in less than 1 in 10,000 people.

While in school as a child, Saint-Saëns was outstanding in many subjects and found great interest in philosophy, archeology, and astronomy.

At the age of thirteen, Saint-Saëns was accepted into the Paris Conservatoire, Frances leading Music Academy. There, he was encouraged to specialize in Organ Studies with Francois Benoist. He went on to win the Conservatoires top prize for organists and began his studies in music composition. After graduation from the Conservatoire in 1853, Saint-Saëns accepted the position of organist at the Parisian church of Saint-Merri near the Hotel de Ville.



Francois Benoist

In 1861, Saint-Saëns accepted his only post as a teacher, at the Ecole de Musique Classique et Religieuse, Paris. It was at the school that Saint-Saëns

conceived his best known work, *The Carnival of the Animals*, with his students in mind, though did not finish composing the piece until 1886, over twenty years after he left his post as teacher in 1865.



Throughout the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, Saint-Saëns served in the National Guard. During the brief, but, bloody Paris Commune that followed, Saint-Saëns was fortunate to escape to exile in England, and was able to return to Paris in 1871. In 1875, Saint-Saëns was married to Marie-Laure Truffot and they had two children that sadly died in infancy.

Between 1880-1890, Saint-Saëns focused on his operatic compositions for the stage and in England was regarded as the greatest living French composer.

After the death of his mother in 1888, Saint-Saëns took to traveling overseas.

In 1900, Saint-Saëns took up a permanent residence in Paris in the rue de Courcelles, which would be his home for the rest of his life. In 1921, at the age of eighty-six, Saint-Saëns gave a recital to a large audience and it was remarked that his playing was, "as vivid and precise as ever, and that his personal bearing was admirable." A month later while vacationing in Algiers, Saint-Saëns suffered a heart attack and died.

The Carnival of the Animals

History and Overview

Le carnaval des animaux, which translates into the “Carnival of the Animals,” was written by French composer, pianist, and organist Camille Saint-Saëns in 1886 while on vacation in Austria. He composed the piece in a few days, and though he initially intended it for his students at the Ecole Niedermeyer, he instead surprised audiences at the annual Shrove Tuesday concert, which was hosted by cellist Lebouc. Unfortunately, after having a few more performances of the work in private and under special circumstances, he forbade any further performances for fear of damaging his reputation. It was not until after his death that this *Grande fantaisie zoologique*, which translates to a “Grand zoological fantasy,” was performed again.



The whole work is composed of fourteen movements each representing a certain creature. Some of the more famous ones include: movement thirteen, which is the beautiful depiction of a swan through a cello solo; movement ten, which features a “bird-like” flute solo; movement seven which attempts to capture the image of creatures swimming in an aquarium; and movement five, which features a slow and heavy sounding contrabass solo as depicting an elephant. Though



it is easy to consider it an orchestral piece, it really is a large chamber composition, since it can be played by as little as 11 performers, which includes two pianists, two violinists, a violist, a cellist, and a bassist, as well as flutist/piccolo, clarinetist, xylophone, and glass harmonica.

The piece has become a staple in classical music and education. Aided by the whimsical and enjoyable nature, selections of the work have also been featured in movies. Some of the more recognizable features include *Beauty and the Beast*, *Fantasia 2000*, and more recently in *Florence Foster Jenkins*. The most famous and well-liked selection from the work is “The Swan,” which is the only part of the work that Saint-Saëns allowed performances of after his banning of the rest. Thankfully, we now have the ability to present



the entire work for your enjoyment. As you join us on this adventure, go ahead and close your eyes and imagine yourself walking through a zoo and encountering all these wonderful creatures.

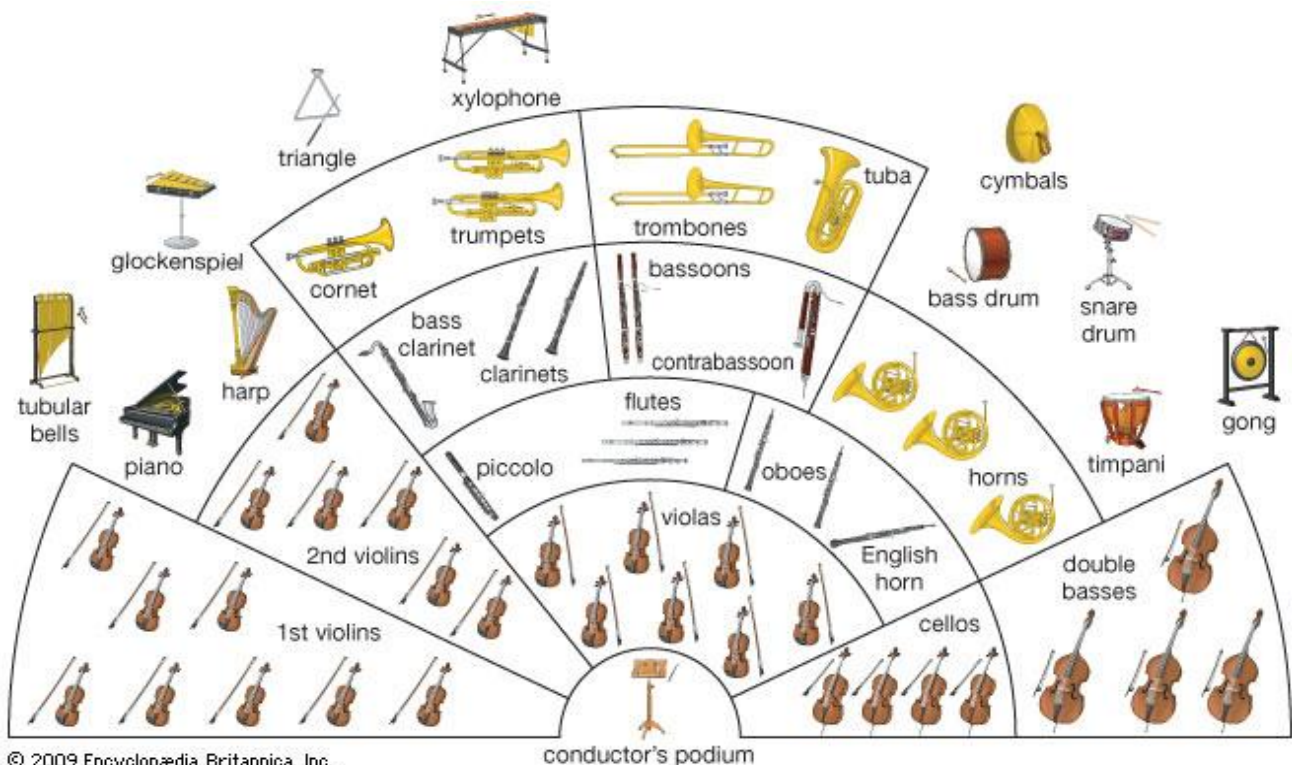
What Instruments are in the Orchestra?

