

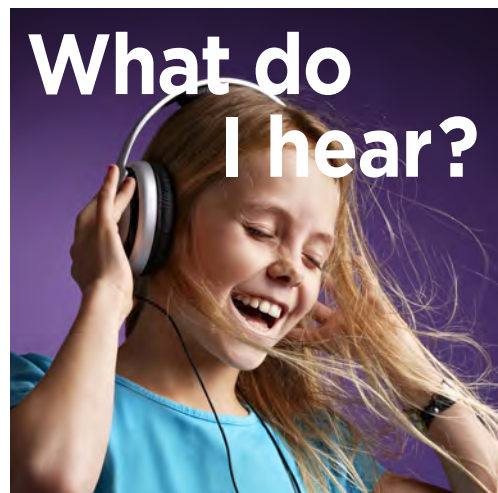


Music

with a



purpose



What do I hear?



**Atlanta
Symphony
Orchestra**

Joseph Young, Conductor

You hear it everywhere! Music fills our days. Maybe you listen to songs or maybe you sing and dance along. It's okay to snap your fingers and clap or march around the room. Music has the power to make us smile! It lifts our spirits! Music adds value to the things we do every day.

Music with a Purpose! wants you to "listen with a purpose." Listen to the way music touches the world we live in – and to the many ways we make music.

Meet the



An orchestra is a group of musicians who perform at the same time on many different instruments. The orchestra is divided into four sections based on the instrument being played.

Meet the Instruments

The **brass** section includes horns, trumpets, trombones, and tuba. Brass instruments create loud, exciting swells and sudden bursts of sound.

What did you say?

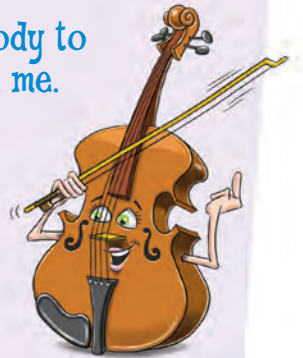
I said "too loud!"



The **string** section is made up of violins, violas, cellos, and basses. These instruments can make soft sweet sounds or rich, full, sweeping sounds.

I want the melody to wrap around me.

You mean like a hug?



The **percussion** section holds the drums, chimes, gongs, cymbals, and whistles. They bring a driving beat, booming drum rolls, and a thrilling energy to the music.

Can I hit it now?

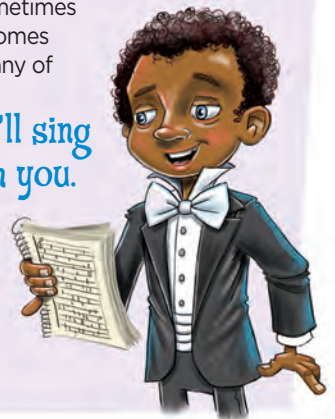
Okay, now!



The **woodwind** section contains flutes, oboes, clarinets, and bassoons. Woodwinds sometimes carry the melody because their sound comes closer to the human singing voice than any of the other instruments.

How does the melody go again?

Here, I'll sing it with you.



Orchestra

Who is the Conductor?

The conductor is the man or woman who leads the orchestra. A conductor uses hands or a baton to keep the musicians on the same beat. A conductor also controls the volume and shapes the sound of the music. By watching the conductor, the musicians know when to start and when to stop.

Watch how carefully the musicians follow their conductor.

Offenbach's "Can-Can"

French composer **Jacques Offenbach** (1819-1880) had music in his life from the time he was a small child. As a young man, he made money by playing the cello. But his dream was to become a composer.

Offenbach became famous for composing dance music. He wrote a melody called the "Infernal Galop" to go with a popular dance called the "Can-Can." Offenbach's tune was so catchy that people today refer to his melody as "the can-can."

French composer
Jacques Offenbach



All Together Now!

When an orchestra plays all at once, the sound can be very powerful! But an orchestra doesn't just make a big noise. An orchestra makes *music*.

When all the musicians play together, the music can be very loud — but it can also be soft and quiet. You might hear an orchestra switch from super-slow to super-fast. Or hear the instruments reach down for deep low-notes and slide upward for the really high notes.

What is music?

Music is a mix of high notes and low notes — that's called *pitch* — and a series of long and short notes — that's called *rhythm*. Pitch and rhythm combine to make *melodies*.

