

HOW TO BUILD AN ORCHESTRA

FUN ACTIVITIES



Saturday, March 11, 2017

2:00pm

Davies Symphony Hall

Arrive at 1:00pm for pre-show
fun in the lobby!



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY

MUSIC
FOR
FAMILIES

HOW TO BUILD AN ORCHESTRA

It takes lots and lots of people working together to make a symphony orchestra sound great. At the concert, we'll take you on a tour of the many different sections of an orchestra. We'll also show you how all the sections work together to create great music.

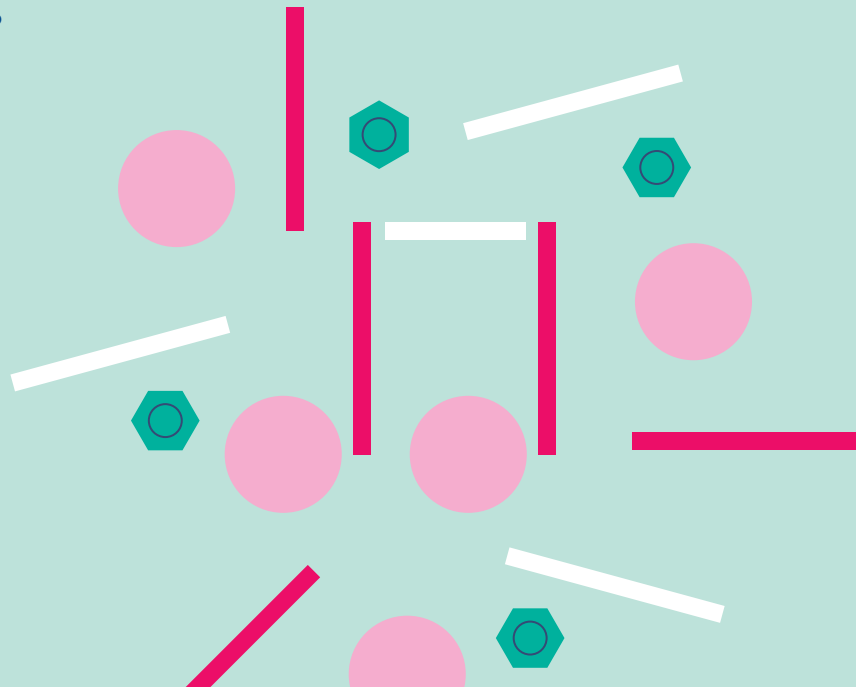
You'll meet the FOUR INSTRUMENT FAMILIES of a symphony orchestra:

- The Strings
- The Woodwinds
- The Brass
- The Percussion

As a special treat, you'll hear a very funny detective story called *The Composer is Dead*, written by the famous author Lemony Snicket and featuring fantastic music by the composer Nathaniel Stookey. You'll meet Mr. Stookey at the concert. You'll see him play the role of The Inspector, and he'll tell you the whole story.

What's this mysterious detective story about?
Turn the page and find out...

On the following pages are some fun activities for you and your family, along with lots of interesting facts. Take a look at them before or after the concert. Print them out, and have fun!



THE COMPOSER IS DEAD

STORY WRITTEN BY LEMONY SNICKET

MUSIC WRITTEN BY NATHANIEL STOOKEY

The Composer is Dead is a rip-roaring good story, and the music is absolutely fantastic! It's also a fun way to learn the sounds of the instruments of the orchestra. The composer Nathaniel Stookey will be at the concert to narrate the story for you!

The story begins with a mysterious death. The death of a composer. The police are called, and an Inspector arrives to investigate and haul the murderer or murderers off to jail.

- First the Inspector interrogates the **string family** of the orchestra—the **violins** (1st and 2nd violins and even the Concertmaster. The Inspector is very thorough!), the **violas**, **cellos**, and **double basses**.
- Then the Inspector interrogates the **woodwind family** of the orchestra—**flutes**, **clarinets**, **oboes**, and **bassoons**. An oboe raises an eyebrow and whispers a strong suggestion that the Inspector should speak with the brass section.
- The **brass family** of the orchestra—**trumpets**, **French horns**, **trombones**, and **tuba**—are all questioned as to their whereabouts when the murder occurred.
- The Inspector certainly doesn't forget about the **percussion** section. Even the **harp** is not above suspicion!

