



SAN FRANCISCO  
SYMPHONY

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

# MUSIC *for* FAMILIES



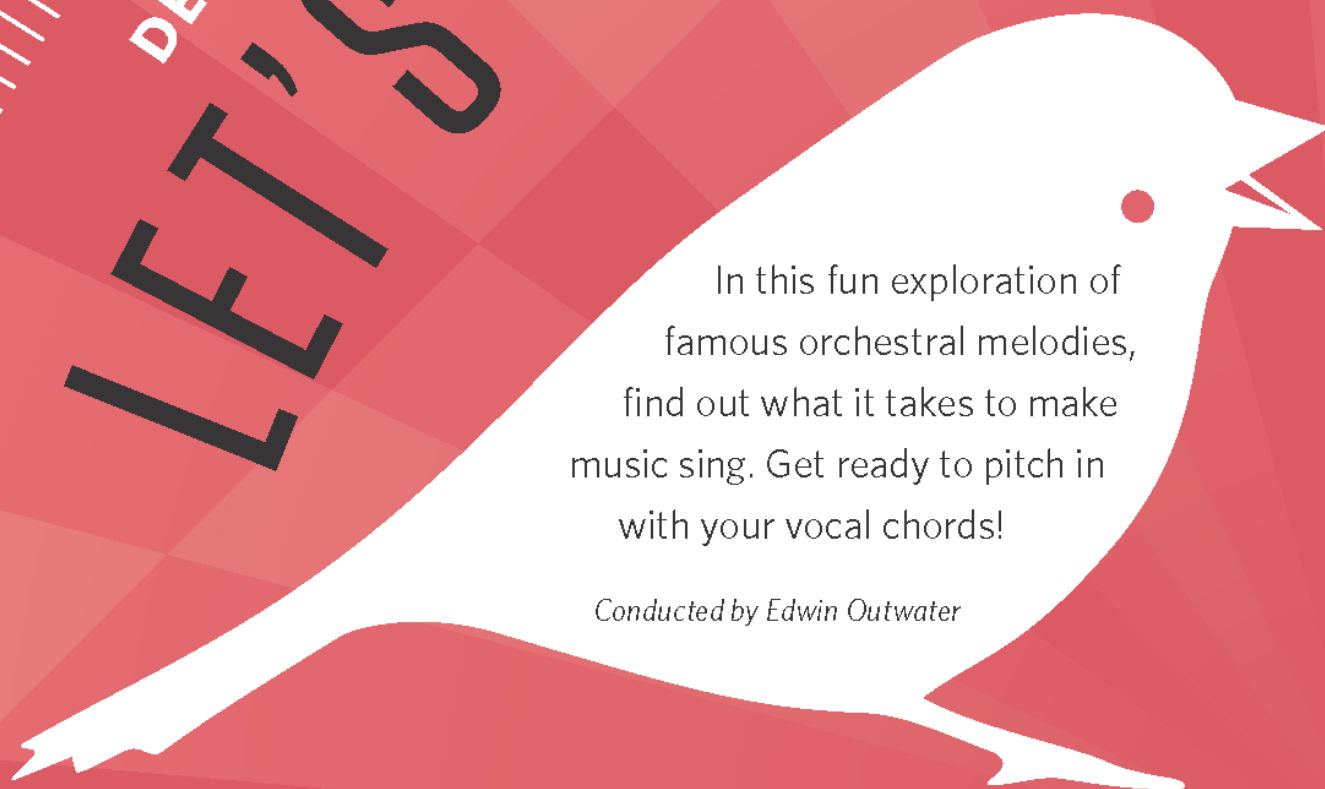
## Concert Guidebook

DECEMBER 6 • 2PM

# LET'S SING!

In this fun exploration of famous orchestral melodies, find out what it takes to make music sing. Get ready to pitch in with your vocal chords!

*Conducted by Edwin Outwater*



# Let's Sing!



## Welcome to Music for Families!

Hello! My name is HARMONIA 3000.

