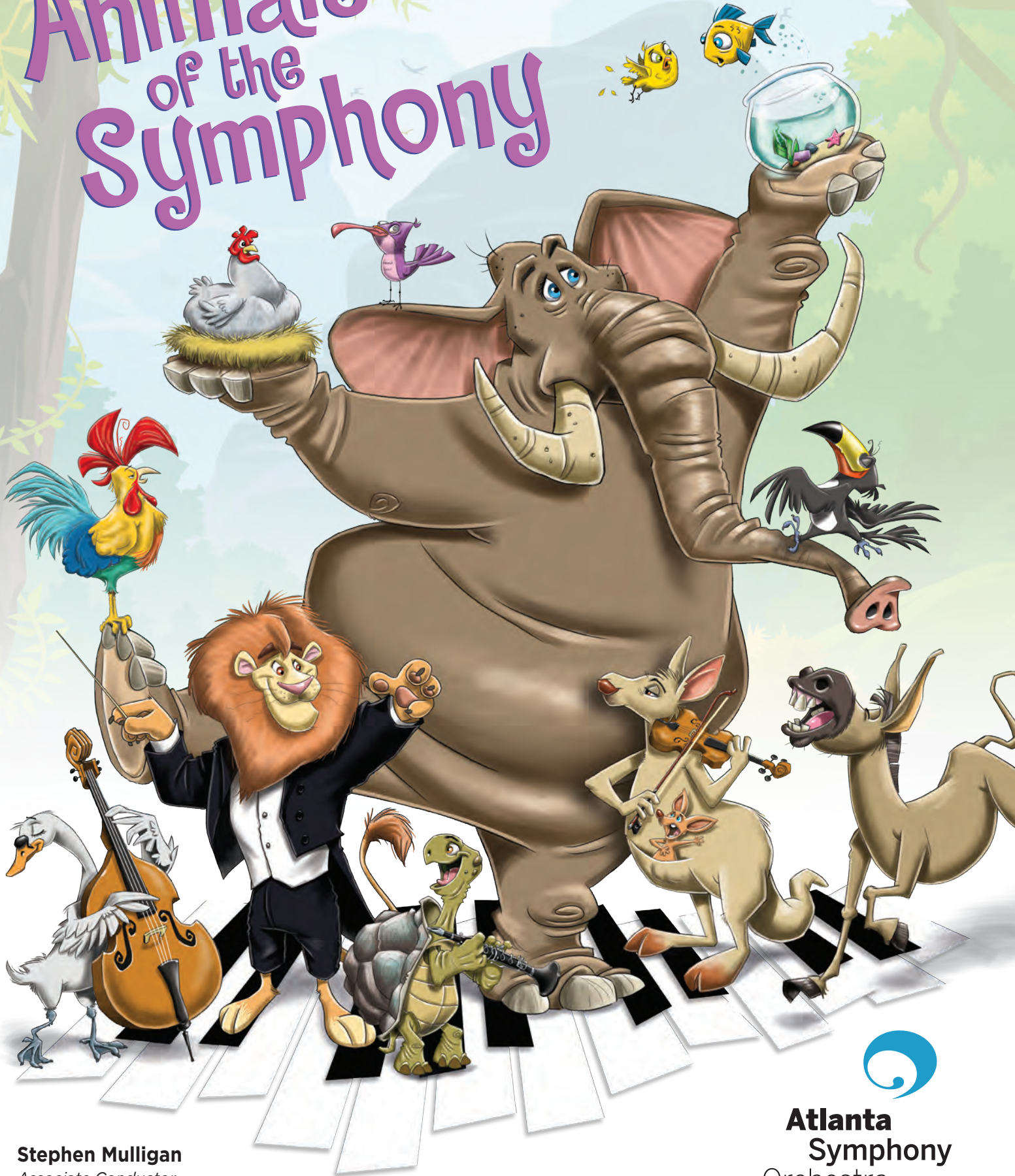


Animals of the Symphony

ASO75



Stephen Mulligan
Associate Conductor



**Atlanta
Symphony**
Orchestra

Music can do magic! It can make you super-happy or it can gently put you to sleep. Music might make you want to march or dance or spin in a circle. Music can even draw pictures in your imagination!

The people who write music—called “composers”—use their music to draw all kinds of animals, from birds in the sky, to beasts in the jungle, to fish in the deep blue sea.

Don't believe me? Just listen! French composer Camille Saint-Saëns invites us to a festival of feathers, fur, and fins in *The Carnival of the Animals*. And Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky takes us to a beautiful *Swan Lake*.

Join the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as we explore the Animals of the Symphony!

