



Hello, students!

Here at the Missoula Symphony, we are working hard to get our Youth Concert ready for you. This Learning Guide is an introduction to what you will see, hear, and experience at the performance. You will **see** the musicians and their instruments, as well as the actor, props and costume. You will **hear** the music, the voice of our conductor and Music Director, Julia Tai, and the story told by the actor. You will **experience** a really fun, interactive show, designed just for you!

At our Youth Concert this year, the orchestra will play 10 wonderful pieces by 9 different composers. These pieces help the actor tell a Sherlock Holmes story—a great, musical mystery. Some of these musical pieces are big and exciting, while some are quiet or silly. Some are fast, and some are slow. Through all of these, you learn will about the instruments, the orchestra, and how music works.

We are very excited that you are coming, and we look forward to sharing beautiful music with you!

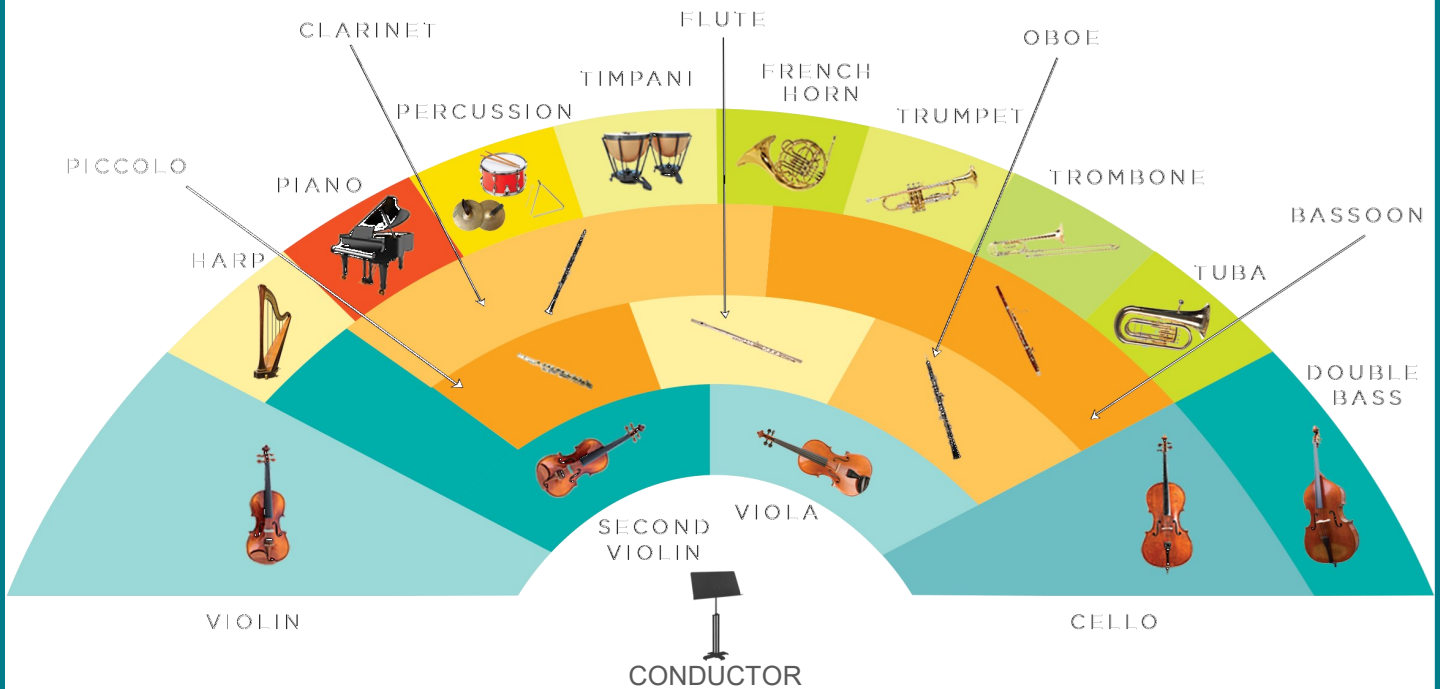
A Note to Teachers and Parents

There is a lot of information on the four pages of this Learning Guide! I have aimed to make it approachable by 4th grade students, but it would also be beneficial for students to read it with a teacher in the classroom and/or a parent at home. Even if you aren't able to cover all the material in class, please make special note of the section called "**How to Be a Good Audience Member.**" I hope this will help create the best possible experience for all who attend the concert.