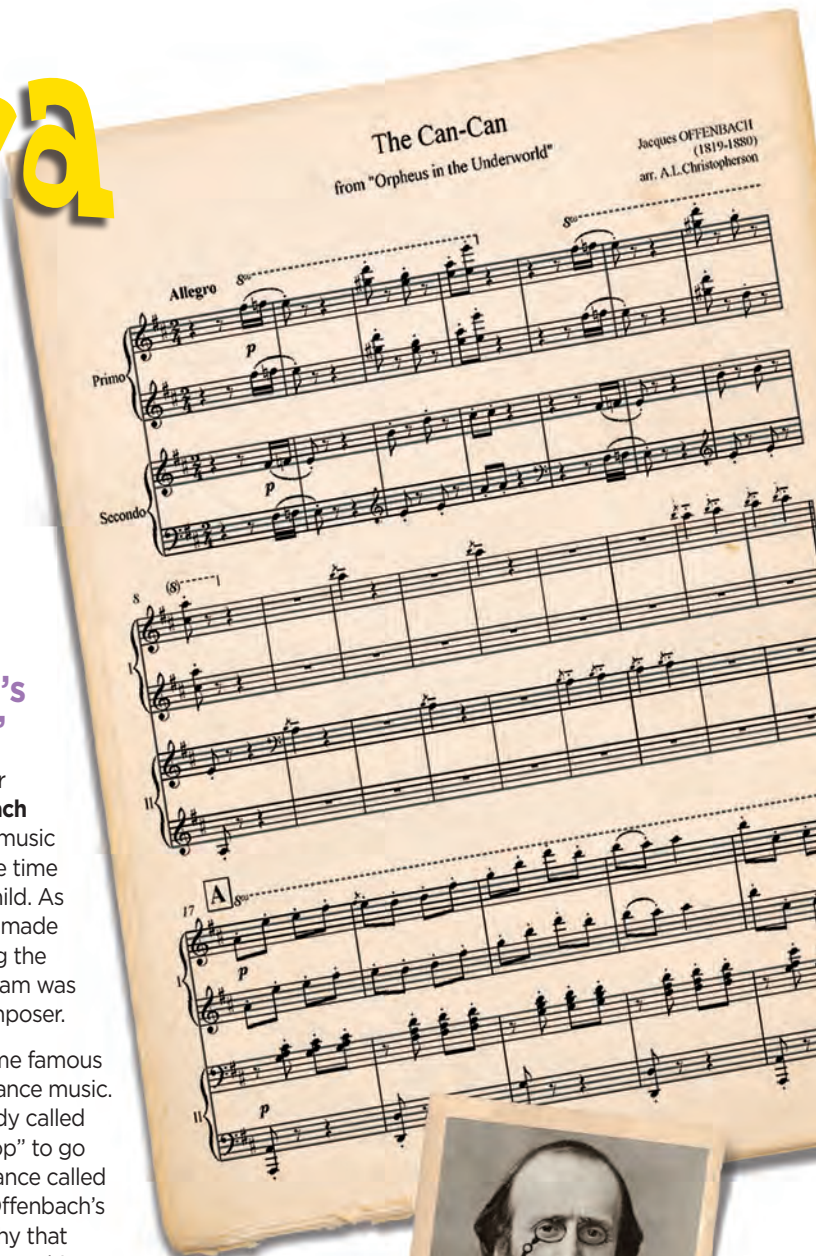
When you listen with a purpose, you'll be able to hear the pitch, rhythm and melodies at work!

Who makes music?

The musicians in the orchestra make music by following the conductor and playing their instruments. But they are not making up music on the spot!

They are playing music that was written by a composer. A composer chooses all the pitches, rhythms, and melodies. A composer also decide on the tempo — whether the music is fast or slow — and the *musical dynamics* — whether the music is loud or soft or anything in between. The dynamics help to create the mood of the music, whether it's happy or thoughtful or super exciting.

When you listen with a purpose, you will also hear all the decisions that the composer made in the music!



Kick it!

The "Can-Can" was a wild and crazy dance that young people did in Paris in the 1830's. The dancers did lots of high-kicks, made big gestures with their arms and even did splits!

Listen with purpose — for the pitch!

Let your fingers do the kicking when you listen to Offenbach's "Can-Can." Allow your fingers to jump and "kick" along to the music. Notice that you're probably kicking up on the high notes. If your fingers are jumping and kicking faster or slower, that's because you are following the tempo set by the composer and the conductor.



Saint-Saëns' "Tortoises" from



French composer
Camille Saint-Saëns

French composer **Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)** was playing the piano before huge audiences when he was only 10 years old. Even as a boy, Saint-Saëns was studying to become a composer as an adult.

His most popular work is *The Carnival of the Animals*, a series of 14 short pieces about different animals. Lions, chickens, roosters, an elephant, kangaroos, and even a swan!



Listen with purpose—for the melody!

You might recognize the melody in Saint-Saëns's "The Tortoises." It is the exact same melody that Offenbach used in his wild "can-can" dance.

