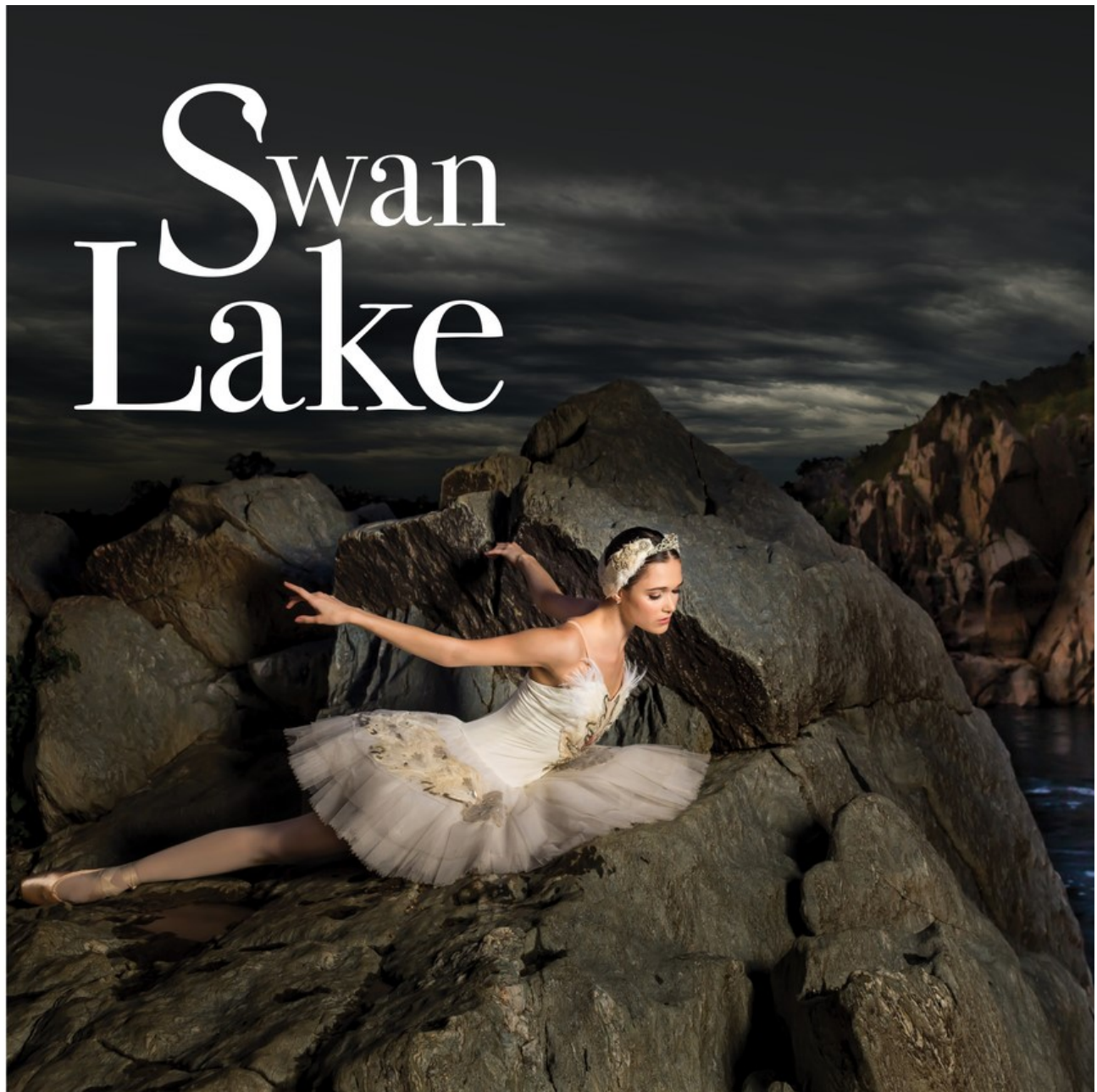


thewashingtonballet

JULIE KENT, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Classical Music
Distance Learning Guide



Distance Learning Guide

This guide is designed to help you:

- Introduce the story and artistry of *Swan Lake* to students.
- Introduce students to classical music in a fun and engaging way.