Does everyone have a sound alibi?

Ah, now the plot thickens...

We don't want to spoil the end of the great mystery for you, but we can tell you that the mystery will be solved. This is a story with a happy ending!



YOUR SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY KIDS PASSPORT

Do you have your official San Francisco Symphony Kids Passport?

Here's how to get it!



1 Arrive at Davies Symphony Hall before your Music for Families concert to enjoy fun activities in the lobby. Doors open at 1:00pm sharp!

2 Visit an **Instrument Petting Zoo** station, and try out an instrument.



3 Once you have tried out an instrument, you'll receive your very own Instrument Passport! And, you'll get a special stamp inside showing the instrument you just played.



THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!
SEE YOU AT 1:00PM ON SATURDAY!

REALLY BIG INSTRUMENTS

Instruments of the orchestra come in all sizes, from teeny-tiny to REALLY BIG.

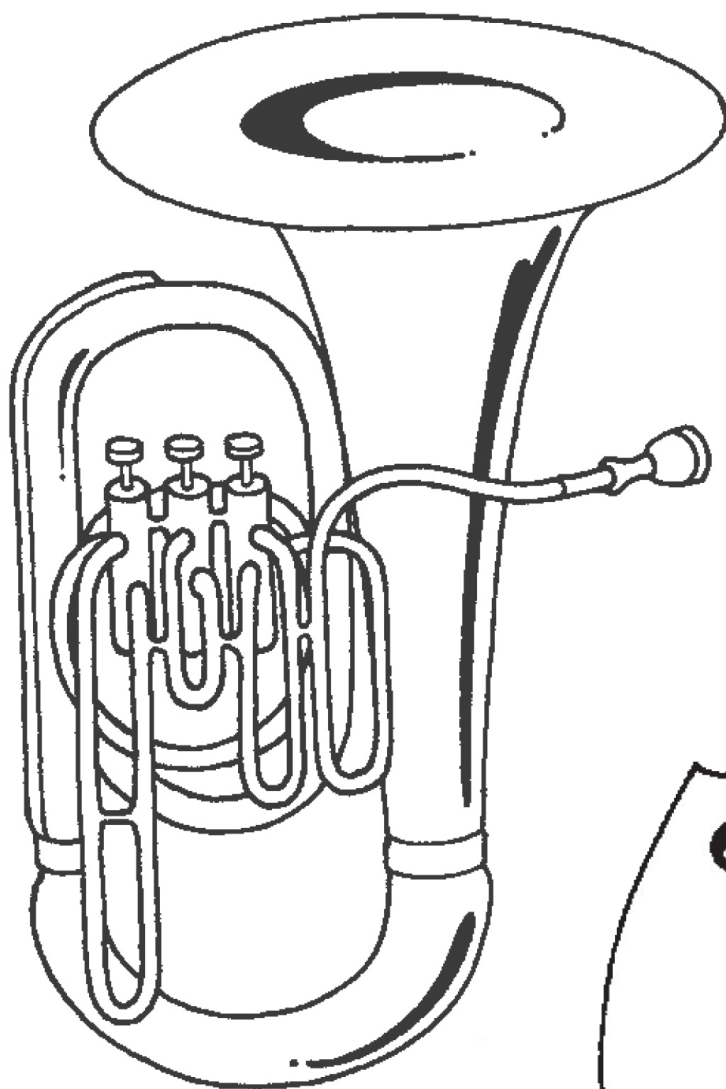
Here are two of the biggest:

the **tuba** (wow!)

the **double bass** (whoa!)

They both make really LOW sounds.

Use your crayons or markers to color them.



TUBA



DOUBLE BASS

MEET THE INSTRUMENT FAMILIES!

Did you know that instruments are divided into groups called Families? There are 4 Instrument Families in a symphony orchestra. The instruments in each family share certain characteristics, such as their shape, what material they are made of, and how they are played.