The joke is that the wild dance has been slowed down to a turtle's pace in "The Tortoises" – because they're tortoises! Saint-Saëns instructed the orchestra to play that melody really slowly.

You will also want to listen for Saint-Saëns' use of tempo and musical dynamics as you hear this familiar melody in a different setting. See if you can identify how many things are the exact opposite of Offenbach's "can-can" melody.

Fast Facts

Type: Reptile

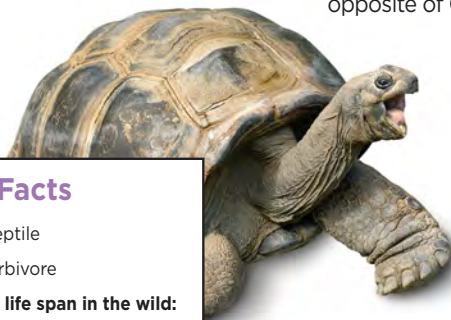
Diet: Herbivore

Average life span in the wild:
100 years or more

Weight: 475 lbs. (215 kg.)

Protection status: Endangered

Did you know? Today the 3,000 to 5,000 tortoises that live on Volcano Alcedo on Isabela Island are the largest group of giant tortoises in the Galapagos.

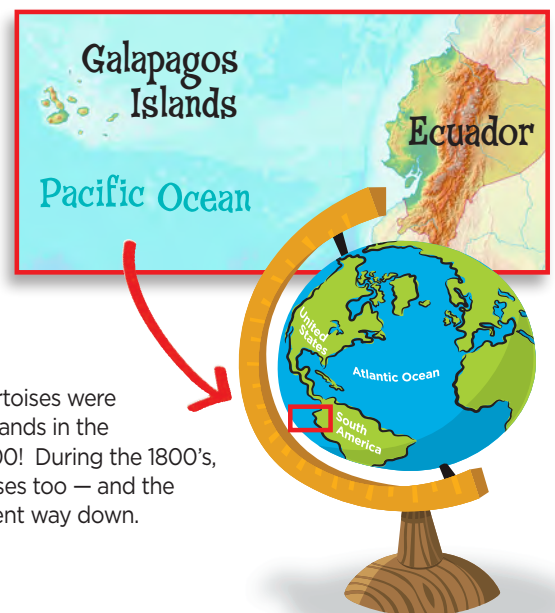


**Size relative to
a 6 foot man:**



Go slow!

Way back in the 1500's, gigantic tortoises were found on the faraway Galapagos islands in the Pacific Ocean — as many as 250,000! During the 1800's, whaling ships began hunting tortoises too — and the number of tortoises in the world went way down.



How does an audience listen to music?

An audience is the group of people that attends a performance.

An orchestra audience stays very quiet because everyone is there to **listen**. Sometimes the conductor tells the audience to clap to the rhythm or to sing along — but an audience only claps and sings when the conductor says so.



The *Carnival of the Animals*

Strauss's "Radetzky March"

Austrian composer Johann Strauss Sr. (1804-1849) taught himself music when he was still a child. As a young man, he conducted small orchestras. When he started his own orchestra, he also decided to write his own music.

Strauss became known as "the Father of the Viennese Waltz" because he liked to write music for waltzes, polkas and other dances that made people move.

He also wrote a hugely popular march titled the "Radetzky March," named after the Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Austrian Army.

At the first performance of the Radetzky March, the audience of Austrian officers was so pleased that they clapped their hands and stamped their feet throughout the chorus. The tradition stuck! Even today, audiences clap and stamp through the march.



Austrian composer
Johann Strauss Sr.



Listen with purpose—for the rhythm!

Radetzky's March lets you parade about the room in *tempo* with the music! You can also listen to hear the rhythms – the series of long and short notes – that Strauss used to make his march so catchy!

Try clapping your hands to the marching beat – the steady count of 1, 2, 3, 4 – and then try to clap your hands to match the trickier rhythm of the melody.



Along Came a Spider



American composer
Jonathan Bailey Holland

Jonathan Bailey Holland (1974 —) was born in Flint, Michigan and decided to become a composer at an early age. He studied hard and took degrees in music from the Interlochen Arts Academy, the Curtis Institute of Music, and Harvard University. As a result, he now works with symphony orchestras in major cities across America.



"Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock" is based on author Eric Kimmel's version of an African folk-tale about a tricky little spider who finds a magic rock.



**Listen with purpose—
for the musical dynamics!**

In his music for the story of Anansi the spider, Composer Holland left specific instructions as to how he wanted the musicians to play his music – when to play loud or soft or quickly or slowly. Listen to see if you can identify all those *musical dynamics*.