I'm the resident computer at Davies Symphony Hall

I will be there on December 6th at 2:00pm for your performance along with Conductor Edwin Outwater and the musicians of the San Francisco Symphony.

Before you come to Davies Symphony Hall, this Concert Guidebook will introduce you to some of the ideas that you will learn about at your concert. As the Resident Computer, I am here to help you explore all sorts of things about music. Music is not only something fun to listen to, it's fun to learn about! You will see me pop up throughout this guidebook to give you special information from my database.

Let's Sing will be a concert about music and melody. You will hear music by many different composers (people who write music) and learn about songs, melodies, and even use your own voice to sing with the orchestra!

### Special Performance

Join us in the lobby before the concert to hear the Pacific Boychoir!

Listening to this amazing chorus is a wonderful way to start your musical day, and is not to be missed!

## Your Concert:

Beethoven "Ode to Joy" from Symphony No. 9 (excerpt)

Dvořák Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*, Mvt. 2 (excerpt)

Stookey *The Composer is Dead* (excerpt)

Elgar *Nimrod* from *Enigma Variations* (excerpt)

Verdi Overture to *La Forza del Destino*

R. Strauss *Don Juan* (excerpt)

Verdi *La donna é mobile* from *Rigoletto*

Beethoven "Ode to Joy" from Symphony No. 9 (sing-along)

## Your Fun Surprise:

### Beethoven Lives Upstairs CD

Ludwig van Beethoven was one of the greatest composers in history. He was not, however, one of the greatest neighbors. *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* tells the story of

Christoph, a young boy living in Vienna, Austria when the eccentric and rather noisy Beethoven moves in to his upstairs room. Christoph slowly discovers the genius of Beethoven and his music, and so will you as you listen to some of his most famous pieces played throughout the story!



# Important Message from Harmonia

I have a special request for you!

While I can tell you many things about melody and music and composers, I am still learning how to sing. Before you come to your performance I need your help answering an important question. I will report on my findings at the concert on December 6th.

Send me your answer to this question via email to:

[FAMILY@SFSYMPHONY.ORG](mailto:FAMILY@SFSYMPHONY.ORG)

What is your favorite melody?

*Email addresses will not be used for any promotional purposes and will be deleted upon receipt of your message.*

# What is Melody?

melody 

[mel-uh-dee]

[Spell](#)

[Syllables](#)

[Synonyms](#)

[Examples](#)

[Word Origin](#)


noun, plural **melodies**.

1. musical sounds in agreeable succession or arrangement.
2. *Music*.
  - a. the succession of single tones in musical compositions, as distinguished from harmony and rhythm.

mel·o·dy

/ˈmelədē/ 

noun

mel·o·dy  noun \ˈme-lə-dē\

: a pleasing series of musical notes that form the main part of a song or piece of music

a sequence of single notes that is musically satisfying.

*Melody is the singing side of music, just as rhythm is the dancing side. But the most important thing about a tune is that usually it is complete in itself — that is, it seems to have a beginning, middle and end, and leaves you feeling satisfied.*

- Leonard Bernstein

When asked for his definition of “Melody,”  
Conductor Edwin Outwater answered:

*“A melody is a series  
of notes that tell a  
musical story.”*



Well put, Maestro!

# What makes up a Melody?

**Fun Fact:** A catchy melody that gets stuck in your head is called an “earworm.”

*The heart of the  
melody can never be  
put down on paper.*  
- Pablo Casals

A melody is made up of notes.

High notes, low notes, long notes, short notes, loud notes and soft notes.

The group of notes that make a melody need to have **shape**. A melody that only had one note over and over would not be very interesting at all. Melodies move higher, or lower, but often stay within the range that a person can sing.

*But my sentimental melody  
Like a long-lost lullaby  
Will ring in your ears  
Down through the years.*  
-The Magnetic Fields  
“My Sentimental Melody”

A melody also has to have a **rhythm**. Changing the length of the notes gives a melody form and character.

A melody will also have **patterns** that repeat. Repeating patterns of notes and **rhythms** are part of what makes melodies memorable!