#ConcertsForYoungPeople

#MulliganConductor

#AtlSymphony



Saint-Saëns' "The Carnival of the Animals"

1. Lions!

The *Carnival of the Animals* opens with an introduction and "The Royal March of the Lion." The composer has written a march for the "king of the beasts," the big, loud, and powerful lion. Does the music make you want to march? Can you hear the lion's roar?



3. Wild Donkeys!

"Wild Donkeys" are known for their speed. Fast, energetic "runs" up and down the piano keys suggest donkeys racing through the woods.



8. Characters with Long Ears

The composer offers a joke about the way real people sometimes sound like donkeys in "Characters with Long Ears."



13. The Swan!

Do you see the lovely swan gliding across the water? Can you sense the swan's feet paddling super-fast under the water?



This music better sound like a chicken!

2. Hens & Roosters!

Violins and a sharp sense of rhythm help to create the pecking and scratching sounds of "Hens and Roosters" in the farmyard. You might want to do a chicken dance!



Slow down! What's your hurry?

4. Tortoises!

The tempo of the music slows down to capture the heavy, slow-moving feet of "Tortoises." Notice that the tone of the music also suggests how old they can be!



Cuckoo.

9. The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods

The music suggests an exotic bird calling from the middle of the forest. Do you see the tall trees? Do you hear the birdsong in the distance?



Thank you very much!



14. Finale

A "Finale" means the final section of the work. Here, Saint-Saëns and his animal friends take a final bow!

5. The Elephant!

You can hear the size, the weight and the gentle sways of elephants in the music for "The Elephant" — all the way to the trumpet sound of the trunk!



10. Aviary

If music can suggest one bird, why not a lot of birds? All shapes and sizes!



Hello, Camille Saint-Saëns!

Say - "Kah-MEEL San-SAHNS." (It's French!)

French composer Camille Saint-Saëns lived a life of music. At two years old, he began piano lessons with his mother and his great aunt. He played so well that he gave solo concerts when he was 10.

He studied music in the best schools and became a famous composer and a soloist. Throughout his life, Saint-Saëns encouraged young people who were also interested in music.

Saint-Saëns composed *The Carnival of the Animals* as a fun thing-to-do for his music students. Each section represents a different animal or set of animals. He never expected it to become his most famous work—but today, it continues to be enjoyed by children and grown-ups all over the world.



We jump and we hop — ...

6. Kangaroos!

"Kangaroos" takes big leaps up and down the scale to suggest kangaroos hopping and jumping into the distance and back again.



That's not funny.

11. Pianists!

The composer offers a joke about how pianists practice for hours to perfect their playing — as though the pianist is a rare, special creature.



7. Aquarium

The music creates a sense of wonder and enchantment in "Aquarium." Can you see all the little fish when you listen? Can you sense what life is like inside a fish bowl?

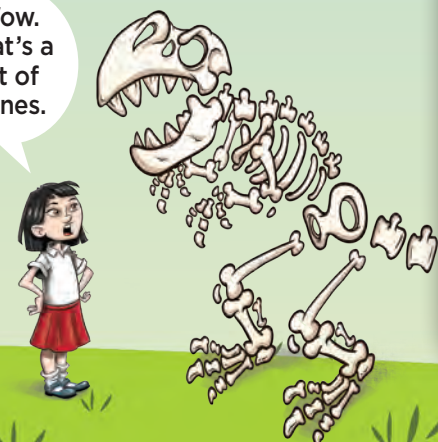
Ever wonder what it's like inside a fish bowl?



12. Fossils!

Fossils aren't animals really. They're what's left of ancient animals when their bones are found in the dirt. What kind of ancient animals is the composer imagining? Do you see the dusty bones?

Wow. That's a lot of bones.



Hello, Mama Koku!

The Carnival of the Animals will be narrated by Mama Koku, a Master Storyteller who has performed throughout Georgia and across the United States. As an educator, she teaches children of all ages.

Mama Koku, Donna "Kokumo" Buie, is a Master Storyteller, Children's Writer and Teaching Artist who teaches and entertains children from pre-school to high school.

Koku graduated with honors from North Carolina Central University, majoring in Theatre Arts with concentrations in Performance and Education. She has been telling professionally for almost 20 years. She regularly performs for the High Museum of Art, The Atlanta History Center, Fulton County School's Teaching Museum, The Atlanta Botanical Gardens and on television in World Stories with Mama Koku on the Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters Network. This is her fourth season with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.



How Does Music Do What It Does?

Meet the Orchestra!