Contributors: Vanessa Hope, Director of Community Engagement
DeMoya Brown, Community Engagement Manager

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Community Engagement Mission

Intrinsic to The Washington Ballet's mission to bring the joy and artistry of dance to the nation's capital, our community engagement programs provide a variety of opportunities to connect children and adults of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to the art of dance. We aspire to spark and enhance a love for dance, celebrate our cultural diversity and enrich the lives of our community members.

To learn more visit: **www.washingtonballet.org**

The Washington Ballet's Community Engagement programs are supported by:

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation
Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation
GEICO
The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation
The Harman Family Foundation
The Morningstar Foundation
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George Preston Marshall Foundation
Capitol Hill Community Foundation
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Julie Kent, artistic director

ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION TEAM

Julie Kent, Artistic Director



Victor Barbee, Associate Artistic Director

Elaine Kudo, *Ballet Master*

Rubén Martín Cintas, *Ballet Master*

Choreography after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov with additional staging & choreography by Julie Kent & Victor Barbee. *Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky featuring The Washington Ballet Orchestra.*

Artistic Operations

Andrés Holder, *General Manager*

Catherine Eby, *Company Manager*

Clayton Willis, *Artistic Coordinator*

Glenn Sales, *Music Supervisor*

Kyle Grant, *Production Manager*

Karen Storms, *Assistant Production Manager*

Susan Kilbourne, *Assistant Stage Manager*

Monica Leland, *Wardrobe Supervisor*

Carolynn Hawthorne, *Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor*

Noelle Greata, *Wardrobe Assistant*

Christopher R. M. Insley, *Production Carpenter*

C.C. Gould, *Production Electrician*

Noah Guthman, *Properties Manager*

The Company Dancers

Katherine Barkman, Nardia Boodoo, Adelaide Clauss, Kateryna Derechyna, Nicole Graniero, Esmiana Jani, Sona Kharatian, Ayano Kimura, Alex Kramer, Tamás Krizsa, Corey Landolt, Eun Won Lee, Olivia Lipnick, Ariel Martinez, Tamako Miyazaki, Javier Morera, Ashley Murphy-Wilson, Andile Ndlovu, Maki Onuki, Alexandros Pappajohn, Gian Carlo Perez, Daniel Roberge, Oscar Sanchez, Rolando Sarabia, Stephanie Sorota, Sarah Steele, Brittany Stone

Apprentices: Victoria Arrea, Kimberly Cilento, Gilles Delellio, Stephen Nakagawa, Lucy Nevin, Samara Rittinger, Masanori Takiguchi

The Studio Company Dancers

Andrea Allmon, Peyton Anderson, Rafael Bejarano, Nicholas Cowden, Jessy Dick, Abigail Granlund, Lope Lim, Audrey Malek, Aurora Mostacci, Helga Paris– Morales, Alexa Torres

The Swan Lake Story

Act I - It is Prince Siegfried's 21st birthday and he is celebrating with friends. The Queen Mother arrives to give him his present, a crossbow, and reminds him that he must choose a bride at the ball the next evening. Siegfried, realizing that his carefree days are at an end, leaves the party at the height of the festivities to seek the solace of the woods. Benno, his friend, finds him and suggests they go hunting. Siegfried declines, preferring to be alone.

Act II - Prince Siegfried enters a moonlit clearing in the forest by a lake and sees a magnificent swan in flight. He carefully takes aim, but, to his astonishment, the bird transforms into a breathtakingly beautiful girl. Unable to resist his curiosity, he steps out, only to startle and frighten her. He assures her he will do her no harm and asks her to explain her magic. She tells him she is Princess Odette, who fell under the spell of an evil sorcerer, Von Rothbart, and now her fate is to be a swan by day and swim on this lake of tears. She can only become human at night.