America the Beautiful

“America the Beautiful” is one of America’s most popular patriotic songs. Originally written as a poem, the words were set to music by a choirmaster named Samuel A. Ward.

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!



Listen with purpose—
for everything!

As you listen to “America the Beautiful,” listen to hear the pitch, the rhythm, the melody, the tempo *and* the musical dynamics. What choices did the composer make to turn the words of the poem into a powerful patriotic song?

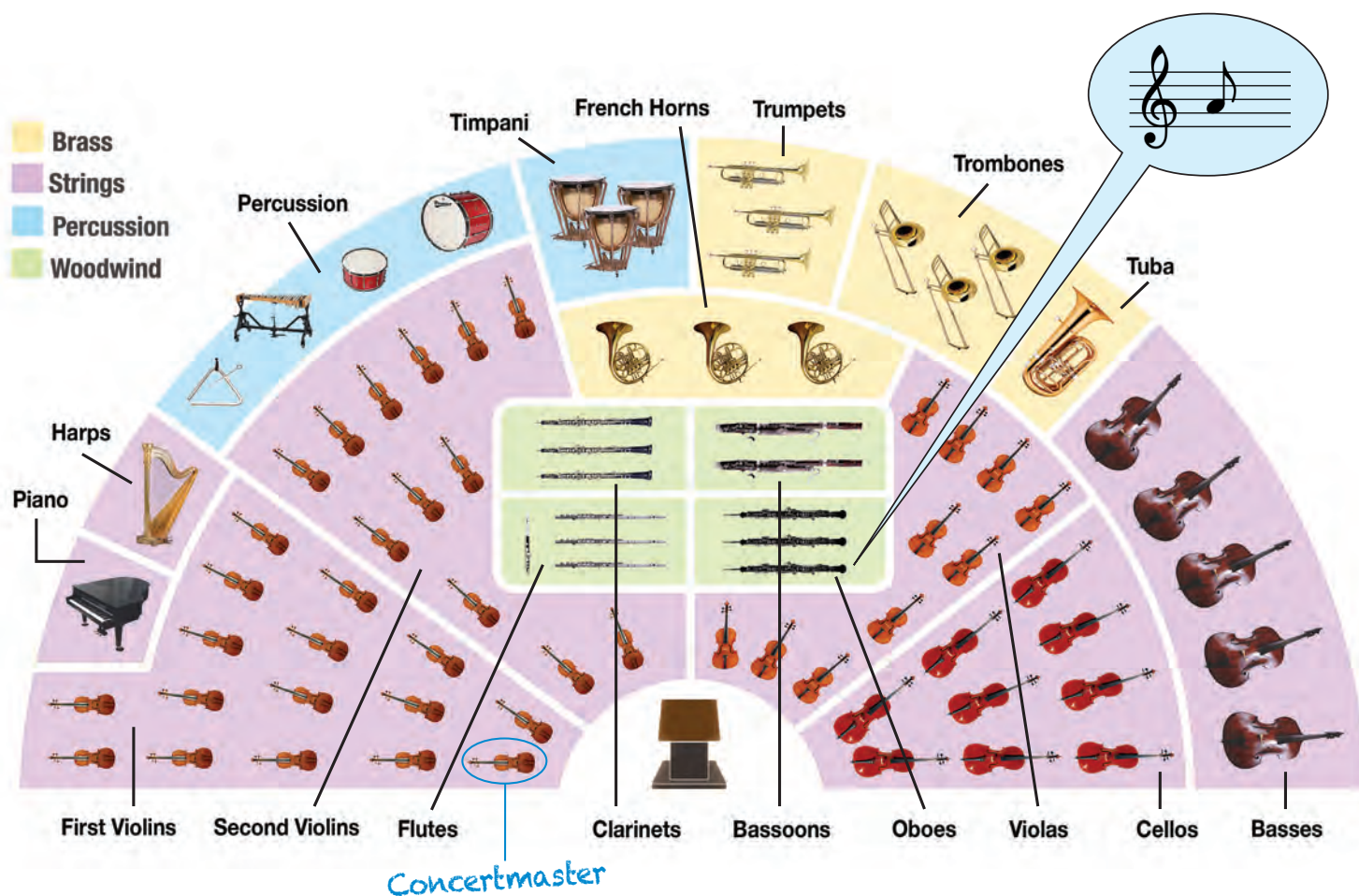
Be Prepared!

The conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is fully prepared to ask the audience to sing-a-long during this performance of “America the Beautiful.” Look over the words with your friends and be prepared to sing-a-long with the orchestra when they ask for your participation.



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.



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WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE



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