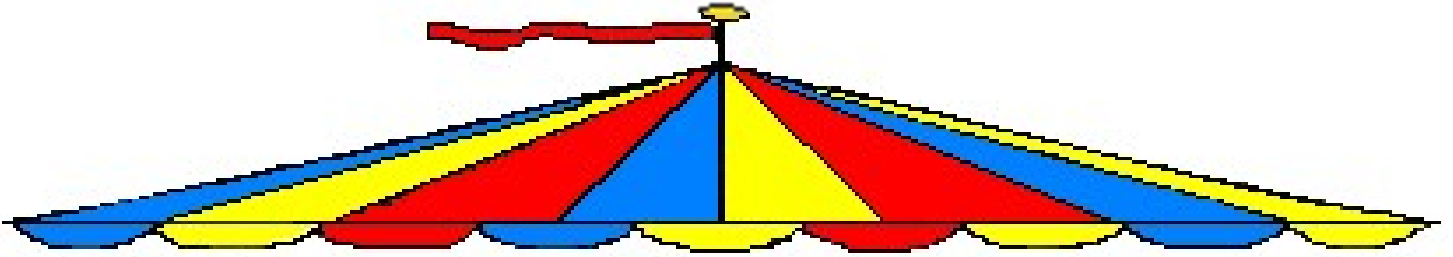


PUPPET ARTS THEATRE  
PRESENTS



# CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

Grand Zoological Fantasy for Orchestra and  
Puppets! Inspired by the Famous Musical Score of  
Camille Saint-Saens and Set in a Circus!

## TEACHER'S GUIDE

Feel free to make as many copies as needed.



**A Production of  
PUPPET ARTS  
THEATRE**

**1927 Springridge Drive  
Jackson, MS 39211**

**(601) 956 3414**

**[www.mrzpuppets.com](http://www.mrzpuppets.com)  
[peter@mzpuppetry.com](mailto:peter@mzpuppetry.com)**

**CARNIVAL OF THE  
ANIMALS**



Carnival of the Animals is a variety show featuring light classical music and different styles of puppetry. All is performed with the puppeteers in the full view of the audience, so children can see “how it’s done.” Some numbers use very simple puppets to inspire the audiences so they can emulate the performance after the company leaves in their music, art or drama class.

**COMPOSERS**

J. S. Bach composer from Germany who was born in 1685, that’s 320 years ago. He died in 1750 when he was 65 years old. He came from a musical family and his children were also musicians. During his life he wrote a tremendous amount of music that is played and sung even today. Everybody who learns to play piano plays his music at some point.

Gioacchino Rossini composer from Italy who was born in 1792 and died in 1868. Today he would be 213 years old. He is famous for his operas, and the most famous is the music in today’s show. It was made famous in America in an old television serial, “The Lone Ranger.” He lived in Italy but spent a lot of his time in France. His operas were very popular and some are still performed these days like “Cinderella,” and most popular, “The Barber of Seville.”

Camille Saint Saens composer from France who was born in 1835 and died in 1921. “Carnival of the Animals” and his opera “Samson and Delila” are his most famous works. In the “Carnival” he makes lot of musical jokes, including the “Pianists,” where our two clowns who are trying to play a scale.

Jacques Offenbach composer was born in Germany in 1819, but lived in France all his life until he died in 1880. His last opera, “The Tales of Hoffman,” is the most famous, but so are his operettas (plays with songs, like a musical.) From one of those comes his famous “Can Can” a famous dance very popular in France in late 1800.

Piotr Ilyitch Tchaikovsky composer from Russia was born in 1840 and died in 1893. He is most famous for his operas, ballets and symphonies, among them ballet “Nutcracker” and “The Swan Lake.” His “Piano Concerto in B-flat” is probably the most famous piano concerto in the world.

Bedrich Smetana composer from Bohemia, presently Czech Republic who lived between 1842 and 1884. He liked to write his music in a folk song style and the “Dance of the Comedians” from the opera “The Bartered Bride” is an example of his lively, sparkling music.

Julius Fucik composer from Bohemia, later Czechoslovakia who lived between 1872 and 1916. He was a successful military orchestra conductor and composer. His marches “The Entry of the Gladiators” and “Florentine” are the most well-known.

Dimitry Kabalevsky was born in the magnificent city of St. Petersburg in 1904. Kabalevsky is considered not only as a great Russian composer, but also, he was a noted pianist and writer. During World War II, Kabalevsky had written several inspirational songs and battle hymns to inspire heroism and patriotism among the Soviets. He died in Moscow in 1987.

Aesop was a slave who lived in Greece about 2,500 years ago. We don’t know how many fables he really created because he never wrote them down. Aesop's fables are nearly as old as the Olympic Games. Every day hundreds of entire classrooms of kids from all over the world read them, learn and enjoy them. Two of his most famous of these fables are “The Fox and the Grapes” and “The Tortoise and the Hare.” For time line comparison, George Washington was born in 1732 and died in 1799.