*Shawty’s like a melody in my head  
That I can’t keep out.  
Got me singin’ like  
“Na-na-na-na everyday”  
Like my iPod’s stuck on replay.*  
- Sean Kingston, “Replay”

*The moon descended  
And I found with the break of dawn,  
You and the song had gone  
But the melody lingers on.*  
- Ella Fitzgerald, “The Song is Ended”

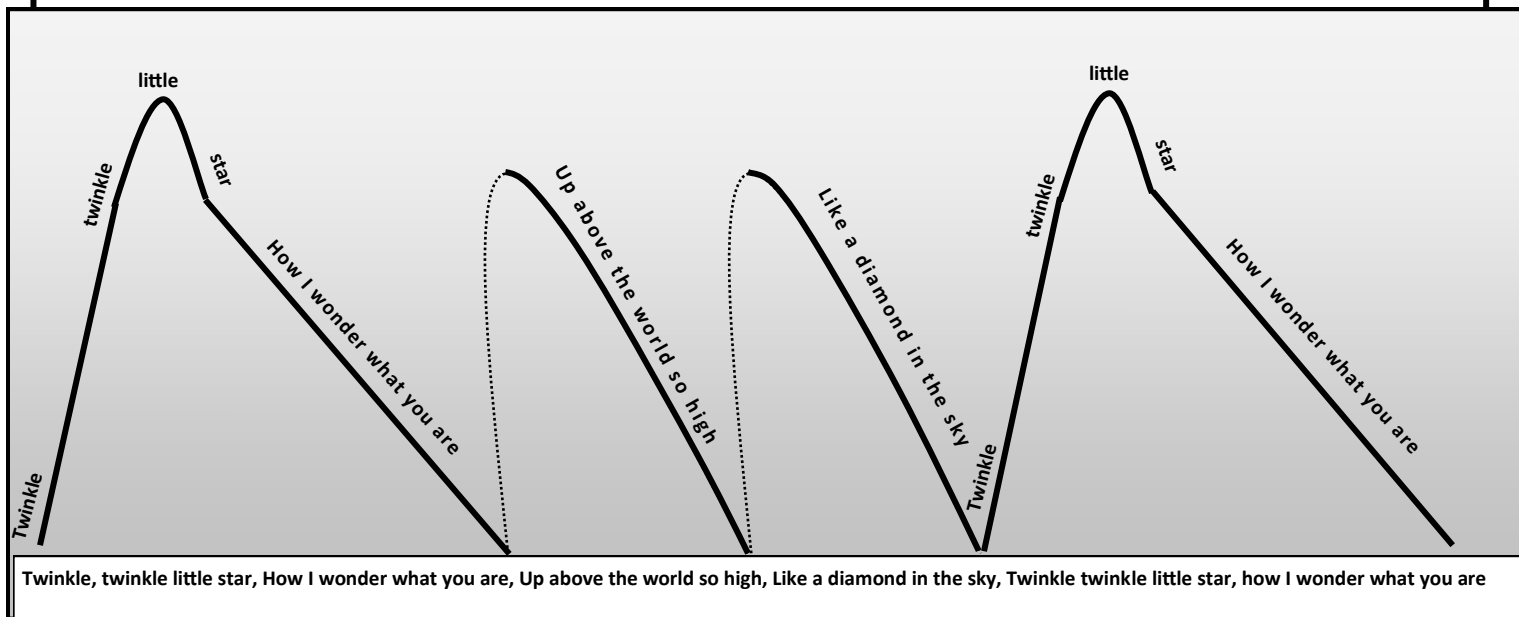
*I realized a long time ago that  
instrumental music speaks a lot more  
clearly than English, Spanish, Yiddish,  
Swahili, any other language. Pure melody  
goes outside time.*

- Carlos Santana

# My Melody Map

Let's explore the idea of a melody's **shape**. Below is an example of how you can make a melody "map" of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*. When the notes go up, the lines go up. Notice the patterns in the melody!

## Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

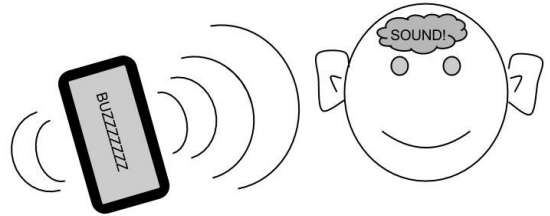


Now choose a melody of your own and create its map! Write out the words to the song in the bottom box, and use the space provided to draw the map!

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

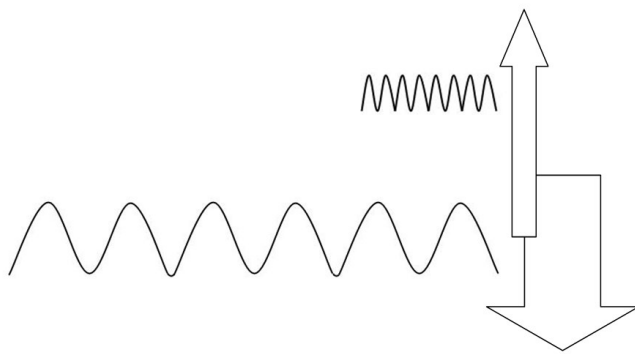
# How does Music Sing?

All sound, from the siren on a police car to the rumbling of thunder, is made from **vibrations**. A **vibration** is simply something moving back and forth very quickly.



When something vibrates, it causes the air around it to vibrate, and when that vibrating air reaches our ears, our brain interprets it as **sound**.

## Science of Sound



The shorter the vibration, the higher the sound.

The longer the vibration, the lower the sound.

**According to my analysis** this means smaller things, which create short vibrations, make higher sounds, and **bigger things**, which create long vibrations, make lower sounds! Think about it—which is able to play higher, a flute or a tuba?



# How do Instruments Sing?

Since music is made up of sounds, music is also made by **vibrations**. Because music is a special kind of sound that people are listening to closely, musical instruments are made to **amplify** the sound. To **amplify** sound means to make it louder.

Instruments are also created so that it is easy for the player to change the length of the vibrations. This means an instrument can play many different notes.

Let's take a look at how the instruments in the San Francisco Symphony sing:

## Brass Instruments

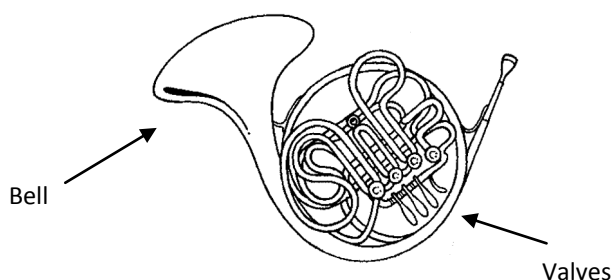
Like a singer, a brass player uses her air to make her instrument sing.

She puts her lips against her **mouthpiece** and uses her breath to make her lips buzz and create a **vibration** in the mouthpiece.

This vibrating air is then sent all the way through her instrument, **amplified** by the bell at the end.

She then uses the valves or slide to make different notes. These mechanisms change the length of the instrument, thus changing the length of the vibration.

All instruments in the brass family create their sound this way including **trumpets**, **trombones**, **French horns**, and **tubas**.



*Associate Principal French Horn Nicole Cash*

## Woodwind Instruments

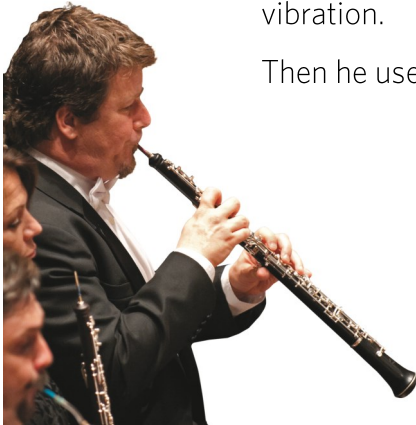


*Oboe Reed*

Woodwind players also use their air to create their sound.