An orchestra is made up of a variety of different musical instruments. They are divided into four different sections: Strings, Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion and are all lead by a Conductor.

Redlands Symphony Orchestra in Rehearsal, Conductor-Ransom Wilson



Maestro Ransom Wilson is the Conductor for the Redlands Symphony Orchestra. Maestro Wilson is also a virtuosic flutist and has played with orchestras all over the world!



The Redlands Symphony Orchestra

String Section Contains:

20 Violins

6 Violas

(Slightly larger than a violin)

6 Cellos

(Larger than the viola)

5 Double Basses

(Twice as big as a cello and played standing up)

1 Harp

All the Instruments, except harp, have four strings.

- * Their sound is produced by the friction of a bow on a string, or plucking the strings with the fingers, allowing them to vibrate.
- * Plucking the strings is called *pizzicato* (meaning “plucked” in Italian).
- * The bigger an instrument is the lower it sounds; for example, the violin sounds higher than the double bass.
- * Every string instrument is constructed of pieces of wood carefully glued together and covered with several coats of varnish-no nails or screws are used.



What is a Concert Master?

A Concert Master is the leader of the First Violin Section and the instrument-playing leader of the orchestra. After the Conductor the Concertmaster is the next most important person in the orchestra.

Fun Fact: The bows that are used to play some stringed instruments are made of wood and horsehair!

The Redlands Symphony Orchestra

Woodwind Section Contains:

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

2 Clarinets

2 Bassoons

* These Instruments are essentially tubes (either wood or metal) pierced with holes. When a musician blows air through the tube, they cover different holes with their fingers to produce different notes.

* Some woodwind instruments use a reed to produce sound. The reed is made of a thin piece of wood that vibrates against the lips of a musician blows into the instrument to create sound.



* The only instrument that does not need a reed to make a sound in the woodwind section is the flute. The musician blows across and into the flute simultaneously to create its distinctive sound.

* Most woodwind instruments are made of various types of wood, the most common being Grenadilla, except the flute which can, also, be made of Silver, Gold, or even Platinum.

*Flutes are able to play the highest notes in the woodwind section, and bassoons create the lowest tones.

Fun Fact: Reeds for instruments such as the oboe, clarinet, and bassoon are made of cane or more commonly known as “bamboo”!



The Redlands Symphony Orchestra

Brass Section Contains:

4 French Horns

2 Trumpets

2 Trombones

1 Tuba

Fun Fact: Most brass instruments contain a “spit-valve” which lets the musician empty the instrument of condensation generated by blowing warm air through the instrument!

* Brass instruments are the loudest in the orchestra. That is why there are fewer brass players than string players.

* Brass instruments are made from various types of metal, like Brass and Silver. They are made of long metal tubes that are formed into loops of different lengths with a bell shape at the end. The longer the tube, the lower the pitch will be.

* The musician creates the sound by “buzzing” their lips and blowing air into the cup shaped mouthpiece attached to the instrument.

* Most brass instruments have valves that allow the sound to change. The trombone uses a slide to change notes instead of valves.



The Redlands Symphony Orchestra

Percussion Section Contains:

1 Set of Timpani

2 other percussionists who play Xylophone, Marimba, Snare Drum, Cymbals, Triangle, and many other interesting instruments.

Fun Fact: Timpani or “Kettle Drums” are made of large bowls usually constructed from copper. You can see similar created “kettles” at fairs and festivals where “Kettle Corn” is made.

* Percussion instruments help provide rhythm for the orchestra.

* There are 3 types of percussion instrument families: Metal, Wood, and Skin.

* These instruments are either “pitched” like the xylophone, where a specific note is produced when struck, or “unpitched” like the snare drum, where a sound that has no specific note is made.

* Different pitches on the timpani are produced by changing the head or “skin” of the drums tension by tightening or loosening screws fixed to the shell, or by using a pedal.

Is Piano a percussion instrument?

Yes! Hammers inside the piano strike strings on the soundboard which creates the pianos distinctive sound!