Let's meet the Instrument Families!

fam-i-ly ['fam(ə)lē]

Noun

- A group of people related to one another
- A group of objects that share a significant characteristic

STRING FAMILY

These family members:

- have a similar shape, are made of wood, and come in different sizes
- have strings stretched across the front
- make their sound by drawing a bow across the strings, or by pulling the strings with your fingers



VIOLIN

VIOLA

CELLO

DOUBLE
BASS

WOODWIND FAMILY

These family members:

- have a similar shape—long tubes that you blow air into
- originally, all woodwinds were made of wood. Today, the modern flute is made of metal and other woodwinds have some metal parts
- all woodwinds except the flute use a small piece of wood called a reed. The reed vibrates and produces sound when you blow across it



FLUTE

OBOE

CLARINET

BASSOON

MEET THE INSTRUMENT FAMILIES! (CONTINUED)

BRASS FAMILY

These family members:

- are all made of long brass tubes curled up into different shapes.
- have cup-shaped mouthpieces that you buzz into to create sound
- all have a bell—that's the flared end of the brass tube. That's where the sound comes out!



TRUMPET



FRENCH
HORN



TROMBONE



TUBA

PERCUSSION FAMILY

These family members:

- make sounds when they are hit, shaken, scraped, or rubbed
- many are played by striking the instrument with a stick or mallet
- most are used to keep the rhythm and to create special sounds



SNARE
DRUM



TIMPANI



CYMBALS



BASS
DRUM

MY FAMILY PORTRAIT

Now that you have met the families of instruments, it's time for you to introduce YOUR family!

When you gather the members of your family together and draw or take a picture of them, it's called a FAMILY PORTRAIT. Draw your very own FAMILY PORTRAIT in the frame below! (Don't forget to include yourself!!! And your pet!)



A large rectangular frame with a blue border, decorated with blue leaf-like motifs at the corners and midpoints. The frame is intended for a family portrait drawing. At the bottom center of the frame, there is a small rectangular box containing the text:

THE _____ FAMILY

DETECTIVE WORD SEARCH

Hidden in the jungle of letters below are the names of many different instruments, as well as the names of the four Instrument Families of the orchestra. Can you find where they're hiding?

CLUES

You're looking for these words:

*strings violin viola cello bass harp woodwinds flute oboe clarinet
bassoon brass French horn trumpet trombone tuba percussion*



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

MY INSTRUMENT LANDSCAPE

Where's the flute? It seems our friend the FLUTE has decided to go on a walk.

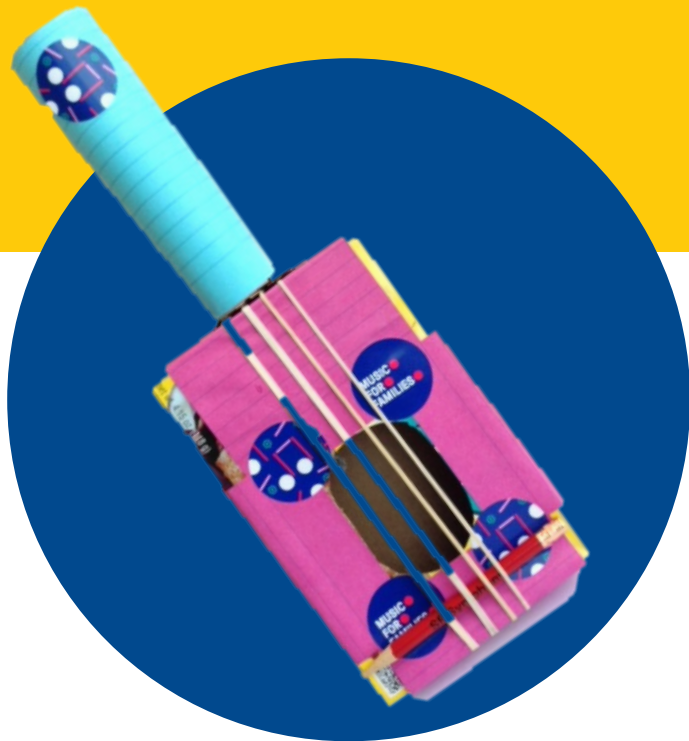
Draw a picture of the flute outdoors enjoying nature. A drawing or painting that features scenes from nature is called a landscape. Create your very own landscape by adding flowers or trees, clouds or a rainbow, a sun or stars, birds or squirrels, mountains or rivers—or anything you like! You're the artist. Let your imagination run wild.