### VOCABULARY

Composer	Classical	Opera
Symphony	Can Can (a dance)	Scale and Musical Scale

### PRE - & POST- SHOW ACTIVITIES

Tell your students about proper behavior in the theatre: we turn off our cell-phones, we do not talk to each other during the show, but we can clap and laugh and have fun watching the show.

Let your students listen to the music from a ballet, especially the character dances from the Nutcracker: “Chocolate or Spanish Dance;” “Tea or Chinese Dance;” “Trepak or Russian Dance.” These are included in most of the recordings of any “Nutcracker Suite.” Let the kids clap, move and move to the music in order to become familiar with it. Children can do colorful drawings while listening to the music to express what they hear.

After the show repeat the above exercises with the children and see how the theatre performance affected their perceptions.

Find United States on a globe or a map

Find Europe on a globe or a map

Find France, Italy, Germany, Czech Republic and Russia on a globe or a map

## **DANCING TEDDY BEARS or OTHER STUFFED ANIMAL TOYS**

### **Materials needed:**

**Children can bring large stuffed teddy bears or other animals from their homes.**

Team up two children per toy. One holds the toy under arms, the other holds the feet. Arms can clap and the legs can dance and kick with music. Toys can walk, jump on one foot at a time, or sit down. Arms can wave with one hand or both hands. Let the children move them to the music and work out simple choreography.

Before you know it, they will produce their own show.

## PROGRAM

(Subject to change based on available space)

J. S. Bach	Prelude	A scarf clown dances and doubles in size.
Gioacchino Rossini	William Tell Overture (Closing Part)	A clown who comes in parts and assembles itself.
Camille Saint Saens	Tortoise (Music for the Tortoise is a musical joke where composer used Offenbach's Can Can and slowed it down.)	Musical retelling of the Aesop's fable Tortoise & the Hare. (We added the original Can Can to represent the Hare.)
Camille Saint Saens	Hens & Rooster	Hens and a rooster first in synchronized dance, then on a sew-saw.
Camille Saint Saens	Kangaroos and Fossils	Rabbits acrobats first balance on a rolling drum and then on a trampoline.
Piotr Ilytch Tchaikovsky	Waltz (Swan Lake Act II)	Two scarfs in abstract movement - add a ball - and you have a ballerina.
Bedrich Smetana	Dance of the Comedians from the opera The Bartered Bride	A group of monsters presents their circus acts: a high-wire act, juggler, and a balancing act.
Julius Fucik	Entry of the Gladiators	A clown has fun with a fuzzy creature.
Dimitri Kabalevsky	The Comedians - Gavotte	Magic trick
Camille Saint Saens	The Elephant	Elephant does his tricks at his own pace.
Dimitri Kabalevsky	The Comedians - Gavotte	Holla Hoop
Camille Saint Saens	Aquarium	Fish & Water: Children from the audience dance as water while others have fish puppets floating around.
Camille Saint Saens	Pianists	Clowns compete while playing an invisible piano.
Camille Saint Saens	Finale	A really big bird introduces the cast in the final bows.

## PREPARING THE SHOW FOR YOU

Many people are involved in making “Carnival of the Animals” a successful stage production. When you are watching the performance see what each one contributed:

The Puppeteers with the Director developed the stories to go with the music.

The Set Designer planned out what the stage should look like during the show.

The Costume Designer created the costumes that the actors wear on stage.

The Puppet Makers build puppets.

The Musicians are playing the music you hear.

The Director instructed the actors and the puppeteers where to move.

The Actors/Puppeteers from Puppet Arts Theatre are performing the various parts in the story.

The Lighting Designer set and focused lights to set the mood for the show.

They all worked together to create “Carnival of the Animals” just for YOU!

Puppet Arts Theatre brings amazing puppetry to audiences throughout the Southeast. Recognized for its commitment to excellence and innovation, it receives support from the Mississippi Arts Commission and the Arts Alliance of Jackson and Hinds County.

Puppet Arts Theatre was founded in 1967 and now performs for thousands of children each year.

## A SPECIAL REQUEST

If something is not clear in our instructions, please feel free to call for help: (601) 956 3414.

We would like to hear about your experiences related to our production. Please let us know what you did with your children to enjoy the play and what kind of inspiration we provided. Send us some drawings done by your children so we can share them with the Mississippi Arts Commission. Let us know how helpful this guide was. It is work in progress and you can help us make it better. Your comments are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Puppet Arts Theatre, 1927 Springridge Drive, Jackson, MS 39211**

**(601) 956 3414 / [www.mspuppetry.com](http://www.mspuppetry.com) / [peter@mspuppetry.com](mailto:peter@mspuppetry.com)**

