Careful Listening!

Being an attentive audience and having good listening skills are an important part of music. Take a look at the San Francisco Symphony Seating Chart. [link to SFS Seating Chart in “Instruments” section of Music Connects] There are a lot of instruments, and each has a different sound! How does the audience hear them if they are all being played at the same time? Careful listening!

To engage the students’ listening skills, have the students go on a “sound hunt” at home. Ask students to listen carefully to their surroundings and create a list of the sounds that they hear. Examples might include family members talking, music playing, or sounds from outside, such as a car going by, foot traffic on the street, dogs barking or birds chirping, or the sound of the wind or rain.

After the sound hunt, have the students share their list of sounds. Have students answer the following question: “How did careful listening help you hear more sounds?”