BUILD AN INSTRUMENT

Now's your chance to build your own instrument using everyday objects!

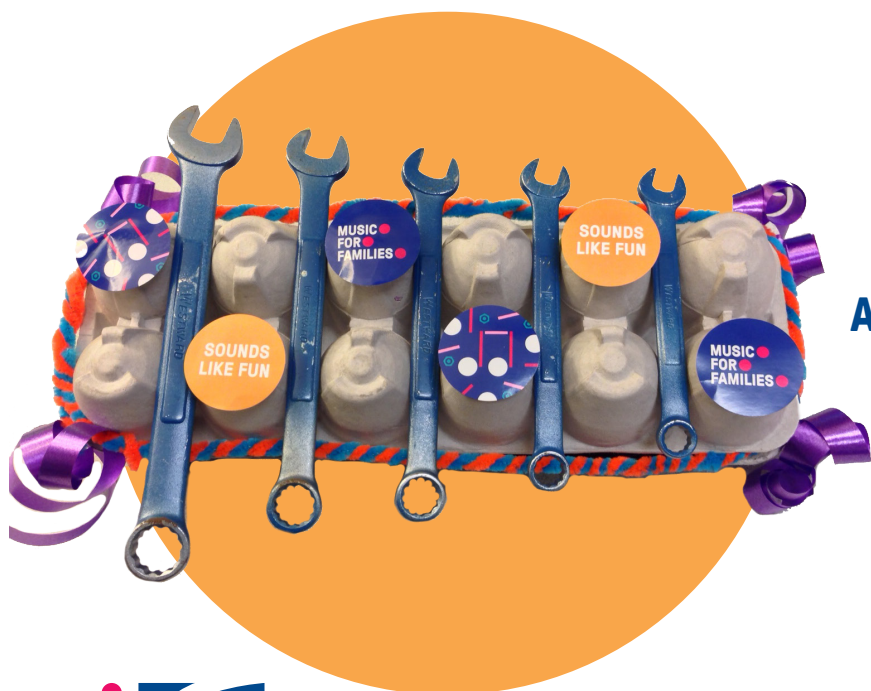
Choose whether you want to make:



**A STRING INSTRUMENT
YOU CAN STRUM**



**A WIND INSTRUMENT
YOU CAN BLOW**



**A PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT
YOU CAN STRIKE**

**MAKE ONE OR TWO, OR
MAKE ALL THREE! THE
NEXT PAGES SHOW YOU
HOW TO BUILD THEM.**

A STRING INSTRUMENT YOU CAN STRUM

THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL NEED!

- A cardboard cereal or cracker box
- A cardboard tube from a paper towel roll or bathroom roll
- Scissors and tape
- Rubber bands
- A pencil



1 Cut out a circle or oval on the front surface of the box. Before cutting, feel free to decorate your box with wrapping paper, pictures, or stickers.

2 Stretch rubber bands around the box, as in the diagram.

3 Tape the cardboard tube to the top of box.

4 Place a pencil underneath the rubber band below the circle/oval hole.

Pull on the strings gently or strum them lightly with a finger to make sounds!



A WIND INSTRUMENT YOU CAN BLOW

THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL NEED!

- Plastic straws
- Scissors and tape

1

Cut straws to different lengths. You may wish to cut the straws in pairs, as in the diagram.

2

Line up the straws by length, from tallest to shortest.

3

Place a piece of tape across the straws.

4

When the straws are securely fastened, add a piece of tape to the other side. Add enough tape to keep the straws stable.

Blow across the straw holes on the straight end of your new instrument. Move it across your lips while blowing and hear different sounds!



A PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT YOU CAN STRIKE

THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL NEED!

- An empty egg carton (Use a carton that holds a dozen eggs)
- A set of 5 wrenches in sizes from large to small (Ask nicely if you can borrow them from the family toolbox!)

1

Remove the eggs. Turn the egg carton upside down. The egg-holder protrusions on the underside of the carton should be on top.