She reveals she is condemned for eternity unless a young man swears eternal fidelity to her and marries her. Only then can the spell be broken.

But if he should forswear her, then she must remain a swan forever. Prince Siegfried falls in love with Odette, but before he has a chance to tell her, the evil sorcerer appears. The Prince, in his passion, reaches for his crossbow, but Odette immediately protects the sorcerer with her body, for she knows that if he is killed before the spell is broken, she too will die. The sorcerer disappears, and Odette slips away into the forest. Siegfried realizes his fate is now entwined with hers. Dawn approaches and Odette is compelled by the spell to turn back into a swan. Siegfried is left awestruck.

Act III - It's the night of the ball. Eligible young princesses from all over the world arrive and are presented to Prince Siegfried so that he may choose a bride. The prospective brides dance for the Prince and the Queen Mother. As Siegfried struggles with his responsibility to marry, he keeps thinking about Odette. Suddenly, an uninvited guest arrives. It is the evil sorcerer, Von Rothbart, in disguise. He has brought his daughter, Odile, on whom he has cast a spell to make her look like Odette. Siegfried is seduced by Odile, and announces his intention to marry her. Meanwhile, Odette, had been watching through the window. Von Rothbart asks Siegfried to swear fidelity to Odile, which he does, only to discover the real Odette in the window moments after. He realizes too late that he has been the victim of a terrible trick. Odette flees into the forest weeping and Siegfried rushes to the lakeside to find her.

Act IV - A great storm rages. Siegfried finds Odette and begs her forgiveness. Odette tells Siegfried she must kill herself, or she will be a swan forever. Von Rothbart appears and Siegfried declares he would rather die with Odette than marry Odile. The lovers leap into the lake together and are united in life after death.



Misty Copeland and Brooklyn Mac as Odette and Prince Siegfried in The Washington Ballet's Swan Lake.

Swan Lake Creators

The story of *Swan Lake* is believed to be inspired by German folk tale "The White Duck" and the Russian folk "The Stolen Veil" by Johann Karl August Musäus. While both tales differ significantly from the ballet, they utilize the swan as a symbol of strength, elegance and purity. The idea of a swan-princess is a common and recurring theme throughout much of Slavic and German literature.



The Composer—*A person who writes music.*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840—1893) is one of the most popular Russian composers of all time. He lived and composed during the 19th century which is called the Romantic period because artists, writers and musicians focused on feelings and passions more than any other theme. It was popular during this time to compose music that told a story and Tchaikovsky's ballet's are often called story ballets. Tchaikovsky's compositions include 11 operas, 3 ballets and over 100 songs.

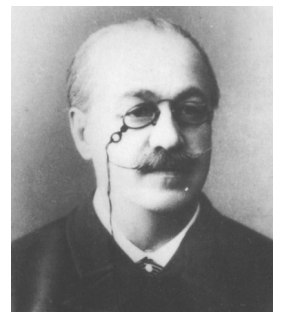
The original **Choreographer**— *A person who creates dance compositions by planning and arranging movements and patterns for dances, especially ballets.*

Julius Wentsel Reisinger (1828 – 1892) was a Czech ballet choreographer. He created more than twenty works on various European stages and directed the Moscow company of the Bolshoi Theatre. He was the choreographer the original production of *Swan Lake* in 1877.



Marius Petipa (1818–1910) was one of the most influential figures of classical ballet. Petipa was born in Marseilles, France. His father was a dancer, and Petipa began dancing in his father's travelling company when he nine years old. In 1847 he made his debut as principal dancer and ballet master of the Mariinsky Ballet in Russia. He became famous as a choreographer in 1859 with his production of *The Pharaoh's Daughter*. He went on to choreograph many world famous ballets that are still performed today. The Mariinsky Ballet Company and school became a model for all ballet around the globe throughout the 20th century. Petipa's successful production of *Swan Lake* in 1895 is the version most ballet company's base their staging's on.

