



Carnival of the Animals!

Saturday, Mar. 16, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, Mar. 16, 2024 @ 11:30 a.m.

Experience composer Camille Saint-Saëns' beloved children's classic like you've never seen it before, with colorful and engaging puppets, captivating music, and playful storytelling. Join Puppet Artist Robin Walsh on a journey of imagination. Robin's work has been seen at the Academy Awards, on *Captain Underpants*, *SpongeBob SquarePants*, and in Pacific Symphony's *Magic Flute-Opera for Kids!*

Lobby Activities: Enjoy special activities for kids in the concert hall lobbies related to the theme of the concert, including a coloring station, craft station, photo station, and S.T.E.A.M. station. Activities take place from 9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. for 10 a.m. concertgoers and from 12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m. for 11:30 a.m. concertgoers.



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Presents Pacific Symphony Family Musical Mornings

Jacob Sustaita—conductor

Robin Walsh—creative director, writer, and shadow puppeteer

Adrian Rose Leonard—puppeteer

Lydee Walsh—puppeteer

Kristn Charney—puppeteer

Alissa Hunnicutt—puppeteer

Suzanne Nichols—narrator

Kyle Yeung—pianist

Kara Wong—pianist

Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts | Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

PROGRAM

BERLIOZ

Roman Carnival Overture

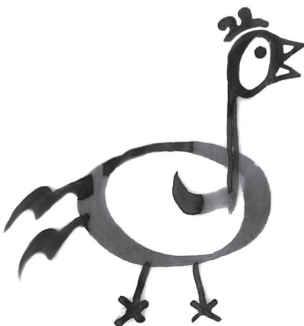
SAINT-SAËNS

The Carnival of the Animals

- I. Introduction and Royal March of the Lion
- II. Hens and Roosters
- III. Wild Donkeys and Swift Animals
- IV. Tortoises
- V. The Elephant
- VI. Kangaroos
- VII. Aquarium
- VIII. Characters with Long Ears
- IX. The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods
- X. Aviary
- XI. Pianists
- XII. Fossils
- XIII. The Swan
- XIV. Finale

Kyle Yeung, first pianist

Kara Wong, second pianist



WELCOME TO CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS!

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to welcome you to Pacific Symphony's Family Musical Mornings presented by Farmers & Merchants Bank. I am your **conductor, Jacob Sustaita**, and if you like music and animals, then you are going to LOVE this CONCERT!



Carnival of the Animals brings together enchanting music, playful storytelling, and some unforgettable puppets. You might be wondering why we have two pianos on stage in front of the orchestra. Well, there are two reasons. The **PIANO** is our **spotlight instrument** for this concert. The composer for **Carnival of the Animals, Camille Saint-Saëns**, wrote this colorful and playful music as a private work meant only to be performed for his friends and no one else. Thank goodness he changed his mind. We are using parts of the original score and Denis Bloodworth's orchestration to utilize more of our Symphony players.

We also have two very special and remarkable young pianists joining Pacific Symphony and me on stage for this concert—**Kyle Yeung** and **Kara Wong**. Kyle and Kara are both members of **Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra**. I think you will be amazed at how talented and awesome they are.

Now, let your imaginations run wild as you experience the sounds, sights, and the story of **Carnival of the Animals**. I hope you enjoy the concert and hope to see you at our next concert in June, **The Barber of Seville—Opera for Kids!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacob Sustaita'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with some loops and flourishes.

Dr. Jacob Sustaita
Assistant Conductor



ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

Jacob Sustaita

Assistant Conductor for Pacific Symphony

Music Director for Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra

Mary E. Moore Family Assistant Conductor Chair

Dr. Jacob Sustaita serves as the Assistant Conductor for Pacific Symphony and Music Director Carl St.Clair, a position he has held since the fall of 2020. Dr. Sustaita also serves as Music Director and Conductor for Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra (PSYO), the premier training orchestra of Orange County, recognized as one of the most outstanding youth orchestras in the country.

Dr. Sustaita is the newly appointed Orchestra Director for the Orange County School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra. In the fall of 2021 and 2022, Sustaita served as Acting Director of Orchestras at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach (CSULB). From 2015-20, he led the Sam Houston State University Symphony, Chamber, Ballet, and Opera Orchestras as Director of Orchestral Studies. In 2016, Sustaita and the Symphony Orchestra performed the American premiere of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 1 (original Linz version) with high praise from the American and European Bruckner Societies.