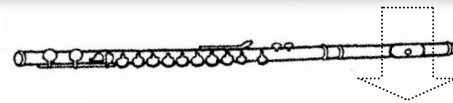
Oboes, clarinets and bassoons use **reeds**, which are small pieces of wood. When a woodwind player sends his air through the reed, it creates a vibration.

Then he uses the **keys** on the instrument to change the notes.



*Acting Principal Oboe Jonathan Fisher*

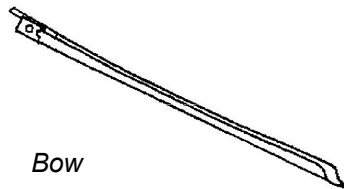
**The Flute:** a woodwind instrument that does not use a reed. A flutist blows air over the opening in the flute's **mouthpiece** which creates a vibration.



## String Instruments

A string player, like a violinist, does not use his air to make his instrument sing.

Instead, he moves a **bow** (a long rod with hair from a horse's tail attached to it) against the strings of the violin to create vibrations.



*Bow*

He then uses his fingers to change the length of the strings and create different notes.

The hollow wooden body of the instrument **amplifies** the sounds the strings make.



*Second Violin Chen Zhao*

# My Instrument

Now that you know how instruments “sing,” you can invent your own instrument!  
Let’s review the elements necessary to produce musical sound:

**Source of Vibration:** Like a brass mouthpiece, a reed mouthpiece, or a bow

**Amplification System:** A way to make your sound louder, like a bell or a hollow box

**Way to Change Notes:** Instruments need to be able to make different notes. They do this by changing the length of the instrument, thus changing the length of the vibration which changes the sound. Woodwinds and brass use keys and valves, while string players use their fingers.

Also remember that the smaller the instrument, the higher the sound it can make, and the bigger the instrument, the lower the sound it can make.

Use your imagination! Add colors and shapes to your instrument to make it your special design.

**Name of my Instrument:**

# Find that Instrument!

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

Your task: Find the names of the seven instruments below in this jumble of letters

But it's not that easy... first you need to identify the name of the instrument based on its picture!

Use your Season Program Guide pages 10- 13 to help you!

Good Luck!



*HINT: Bigger than a violin, smaller than a cello*  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



*HINT: This instrument tunes the orchestra*  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_



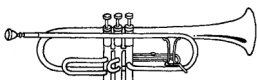
*HINT: Smaller than a flute*  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



*HINT: Smaller than a double bass*  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_



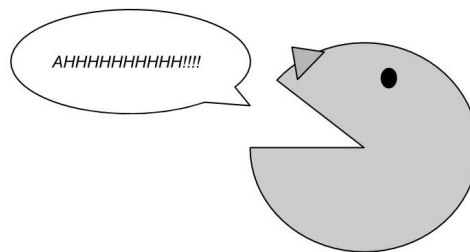
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers are on page 16)

# Let's Sing Already!

When singer Maximilian Goldenthroat sings, he pushes air from his lungs through his vocal chords in his throat, making them **vibrate**.

The sound then comes out of his mouth, which **amplifies** the sound. It travels through the air, and into our ears!



## To be a good singer:

- Sit up straight in your seat. Imagine there's a string gently pulling your head toward the ceiling.
- Relax your shoulders and put both feet on the floor
- Take a deep breath in, like you are filling up a balloon in your belly!
- Release your breath, relax your mouth and sing!

**Singer Alert:** Join us in the lobby of Davies Symphony Hall before the concert to hear some truly excellent singers, the **Pacific Boychoir!**

# *Ode to Joy*

At your Music for Families Concert, you will be singing along with the Orchestra! You will sing the *Ode to Joy* from Ludwig van Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

To practice, listen to Track 14 on **Beethoven Lives Upstairs**, the CD included with this guidebook. Recognize the melody? The *Ode to Joy* is very famous and you may well have heard it before. The original words are in German, but at your concert you will sing these **lyrics** in English. **Lyrics** are words to songs. Listen to the melody on the CD, then practice these lyrics so you can sing along with the orchestra!

Joyful voices! Hear them singing,  
Let your spirit fill the air.