Lev Ivanov (1834 -1901) was a Russian ballet dancer and choreographer. He studied with Marius Petipa and eventually became the Second Ballet Master of the Imperial Ballet. He worked along side Marius Petipa as his health declined.



Collaborators—*People who work together and cooperate to create a work of art.*

Tchaikovsky, Petipa and Ivanov, worked very closely to create *The Sleeping Beauty* Ballet in 1890, *The Nutcracker* in 1892 and *Swan Lake* in 1895. These ballet's are some of the best known classical ballets in the world.

The History of Swan Lake

Swan Lake, which tells the story of a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse, is one of the most popular ballets of all time. The music was composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1875-76. Although the first production premiered in 1877 at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, most ballet companies base their staging's on Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov's choreography from their 1895 production for the Imperial Ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia. Since ballet is not a written language, the choreography of famous ballet's is passed down from generation to generation through Ballet Masters, Répétiteurs and Dancers.

The original 1877 production of *Swan Lake* was a flop. The original choreography was created by Czech ballet choreographer Julius Reisinger (Václav Reisinger), who was also the director of the Bolshoi Ballet.

Throughout the production process Tchaikovsky and Reisinger had little to do with one another. Tchaikovsky preferred to write the score as he saw fit, rather than be dictated to by his colleague. This led to inevitable tensions between the two and meant that the score was subjected to numerous re-writes before it was deemed ready for performance in the spring of 1876. The first performance was not the critical success that Tchaikovsky and Reisinger would have hoped for. Audiences at the Bolshoi Theatre were left unimpressed by the choreography and the set design, and Tchaikovsky's score was considered heavy and oppressive.



Anna Sobeshchanskaya as Odette in Julius Reisinger's original production of Swan Lake,



Pavel Gerdt as Prince Siegfried and the Swan Maidens (1895) Source: Marius Petipa Society

The early criticisms led to several alterations being made to the score, and as the production became more polished and audiences became familiar with the music, *Swan Lake* soon became accepted as one of Tchaikovsky's finest achievements. Today *Swan Lake* is an ever-present feature in the repertoire of the Bolshoi Theatre, and is the most commonly performed ballet across the world.

The Washington Ballet's production will be curated and tailored to our dance company by Julie Kent, our Artistic Director and Victor Barbee, our Associate Artistic Director. They will be drawing on their years of experience as professional dancers at The American Ballet Theatre, the detailed Stepanov notations.

Set Design

The creation of theatrical, as well as film or television scenery.

Scenic designers design sets and scenery that aim to support the overall artistic goals of the production.



Original Set Design by F. Gaanen for the décor of Act II of Swan Lake, Moscow, 1877

Swan Lake's Setting

The ballet takes place in two locations. Acts I and III take place in the ballroom and courtyard of Siegfried's Castle.



Acts II and IV take place next to a lake in a forest. Both are represented by large painted backdrops. For the lake, smaller side backdrops of painted trees frame the stage to give the illusion of a bigger forest.



Meet the Characters

Odette: Village girl who has been turned into a swan by the evil wizard Von Rothbart. Falls in love with Prince Siegfried.

Siegfried: Prince who has arrived at an age where he must choose a wife. While on a hunting trip into the woods meets and falls in love with the girl/swan named Odette.



Von Rothbart: Evil wizard who turns Odette into a swan.



Odile: The evil Von Rothbart's daughter who tries to trick Prince Siegfried into thinking she is Odette by transforming herself to look like her .



Benno: Siegfried's best friend

The Queen: Siegfried's mother

Cygnets and Swans: Magical swans that inhabit the forest and protect it and their queen.