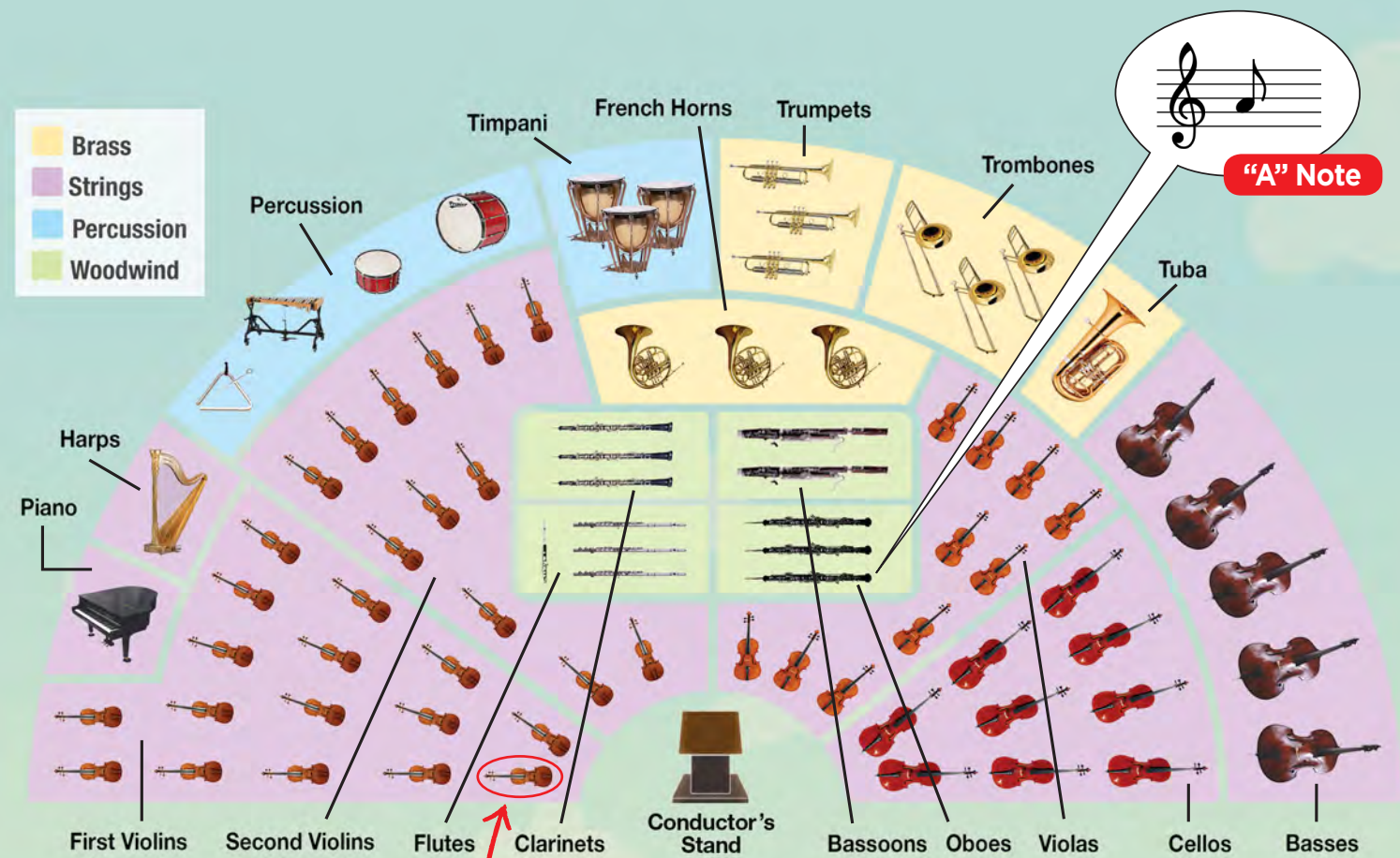
An **orchestra** is a large group of musicians playing in four different groups of instruments. Each section has a different musical quality.

The **string** section contains violins, violas, cellos, and basses. These instruments can sound soft and sweet, or soaring and grand.

The **woodwind** section is made up of flutes, oboes, clarinets, and bassoons. Woodwinds carry the melody over the quietest and the loudest parts of a piece.

The **brass** section is home to horns, trumpets, trombones, and tubas. Brass instruments create epic swells and sudden bursts of sound in the loud, exciting parts of music.

The **percussion** section includes drums, chimes, gongs, cymbals, and whistles. These instruments provide pounding rhythms, booming drum rolls, and driving energy.



Look for the Concertmaster!