Dr. Sustaita is a frequent guest conductor and clinician across the country. In 2015, Sustaita was selected by Carnegie Hall's Weill Institute to serve as Assistant Conductor for Charles Dutoit and the National Youth Orchestra of America (NYO). Sustaita regularly conducted and coached the orchestra during its New York residency and on their seven-city tour of China and Hong Kong.

A native of Texas, Sustaita completed his Doctorate and Bachelor of Music degrees at the University of Houston, where he served as Assistant Conductor for the Moores Opera Center for three seasons. He also earned a Master of Music degree from both Penn State University and Rice University.

His honors include: Schissler Conducting Fellowship, Rice University Prize and Provost Fellowship, and American Prize semi-finalist and finalist. His teachers and mentors include Carl St.Clair, Charles Dutoit, Franz Krager, Brett Mitchell, Gerardo Edelstein, and Paavo Järvi.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ROBIN WALSH

Puppet Artist **Robin Walsh** loves proving that alternate realities exist—and creating them, in both expected and unexpected places.



She's worked for Henson, Disney, the Academy Awards, and Stanford University among others. She's performed at the Hollywood and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals and *The Oscars*, *Men in Black*, *Team America*, *Captain Underpants*, and *SpongeBob SquarePants*. Other highlights include an **Emmy** nomination, a **Jim Henson Foundation** Workshop Grant, and restoring the real Rudolph and Santa puppets from the Rankin/Bass classic animated holiday special.

LYDEE WALSH

Lydee Walsh is a California native and all-around entertainer.



She performs as an actor, dancer, musician, puppeteer and clown. She has been seen as "Starfleet Crew" on the last season of *Picard*, as a zombie on *Good Trouble* and featured as "Mack's Mom" on *Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn*. She is also "Felix's Mom" in real life!

Working with puppets has been a wonderfully fun experience for her. She loves to tell stories and put on a show! Walsh has worked with Robin

Walsh on many productions and it has always been magical! This is her second appearance on stage with Pacific Symphony.

ALISSA HUNNICUTT

Alissa Hunnicutt is happy to be back after performing in Pacific Symphony's production of *The Magic Flute*.



Hunnicutt is a singer, puppeteer, and ukulele artist and holds a Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music in opera performance. She trained at The National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, studying with an array of master teachers in many different styles of puppetry as well as developing her own short-form puppet theater work.

Hunnicutt was the resident staff puppeteer at Mount Sinai Children's Hospital in NYC, where she hosted live, closed-circuit, television shows. She has performed as a puppeteer on the CBS series *Life in Pieces*, plays Maggie Raccoon on the series *Slugs and Bugs* with Randall Goodgame, and in live puppet slams across the country. Hunnicutt is currently part of the children's music band, Puppet Snaps, and is studying carving and puppet-making with Bernd Ogradnik as a student in the Academy of the Wooden Puppet. @puppetmissy



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ADRIAN ROSE LEONARD

For nearly two decades, Adrian has been a professional puppeteer, builder, and technician (aka: wrangler), working on productions such as *Crank Yankers* and *Waffles + Mochi's Restaurant*. Her passion for puppetry and filmmaking led to creating Little Wonder Productions where she produced and directed marionette segments for the award-winning documentary *Louder Than You Think*, which premiered at SXSW in 2023.



Through her company Little Wonder Productions, Leonard strives to immerse audiences in the tactile, handcrafted world of puppetry as well as creating cinematic experiences that are both visually stunning and emotionally engaging.

KRISTIN CHARNEY

Kristin Charney is a puppeteer, actress, and voice artist for film, television and theater. Her puppetry skills span a wide variety of styles—from hand and rod to marionettes, to real-time, digital characters. Among Charney's film credits are *The Muppets*, *The Happytime Murders*, *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, *Team America: World Police*, *Men In Black II* and



The Hollow Man. Television credits include *Fargo*, *Ratched*, *Duff's Happy Fun Baketime*, *Kidding*, *The Muppets*, *Sid the Science Kid*, *Good Morning Today*, *Imagination Movers*, *Glee*, *Frances*, *Crank Yankers*, and lots more. She has made many live theatre appearances in Los Angeles, New York, and beyond.

Kristin's other talents include puppet design and construction as well as teaching. She has created several educational programs that employ puppetry, storytelling, and improv to teach academics and the art of puppetry. Her passions include inspiring children to learn to love learning and teaching her not-so-old dog new tricks!