Introduction to Classical Music

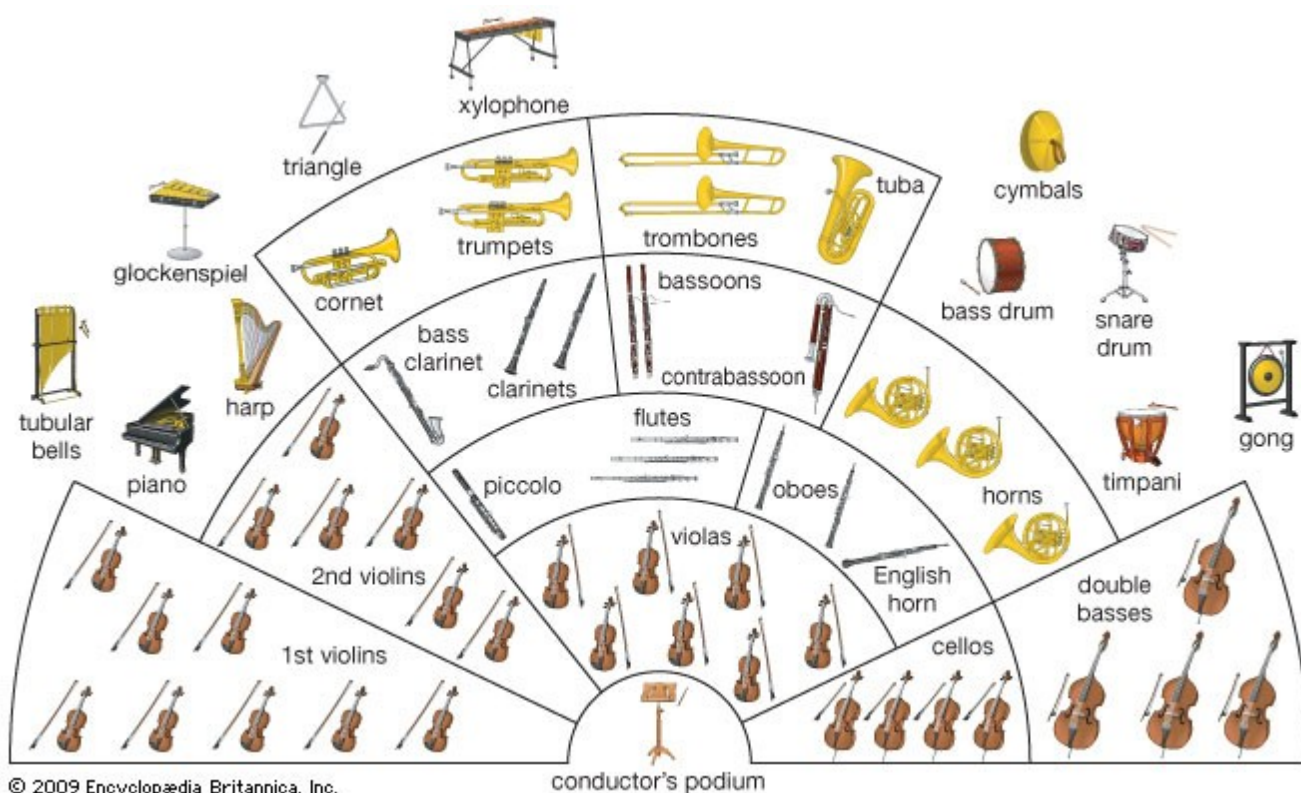
Classical music is a general term which normally refers to European music that was composed during the 18th and 19th centuries and played by an **orchestra**. It is music that has been created by professional **musicians** who are trained in the art of **composing**, which is creating music and writing it down in music **notation** so that other musicians can play it. It has also come to mean very famous music that is still popular centuries after it was created.

A **Musician** is a person who plays a musical instrument or is musically talented. Anyone who composes, conducts, or performs music is referred to as a musician. A musician who plays a musical instrument is also known as an **instrumentalist**.