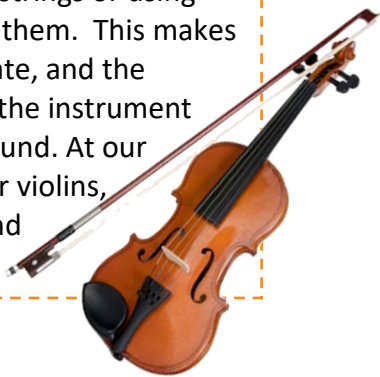
On behalf of the MSA staff and orchestra, I want to say a big "Thank You" you for making the extra effort to facilitate this musical experience for your students. We look forward to welcoming them to the Dennison Theatre very soon!

Sylvia Allen Oman, MSA Education Coordinator

A Symphony Orchestra is a group of musicians playing many different instruments. They all work together with the conductor to create beautiful music. When you watch the concert, look for these instruments on stage.



The String Instruments are instruments with strings on them! They are played by either pulling a bow across the strings or using fingers to pluck them. This makes the strings vibrate, and the wooden box of the instrument amplifies the sound. At our concert, look for violins, violas, cellos, and double basses.



Percussion instruments are played by either striking (with hands, sticks or mallets), shaking, or scraping. Some percussion instruments, like the triangle, are non-pitched and are used for rhythms. Some percussion instruments, like the xylophone, are pitched and are used for melodies. The timpani is a pitched drum that uses a pedal to change pitches.

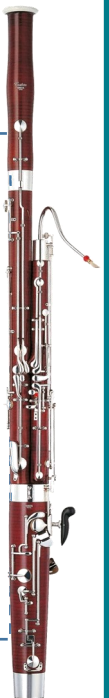


The Brass instruments at our concert will be trumpets, French horns, trombones and tubas. They are played by buzzing the lips into a cup-shaped mouthpiece attached to long pipes. To change pitches, the player uses their fingers to press valves that look like buttons—except for the trombone! This instrument uses a long slide to change pitches.



The Woodwind instruments

include flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, and saxophones. Woodwind players blow into or across their instrument's mouthpiece while opening or closing the its holes with their fingers. Some woodwinds use a wooden reed on the mouthpiece. **PRO TIP:** Listen for the special note "A" that the oboe plays before the concert begins and you will see all the players tune their instruments.



the Composers

A composer is someone who writes (composes) music. Some composers work by writing music down on paper; this is called 'written notation'. Classical music writers work this way. Writers of TV and movie music also usually write this way, so that an orchestra or other players can read the music and play it.



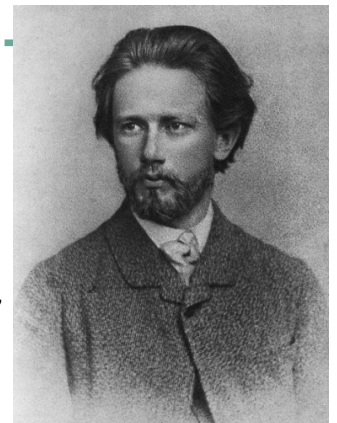
Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmilla*

Mikhail Glinka is considered to be the father of modern Russian music. His nationalistic style was like a seed that influenced all the Russian composers who followed, from Rimsky-Korsakov to Tchaikovsky to Stravinsky.

Born in 1804, Glinka enjoyed music and studied piano from a young age. As an adult, he first worked in a government position. During this time, he became friends with the poet Alexander Pushkin. Later, he travelled to Italy and Germany to study music composition. With the knowledge of Europe's leading composers and teachers as a foundation, he returned home to create music that would sound and feel distinctly Russian.