Joyful voices! Hear them ringing,  
Music spreads love everywhere.

When we all sing songs together,  
Each voice joined in harmony.

We unite as friends forever,  
Bringing peace, eternally.

## *Listen to Ode to Joy*

When Beethoven wrote his Ninth Symphony, including the *Ode to Joy*, he was deaf. This means he couldn't hear the music he had written, or anything else. Beethoven used vibrations to help him "hear" the music. He also went deaf slowly over time, so once he lost his hearing entirely, he could still hear all of the music in his imagination.

As Christoph tells us in **Beethoven Lives Upstairs**, when Beethoven finished conducting his Ninth Symphony at its premiere, a musician in the orchestra had to tell him to turn around to look at the audience applauding because he couldn't hear them.

# My NEW Songs (with a little help from a friend)

Now that you know how to sing, it's time to write your own lyrics. These songs, however, will be much more fun if you make them with a friend or a parent!

We have given you the outline for a song, with some key words left out. Without letting your friend see what song it is, ask for each kind of word written below the space, then write what they say in the space provided. After you have filled in all the words, sing the song back to them with the new lyrics!

\_\_\_\_\_ **had a little** \_\_\_\_\_

(Name)

(Animal)

\_\_\_\_\_ had a little \_\_\_\_\_

(Same Name)

(Same Animal)

Little \_\_\_\_\_, little \_\_\_\_\_

(new Animal)

(new Animal)

\_\_\_\_\_ had a little \_\_\_\_\_

(New Name)

(new Animal)

It's \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_

(Noun)

(Adjective)

(Noun)

**Row, Row, Row your** \_\_\_\_\_

(Noun)

Row, Row, Row your \_\_\_\_\_

(Same Noun)

\_\_\_\_\_ down the \_\_\_\_\_

(Adverb)

(Body of Water)

Merrily, Merrily, Merrily , Merrily

Life is but a \_\_\_\_\_

(Noun)

# The Composers



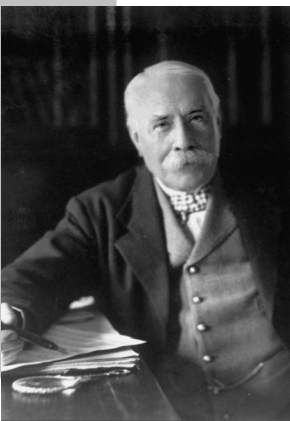
## **Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)**

Beethoven is considered one of the greatest composers in history. Born in Germany, Beethoven did not have a happy childhood, but always found comfort in music. Even when he realized he was going deaf, he did not stop composing. Beethoven's ninth and final symphony is an amazing work of art. It was the first symphony to use voices in addition to instruments. During the final movement, four solo singers and a chorus sing words from a poem called "Ode to Joy." The "Ode to Joy" is about celebrating every person's shared humanity, and is one of the most famous melodies ever written.



## **Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)**

Born in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic), Antonín Dvořák started playing music at the age of 6, and began writing music at 16. He composed his Symphony No. 9, *From the New World* when he was living in America and working as the director of a music school. He was especially interested in all kinds of American folk music, including "African-American melodies, the songs of Creoles, Native American chants, the ditties of homesick German and Norwegian immigrants, and melodies of whistling boys, street singers, and organ grinders."



## **Edward Elgar (1857-1934)**

Edward Elgar's early musical training came from his father, who owned a music shop. He mostly taught himself to compose music, which is quite a feat! He eventually became one of England's most beloved composers, and was even knighted by the King of England. His set of *Enigma Variations* is one of his best known and most played pieces. An "enigma" is a mystery or riddle. *Nimrod*, the name of the movement you will hear, was the nickname of Elgar's best friend. This beautiful music is now played at many solemn occasions, especially in England.



**Composer:** a person who writes music. In Western classical music, like the music you will hear at your concert, the composer has written out all the music for each musician on stage. The musician's part includes the notes, dynamics, tempo markings and all sorts of other notation so the musician can play the part just like the composer imagined. The **Conductor**, the person who leads the orchestra, has all of those parts combined in a **score**. The conductor follows the score during rehearsals and performances so he can lead all the musicians as they play together.