SUZANNE NICHOLS

Suzanne Nichols is from Oakland, California. Before moving to Los Angeles, she studied theater at American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. Suzanne has been part of the Shoshone Tribe in *HAIr* at The Met Theatre in Los Angeles produced by Michael Butler, *Pope Joan* at the Stella Adler, also produced by Michael Bulter, and *My Name Is Eartha, But You May Call Me Miss Kitt* at Playhouse Theatre in the Brewery Arts Colony in Los Angeles. She has also performed as Eartha Kitt at the Edinburgh Fringe in Scotland. Most recently, she was Katherine Jackson in *For the Love of*



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

a *Glove* as well as the puppet version of *Jackie Jackson* with a puppet created by the unbelievably talented Robin Walsh.

KYLE YEUNG

Kyle Yeung is a pianist and composer. At age seven, he made his orchestral debut by winning first place at the US CAPMT Young Musicians Concerto Competition. Kyle was admitted to The Juilliard School Pre-College Program at age 11. He is a 2023-24 US Chopin Foundation Scholarship recipient and 2024 National YoungArts winner. Yeung's compositions have won numerous national and international competitions, and he is a Yamaha International Junior Original Concert artist.



KARA WONG

Kara Wong is a violist and pianist from Tustin, CA, studying under Sorah Myung. After touring in the Dominican Republic with the National Youth Orchestra in the summer of 2023, she was invited back to NYO-USA for World Orchestra Week at Carnegie Hall. Wong has been Principal Violist for the Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra, Honors Performance Series, and Symphony Orchestra at Orange County School of the Arts and Assistant Principal at CASMEC All-State 2024.



THE PUPPETS



SPOTLIGHT ON PIANO

The **piano** is one of the most popular musical instruments in the world. It has the **widest range**, or **distance from the lowest and highest pitches it can play**, of any orchestral instrument, and **composers** frequently use it to **write music** for all the other instruments.

The piano is often played **solo (by itself)**, but is also commonly used to **accompany**, or **play with**, other instruments.

The piano is a very **complex instrument**, with many different moving parts that allow it to work. Pianists press **keys** on the **keyboard**, which in turn moves a **hammer** that hits **steel strings** inside the instrument.



UPRIGHT PIANO

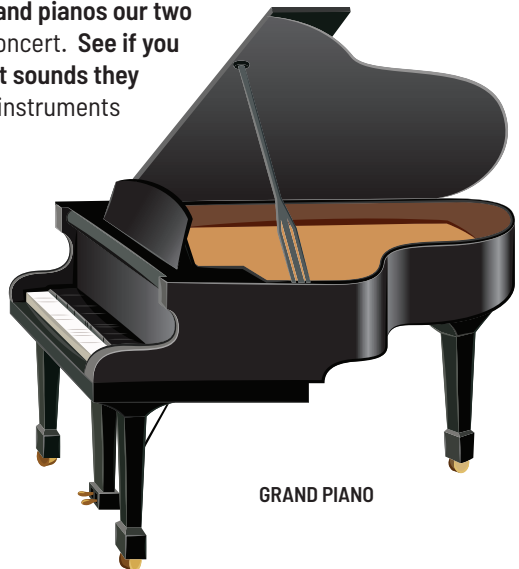


TOY PIANO

When the strings are hit, they **vibrate to make sound**, which is **amplified**, or **made louder**, by the **soundboard**.

Pianos come in **many different shapes and sizes**. From biggest pianos, called **grand pianos**, to the smaller, **upright pianos**, to the miniature **toy pianos**.

Listen carefully to the **grand pianos our two soloists** will be playing at today's concert. **See if you can hear all the highest and lowest sounds they make**, and compare it to the other instruments in the orchestra!



GRAND PIANO

THE CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

The Carnival of the Animals is a **musical suite**, or **collection of short musical pieces**, written by a French **composer** named Camille **Saint-Saëns**. It was written for a much **smaller orchestra** than you might expect in a concert hall, because it was originally supposed to be performed **privately** in smaller places, such as people's homes.



Each **movement**, or **part**, of the piece is written for **different combinations of instruments**, and each conveys a **different animal**. First comes the **Lion**, the King of the Animals, who gets a **Royal March**. Next come the **Hens and Roosters**. If you listen closely, you can hear the **pianos and strings** “pecking” like birds do!

