



**Young Audiences of Massachusetts**  
*Educational Materials*  
Please forward to teachers

06.20.07

**ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:**

**Sandy Kiefer:** *Talking Cello*

**Grade levels:** preK-3

The Talking Cello brings cello sounds and stories to students. Ms. Kiefer introduces the cello, its history and sounds, while she reads a story and plays.

**LEARNING GOALS:**

1. To introduce a string instrument.
2. To see how sounds “talk”; how sounds convey emotion and how sounds can be used to create stories.
3. To equate sounds with emotion and action.

**PRE-ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

Listen to Yo-Yo Ma’s recording of Bach Suites #1. Draw a picture of what each short movement sounds and/or looks like.

**POST-ACTIVITY SUMMARY:**

An activity sheet is given to each student at the end of the performance.

**CURRICULUM LINKS:**

Music, Science, Social Studies

# PRE-ACTIVITY

**LEARNING GOAL:**

To explore how sounds convey emotion and how sounds can be used to create stories.

**MATERIALS/PREPARATION:**

Musical excerpts of Bach Suite #1 by Yo-Yo Ma, CD/Tape Player, Drawing papers, Color pencils, Marker pens

**TIME:**

45 minutes

**Tips for the Teacher:****STEP 1:**

**Play** J.S. Bach Suite #1.

**STEP 2:**

**Play** one movement from the Suite. i.e.) Bouree, Minuet

**STEP 3:**

**Talk** about the mood of that movement. Ask students for a few words that describe it. Does it sound like a Kangaroo that hops? Does it sound like raindrops? Does it sound sad?

**STEP 4:**

Have them **draw** a picture of the sound from what they heard or write a sentence about it.

**STEP 5:**

**Share** the pictures with the class.

-Are they similar to what you drew or different?

-How are they different from yours?

**EXTENSIONS:**

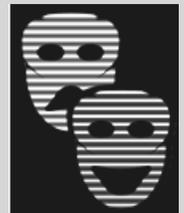
Loads of music that tells stories - listen to any of these recordings

*"Carnival of the Animals"* by Saint-Saens

*"Peter & Wolf"* by Prokofiev

*"La Mer"* by Debussy

*"Danse Macabre"* (Halloween) by Saint-Saens



# POST-ACTIVITY

## LEARNING GOALS:

1) To understand how sounds convey emotion and how sounds can be used to create stories.

2) To develop listening skills.

## MATERIALS/PREPARATION:

Recording example of "*Carnival of the Animals*" by Saint-Saens,  
CD/Tape Player,  
Drawing papers,  
Color pencils,  
Marker pens

TIME: 45 Minutes

## TIPS FOR THE TEACHER:

\*Camille Saint-Saens's *Carnival of the Animals* is a set of orchestral character pieces, each of which is meant to describe a particular animal, usually by mimicking the sounds it makes or characterizing the way it moves or carries itself.

## STEP 1:

**Play** "*Carnival of the Animals*" by Camille Saint-Saens.

## STEP 2:

**Discuss** the music with your students.

-Did you like it?

-What did you / didn't you like it?

-How did it make you feel? ; does it make you sad, happy, or excited?

-Can you think of some characters; animals or persons, which describe the music?

## STEP 3:

Ask students to write a story and/or draw something that portrays the music.

## STEP 4:

**Share** the stories or drawings with students.

## EXTENSIONS:

Play "*Carnival of the Animals*" and then ask students to move their body freely in a way that expresses the animals in the piece.



**VOCABULARY:**

**suite:** a suite is an organized set of instrumental or orchestral pieces normally performed at a single sitting. (Handel wrote 22 keyboard suites, while Bach produced multiple suites for cello, violin, flute, and other instruments, as well as his English suites, French suites and Partitas for keyboard.)

**Resources:**

About J.S. Bach's Cello Suites

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cello\\_Suites\\_%28Bach%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cello_Suites_%28Bach%29)

About Camille Saint-Saens

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Saens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Saens)

Review of "The Carnival of the Animals"

<http://www.thumper.net/tlkmag/archive/mm/cofa.htm>

About "Danse Macabre" by Camille Saint Saens

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danse\\_Macabre\\_\(Saint-Sa%C3%ABns\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danse_Macabre_(Saint-Sa%C3%ABns))

**ABOUT THE PERFORMERS:**

Cellist **Sandy Kiefer** has earned a Master's degree at New England Conservatory. She has had farther studies at Tanglewood and Yale. A founder of Copley Chamber Players, Ms. Kiefer is also a member of the Rhode Island Philharmonic, and has been in Springfield Symphony, Portland Symphony, and Hartford Symphony. She is currently on faculty at University of Rhode Island and Longy School of Music. A multi-faceted artist, Ms. Kiefer writes a newspaper column "Imagine That!" and is a visual artist, and a stonemason as well.

**ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES:**

Young Audiences of Massachusetts (YA) is the oldest, largest and most utilized arts-in-education organization in the state and one of the largest in a national network of 33 chapters. For over 45 years, YA has distinguished itself as the vital link between Massachusetts schoolchildren (K-12) and more than 95 of the region's most accomplished actors, dancers, singers, musicians, and storytellers. Its 36 ensembles offer 57 interactive arts programs that represent a range of cultures, historical periods and artistic disciplines. YA is unique in its flexibility to offer interactive performances, tailor-made residencies, workshops, teacher-training, curriculum planning and multi-year projects. All programs include educational materials and satisfy local, state and/or federal arts education standards.