



SAINT-SAËNS Selections from *Carnival of the Animals*
 MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto, 1st movement
Alisa Johnson, violin, Young Artist Competition Winner
 SIBELIUS Symphony No. 2 (Finale)
 RICHMAN *Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant*
Jack Prelutsky, narrator

INTRODUCTION

Each of the works on the program is meant to stimulate the minds of young listeners. *Carnival of the Animals* introduces kids to the instruments of the orchestra by allowing them to explore how the composer used the different sounds to create the impressions of different animals. *Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant* enhances the whimsical poetry of Jack Prelutsky with engaging music that will delight audiences of all ages.

GETTING PREPARED

Ask your kids to consider the difference between what a Lion's Royal March would sound like versus a donkey, or maybe an elephant? How would the music be different if it were portraying these different animals? Which music would be faster, which more elegant — and more importantly, which one would they prefer to “see”?

CONSIDER THE CHARACTERS

Carnival of the Animals was intended to be a funny piece of music. How could an orchestra make music that is humorous or silly? List ways that the music could describe an elephant, a rooster, or even a fossil!

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION WINNER

As your kids are watching and listening to our Young Artist Competition winner, encourage them to consider how much fun it would be to “speak” the language of music fluently like this young musician. Encourage them to think of what fun possibilities could exist if they were to become fluent in the language of music. Examples include: playing in the school orchestra with friends, performing with the Longmont Symphony and Youth Symphony, participating in summer music programs with other students from around the region, meeting musicians from all parts of the world who share this passion, etc.

BEHOLD THE BOLD UMBRELLAPHANT

Question: What do you get when you cross a toaster with a toad, or a clock with an octopus, or an umbrella with an elephant? Answer: You get a **Pop-up Toadster**, a **Clocktopus** or a **Bold Umbrellaphant!**

Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant is all about combining inanimate objects with existing animals to create imaginative new types of creatures. In this new world, you can create both polite **Hippopotamushrooms** and solitary **Spatuloons**.

READING AND LISTENING

If possible, get a copy of the book *Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant*. Pass out paper for kids to sketch their images of the creatures in the book when you read it aloud, without showing them the illustrations.

GETTING READY

As you get ready to attend the performance, write the word “hybrid” for the kids to see. Facilitate a discussion about what they know about hybrid words. If they have no information, prompt them to research the word.

DIGGING DEEPER

Jack Prelutsky is well respected for his use of language — both wordplay and word choice. The poems in this book use a variety of verbs that do more than just sit on the page. They help portray the animals. Challenge kids to identify verbs that describe how the creatures move. Provide them with a piece of paper for brainstorming at least five more verbs that fit these meanings.

VOCABULARY

Establish an ongoing list of unknown words the kids hear or read in the poems. Enlist kids to find the definitions of the words.

WRITING & ART ACTIVITIES

Can your kids come up with the names of some other new creatures by using their own combinations of inanimate/everyday objects and animals? Encourage kids to brainstorm about their creatures — writing down what it looks like, what it does, what its temperament is, what it eats, where it sleeps, etc. Then, kids can use their brainstorming to write a poem about the creature. Finally, they could sketch their creature.


Creature #1 (name, poem and sketch):

Creature #2 (name, poem and sketch):

Creature #3 (name, poem and sketch):

WHAT IF...?

Ask kids to consider the creatures in *Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant*. Challenge them to choose at least two creatures and imagine what would happen if they encountered each other. Have kids write a poem about the meeting.

 *We look forward to seeing you at the Longmont Symphony concert!* 