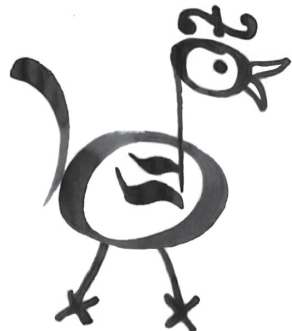
Later on, we meet the **tortoises**, and Saint-Saëns plays a **musical joke** on us! He has the orchestra play the famous “**Can-Can**,” very slowly. **Why is that funny?** Well, in Saint-Saëns’ day, everyone knew the “**Can-Can**” as a **fast and lively** dance. So hearing it played very slowly, to **reflect how slowly tortoises move**, is like hearing the song “**Happy**” sounding very sad because it was played at a super slow speed.

The other movements of *The Carnival of the Animals* include music representing kangaroos, elephants, an aquarium, an aviary, a swan and much more! **See if you can guess which animal is which, just by listening to the music!**

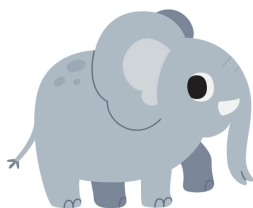
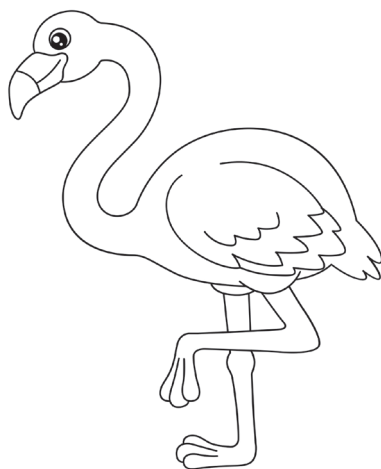
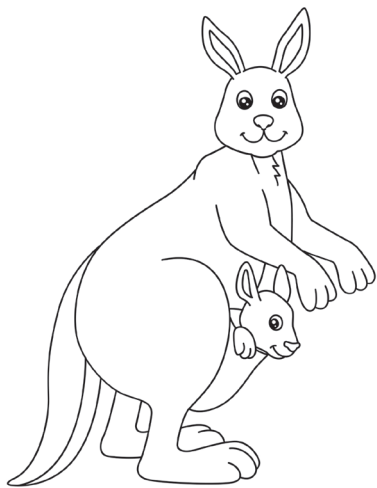
Thank You!

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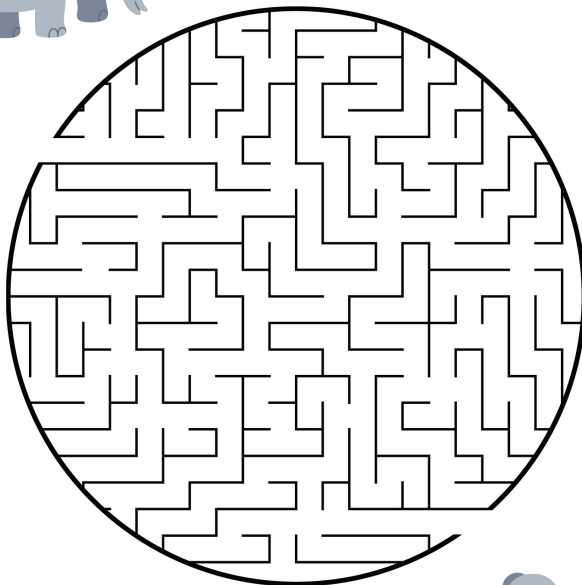


COLORING AND MAZE FUN



ELEPHANT MAZE

Help the mother elephant reach her baby.



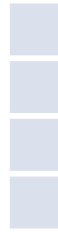
WORD SEARCH FUN



Cat
Dog
Cow
Ant



Fish
Lion
Bird
Rabbit



Frog
Bear
Duck
Tiger

C	A	T	D	Q	U	I	P	V	M	E	R
N	D	O	G	J	N	V	B	E	A	R	A
T	F	I	S	H	K	L	I	O	N	F	B
Y	B	I	R	D	L	M	T	Y	B	G	I
U	F	R	O	G	C	O	W	F	N	R	T
J	K	L	P	Q	B	E	A	R	Z	A	E
I	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	B	R
V	W	X	Y	Z	D	U	C	K	E	I	T
S	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	T	G
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T	I	G	E	R	L	M	N	O	P	T	U