2

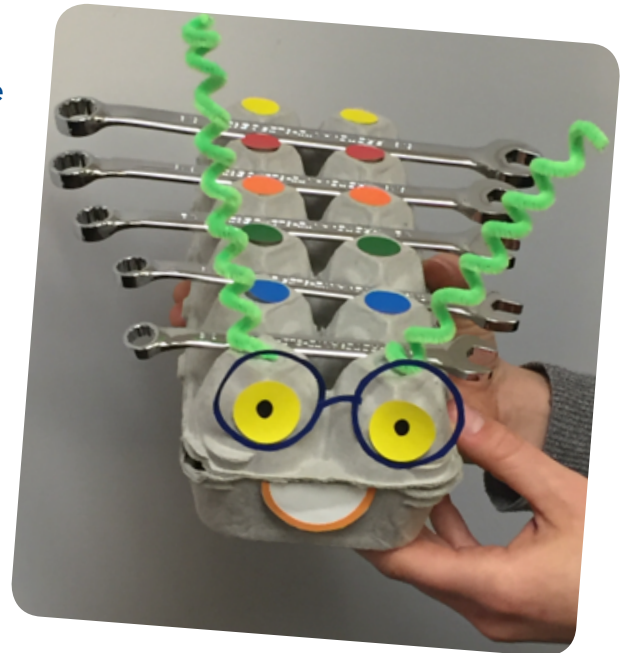
Take the largest wrench and wedge it in the gap next to first set of egg-holder protrusions.

3

Wedge the next largest wrench into the second gap. Continue with the rest of the wrenches, so that the smallest wrench is placed in the last gap.

4

Decorate your instrument with cutouts, stickers, ribbons—you name it!



Tap the wrenches in the middle part with a small metal object, such as a spoon handle, to make sounds. Also try tapping the ends of the wrenches to make different sounds!



MY CONCERT MEMORIES

We hope you enjoyed your Music for Families concert!

What music do you remember and what did you like best?

Think about it!

HERE IS SOMETHING FUN I LEARNED AT THE MUSIC FOR FAMILIES CONCERT:

MY FAVORITE INSTRUMENT IS: _____

I LIKED THE MUSIC BECAUSE: _____

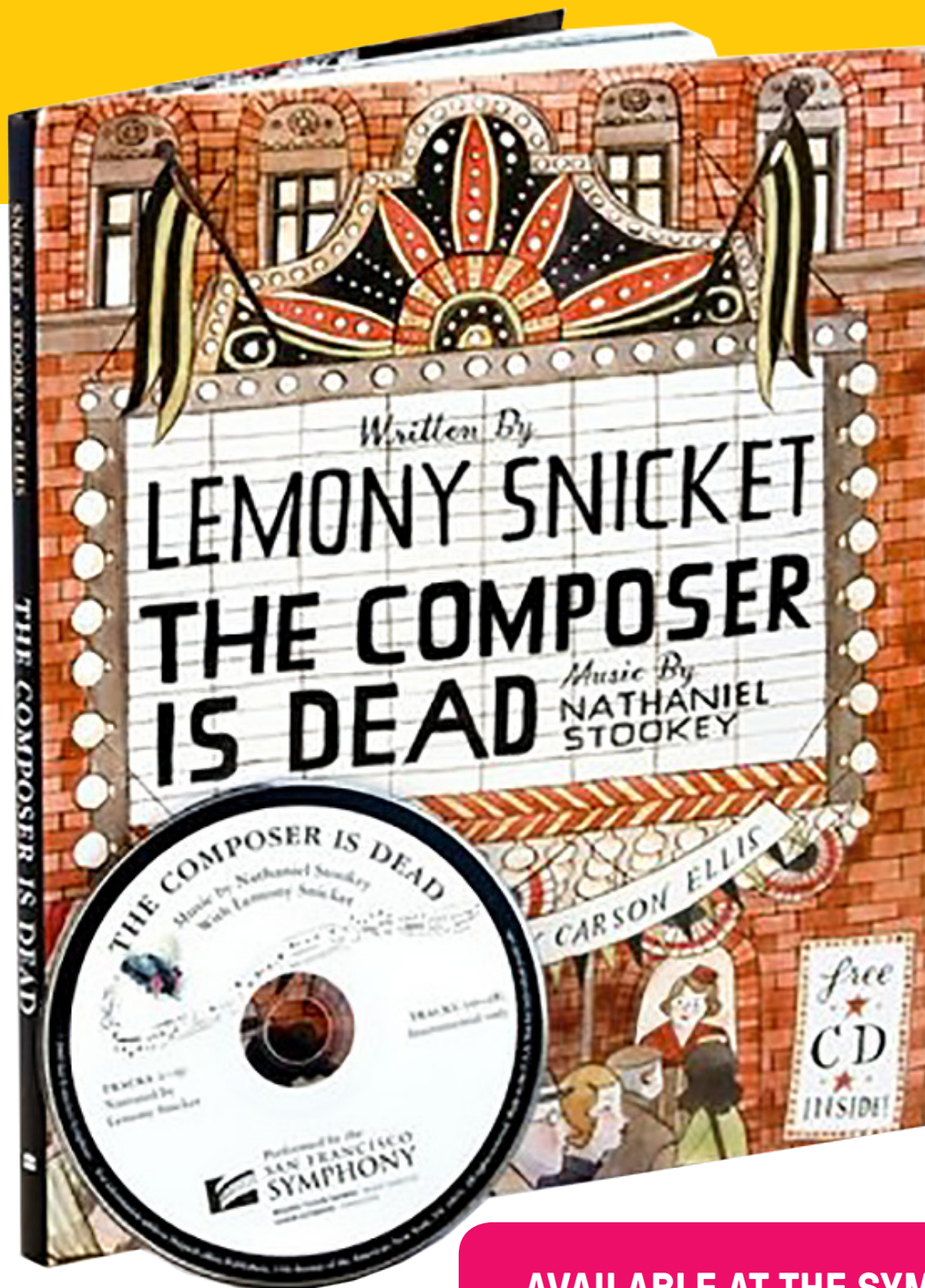


Have your parents email us at family@sfsymphony.org to let us know your thoughts about the concert!

(Emails sent to family@sfsymphony.org will not be used for any promotional purposes and will be deleted after reading your message.)

THE COMPOSER IS DEAD BOOK AND CD

Get your very own copy of *The Composer is Dead*, a book published by Harper-Collins. The book includes a CD of Nathaniel Stookey's music, with narration by Lemony Snicket!



**AVAILABLE AT THE SYMPHONY
STORE IN DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
SHOPSFSYMPHONY.ORG**

SFSKIDS.ORG

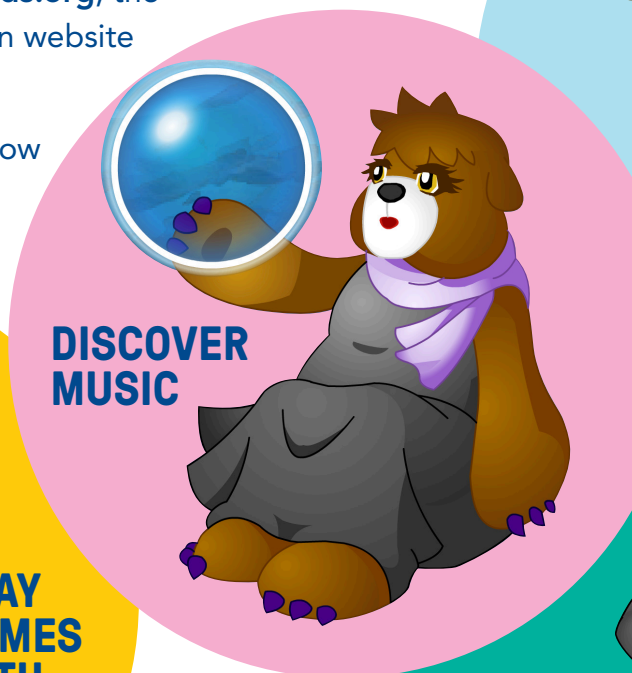
FUN & GAMES WITH MUSIC

Fire up the laptop or desktop computer at home and explore **SFSKids.org**, the San Francisco Symphony fun website for kids and families.

Click on any of the links below to see what's in store.



**PLAY
GAMES
WITH
MUSIC**



**DISCOVER
MUSIC**



**LISTEN
TO
MUSIC**



**PERFORM
MUSIC**



**CONDUCT
MUSIC**



**COMPOSE
MUSIC**

DETECTIVE WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

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