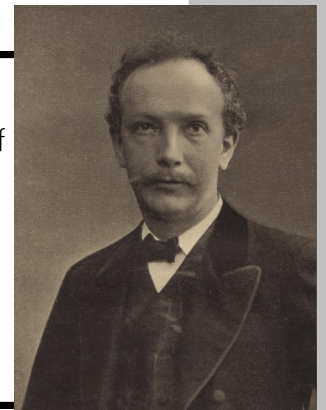
### **Nathaniel Stookey (b. 1970)**

Nathaniel Stookey is a native of the Bay Area, and still lives in San Francisco. As a teenager, he was a member of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, where he played violin. He started writing music at a young age, and when he was only seventeen, he was asked to write a special piece of music for the San Francisco Symphony! He later wrote *The Composer is Dead* for the San Francisco Symphony. It is a musical mystery for orchestra and narrator that Stookey wrote with his friend, the author Daniel Handler, aka Lemony Snicket.



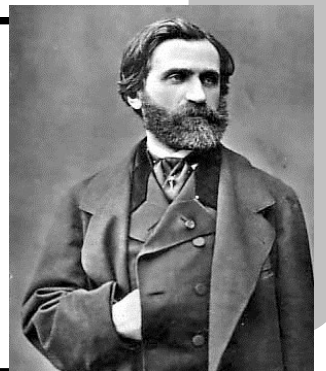
### **Richard Strauss (1864-1949)**

German composer Richard Strauss first learned about music from his father, one of Germany's leading French horn players, when he was very young. Strauss caught on quickly—he started composing when he was only 6 years old, and his first symphony was performed when he was 17! Strauss is best known for his operas, songs, and **symphonic poems**, like *Don Juan*. A symphonic poem is an orchestral piece based on a poem or story, but it does not use any words. Instead, the story is told with music.



### **Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)**

Giuseppe Verdi began his musical life playing the organ, a huge keyboard instrument found in many churches. He wanted to study music, but was rejected from the music school in Milan, Italy. That did not stop him, though, and he learned to compose by taking lessons and frequently attending performances at the opera. He became one of the most famous composers of his time, and to this day remains one of the great composers of Italian opera. He is especially popular because of his wonderful melodies.



# See you at the concert!

## December 6th, 2:00pm at

## Davies Symphony Hall

Answers to "Find that Instrument!" on page 10:

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

CELO  
Name:  
double bass  
HINT: Smaller than a

PICCOLO  
Name:  
HINT: Smaller than a flute

CLARINET  
Name:



TRUMPET  
Name:

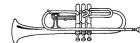
TROMBONE  
Name:

OBOE  
Name:

HINT: This instrument  
tunes the orchestra

VIOLA  
Name:

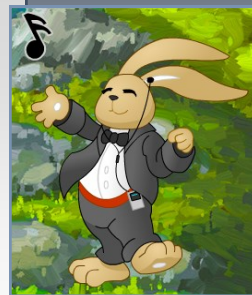
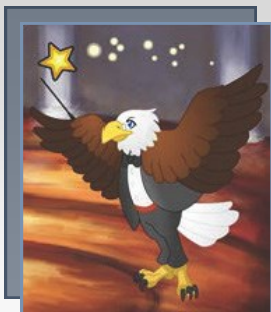
HINT: Bigger than a violin,  
smaller than a cello



The December 6 Music for Families Concert is sponsored by ★ macy's

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**Create your own melodies  
Make all the instruments sing  
Listen to great orchestral music  
at**

# **SFSKIDS.ORG**

**For Desktop and Laptop Computers**

**It's me again, HARMONIA 3000!**

Exploring music online has never been more fun than at the San Francisco Symphony's newly redesigned kids website SFSKIDS.org. Next time you are on your desktop or laptop computer, visit SFSKIDS and keep learning about the wonderful world of symphonic music. If you don't have internet access at home, visit your local public library!