The leader of the violin section, known as the “Concertmaster,” usually enters after the orchestra is already seated. He or she is in charge of tuning the orchestra. You may notice the concertmaster ask for an “A” from the oboe player when the musicians are tuning up. At the end of the concert, the Concertmaster usually serves as the “point person” when the entire orchestra stands to bow.



The Sound of the Orchestra

You have probably heard music performed by a rock band, a marching band, or played on a guitar or the piano. The sound of the full orchestra includes brass instruments, woodwinds, strings, and percussion – and that gives it a big, full sound. You will probably hear orchestral music in concert halls, musicals, movie scores, pop music, and on video games.

How to Listen to an Orchestra

As you listen to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, you can choose how you like to listen to the music. You might choose to follow the melody played on the woodwinds, the trumpets, or the strings. You could also choose to listen to the rhythm, set by the drums or by any of the other instruments.

You could also follow the sound of one single instrument – or else the whole orchestra, all together. The music may get

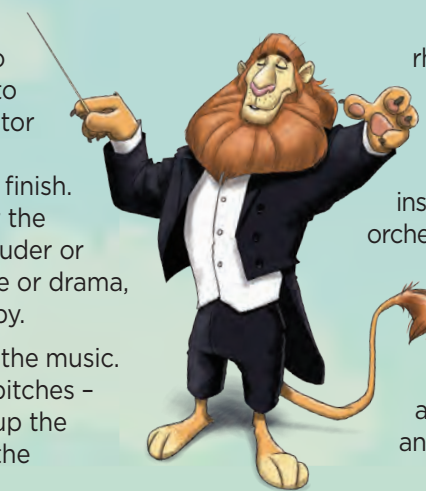
loud. When the full orchestra is playing, it has a lot of power. The music may also get soft and quiet. Sometimes an orchestra is so soft that you have to lean forward and listen carefully.

You could also choose to simply enjoy being in the audience with your classmates and friends as the music surrounds you.

Who’s who in the orchestra?

The **conductor** is the man or woman who faces the orchestra with his or her back to the audience. Using a baton, the conductor “marks time” so that the musicians play together on the same beat from start to finish. The conductor also shapes how we hear the music, signaling the musicians to play louder or softer, faster or slower, with greater force or drama, like a march – or more gently, like a lullaby.

The **composer** is the person who writes the music. The composer decides on the series of pitches – high, low, and in-between – that makes up the melody. The composer also decides on the



rhythm – the long and short notes – that add energy to the melody. You don’t usually see composers on stage. But they’re the people behind the music.

A **musician** is the artist who has mastered a musical instrument. There are several different instruments in an orchestra. Each musician has studied his or her instrument for years to play it as well as he or she can.

Soloists are musicians who have been chosen to appear with the orchestra and play a part of the musical work all by themselves. Pianists and violinists are often soloists, but just about any instrument can play a solo!

Musical words to know

Can you explain what the following words mean? If you forget, search the page until you find the answer:

Composer: _____

Orchestra: _____

Melody: _____

Pitch: _____

Rhythm: _____

Tempo: _____

Hello, Peter Tchaikovsky!



Say - "Peter Chai-COUGH-ski." (It's Russian!)

Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky studied music as a child and returned to it as a grown-up because he wanted to become a great composer. And then he did!

Tchaikovsky's ballet music remains among his most popular. You might have already heard his music for *The Nutcracker* during the winter holidays.

His famous ballet, *Swan Lake*, tells the story of a prince who falls in love with a swan! It happens like this...



The story of *Swan Lake*

Prince Siegfried is on a hunting trip at the lake. He takes his bow and arrow and aims at a beautiful swan. To his surprise, the swan transforms into a young woman and begs the prince not to harm her or her friends. She explains that she is actually a princess named Odette. An evil sorcerer cast a magic spell that has forced her and her friends to spend their days as swans. The only way to break the spell is for someone who has never found love to promise to love Odette forever.

Guess what happens? Prince Siegfried falls in love with Princess Odette!

How does *Swan Lake* sound like swans?