An **Orchestra** is a large group of musicians who play together on various instruments. The orchestra is divided up into **sections** based on the type of instruments in it. Usually, the sections of an orchestra include strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion. The orchestra is led by the **conductor**.



Sheku Kanneh-Mason, 2016 winner of BBC Young Musician Award, performing with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.



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The Music of Swan Lake

Ballet dancers perform while a live orchestra plays in the orchestra pit in front of the stage.



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840—1893) is one of the most popular Russian **composers** of all time. He lived and composed in the 19th century, during an era called the **Romantic period**. It was called that because artists, writers and musicians focused on feelings and passions more than any other theme during this era. It was popular during this time to compose music that told a story and Tchaikovsky's ballet's are often called story ballets. Tchaikovsky's compositions include 11 operas, 3 ballets and over 100 songs.

The Romantic period (1830—1910) marks a period in music history when emotional expression became more important than formal classical structure. Composers expanded the size of orchestras as well as the types of instruments used in order to have a bigger range in pitch and dynamics. Melodies got longer and harmonic progressions got more and more elaborate. New musical structures created during this era include:

A **nocturne** which is a musical composition that reflects the moods and feelings of night time.

A **rhapsody** which is a single-movement work that is episodic, meaning it has distinct groups of musical ideas. It's categorized by free-flowing in structure, and features a range of highly contrasting moods. Rhapsodies are compositions with an air of improvisation and virtuosity – something that's going to take you on a journey, just like a dramatically recited epic poem.

Swan Lake is scored for a romantic-sized orchestra which includes the following sections and instruments.

Strings: violins I and II, violas, violoncellos, double basses

Woodwinds: piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets in B-flat, A and C, 2 bassoons

Brass: 4 horns in F, 2 cornets in A and B-flat, 2 trumpets in F, D, and E, 3 trombones (2 tenor, 1 bass), tuba

Percussion: timpani, snare drum, cymbals, bass drum, triangle, tambourine, castanets, tam-tam, glockenspiel