Ruslan and Ludmilla was Glinka's second opera, first performed in 1842. The story of the opera is based on a satirical fairy tale by Glinka's friend, Pushkin. An opera overture is played by an orchestra, without singers, and it introduces the musical themes and ideas of the opera. This overture starts with a rhythmic and very fast theme. The second theme, played by the cellos and violins, is slow and lyrical, like a dance. After this, you will hear a boisterous and heroic ending.

Symphony No. 4, IV. Finale



Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born in Votkinsk, a town in Russia's Ural Mountains in 1840. When he was 8 years old, his family moved to the capital city of St. Petersburg. Even though Tchaikovsky showed musical talent from a young age, being musician wasn't considered an "acceptable" profession.

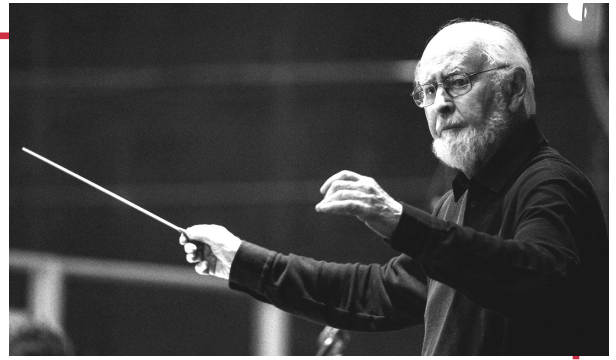
While he attended law school, Tchaikovsky continued to study music. Eventually, he gave up his legal job and studied music at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. After he graduated, he moved to Moscow to teach at the new conservatory there. During this time, he developed his uniquely Russian style of composition.

For years, Tchaikovsky had a patroness named Nadezhda von Meck — a wealthy widow who was a big fan of Tchaikovsky's music. She regularly sent him money so that he could concentrate on composing without having to worry about making a living. Tchaikovsky traveled all over Europe for performances of his music. In 1891, he even came to America for the opening of Carnegie Hall, where he was invited to conduct his music.

Today, you will hear the last movement of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, a work he dedicated to his patroness. The first theme is big and lively. Listen for the crashing cymbals and very fast notes in the string sections. The second theme includes a famous Russian folk song. The piece ends with an exciting and triumphant coda. Every single musician will be playing as loudly as they can!

Superman March

John Williams is the most well-known living composer of film music, and he has received more Oscar nominations than any other man now alive. His music has a distinct sound that mixes romanticism, impressionism, and atonal music with complex orchestration.



Williams was born in Queens, New York in 1932. He moved to Los Angeles when he was 16 years old. After serving in the Air Force, Williams returned to New York to study piano at the famed Juilliard School. While there, he worked as a jazz pianist, both in nightclubs and on recordings. After college, he went back to Los Angeles to begin his career in the film industry. Since that time, he has composed music for over 100 movies and over 200 television episodes. A few famous movies that feature music by Williams are *Star Wars*, *Home Alone*, and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

Superman March is part of the score that Williams wrote for the movie *Superman (1978)*, which was directed by Richard Donner. The march starts with a fanfare played by the French horns, trumpets, and trombones, introducing a three-note motif that has since become very famous. When Donner first heard the studio orchestra playing this motif, he interrupted the musicians to exclaim, "The music actually says 'Superman'!" Listen closely to the brass instruments and see if you can hear "SU-per-MAN", too!

You are almost ready to join us at the Symphony!
There is just one more, very important, thing that you need to know:

How to Be a Good Audience Member

Before You Take Your Seat:

- Take care of all restroom needs.
- Leave all food, drink, and gum outside the concert hall.
- Leave all cameras and recording devices outside the hall as well.
- Turn off anything that might make a noise: cell phone, watch sounds, alarms, etc.



Once You Take Your Seat

- Think about things you learned at school before the concert.
- Show appreciation by clapping when the concertmaster enters to tune the orchestra, and clap again when the conductor enters the stage.
- Watch the conductor carefully to see the cues she gives the orchestra members to get them to play the music they have rehearsed.
- Remain seated and quiet while the musicians are playing so you don't distract your neighbors or the performers on stage.
- Show your appreciation by clapping at the end of the performance.