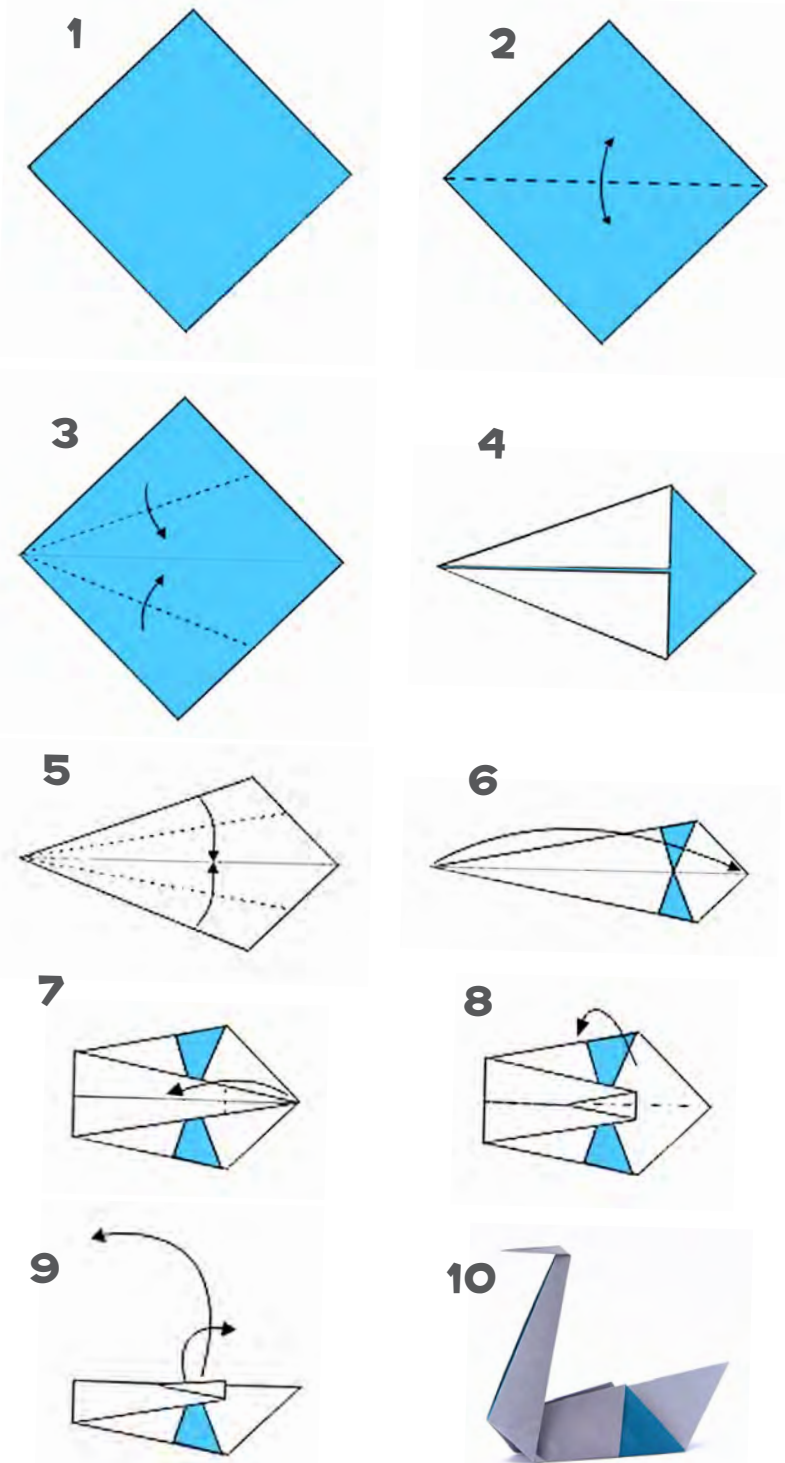
Swans are famous among birds for their long, graceful necks and large, powerful wings, full of feathers. They make big entrances when they swoop down to land on a lake. They also make dramatic exits when they take off into flight. Swans also look quite beautiful when they are simply gliding along the water.

Tchaikovsky's music is also famous for its drama and emotion. Sometimes, the music takes great, dramatic leaps that help us to picture swans spreading their wings in flight. At other times, the melody is more soothing, like swans gently floating on the water. There's even a section with lots of quick, little jumps that sounds like baby swans, darting single-file to follow their mother!

MAKE YOUR OWN MAGIC SWAN!

You can make your own magic swan - out of paper! Ask your teacher or a parent for help and follow these simple instructions.

1. Choose a piece of paper, any color you like. Paper is usually a rectangle-shape, so ask a grown-up to help you to make it a simple square.
2. Fold that square of paper in half along the diagonal. Then unfold it.
3. Fold the lower edge of each half to the centerline.
4. The paper is now a kite shape.
5. Flip the kite over - and fold the edges in one more time, as shown.
6. Take the long point on the left half and fold it to the short point on the right.
7. Fold approximately a third of the long point to the left and create the swan's head.
8. Fold the entire top half down and **behind** the lower half of the swan's body.
9. Unfold the shape to create the swan's head, neck, body, and wings, as shown.
10. Listen to "Swan Lake," and take your swan for a dance!





Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

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With Deepest Gratitude



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