Other: harp

The Music of Swan Lake

Classical Music Notation

Swan Lake Op. 20

Dance of the Little Swans

Tchaikovsky

Allegro Moderato

Piano *p*

4

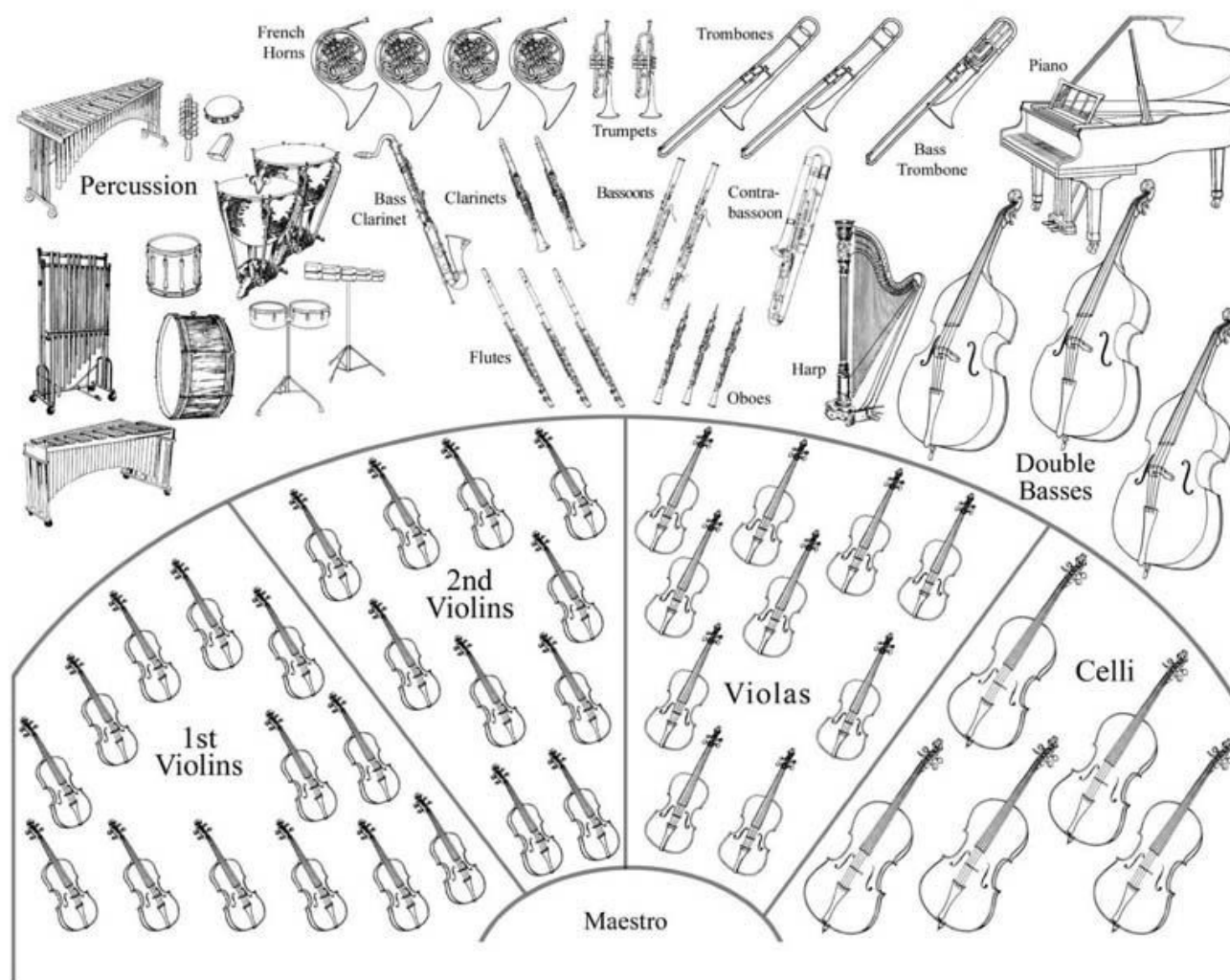
8

12

16

Music Activities

- 1) Count the number of each instrument.
- 2) Color each section of the orchestra a different color.



- 3) Have students listen to excerpts from *Swan Lake* by Pytor Tchaikovsky.
- 4) Ask them if they recognize the melody? Have they heard it before?
- 5) Ask student to share how the music makes them feel? What emotions do they think the music is trying to convey?
- 6) Have students move around the room to the music.
- 7) How did the music make you want to move?

Music Activities

Meet the ORCHESTRA



Match the names of the musical instruments in the box to the pictures below.



Musical Instruments



- ☐ bagpipes
- ☐ bassoon
- ☐ clarinet
- ☐ double bass
- ☐ drums
- ☐ electric guitar
- ☐ flute
- ☐ guitar
- ☐ harp
- ☐ keyboards
- ☐ oboe
- ☐ piano
- ☐ saxophone
- ☐ tambourine
- ☐ trombone
- ☐ trumpet
- ☐ tuba
- ☐ violin



brass woodwinds strings percussion

Music Activities

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WORD SEARCH

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

BASS CLARINET
 CASTANETS
 CYMBALS
 FRENCH HORN
 OBOE
 SNARE DRUM
 TRIANGLE
 VIOLA

BASS DRUM
 CELLO
 DOUBLE BASS
 GONG
 PERCUSSION
 STRING
 TROMBONE
 VIOLIN

BASSOON
 CLARINET
 ENGLISH HORN
 HARP
 PICCOLO
 TAMBOURINE
 TRUMPET
 WOOD BLOCK

BRASS
 CONTRA BASSOON
 FLUTE
 MARACAS
 SAXOPHONE
 TIMPANI
 TUBA
 WOODWIND



Name _____

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