Suggested Listening

Benjamin Britten
Claude Debussy
Paul Dukas
George Gershwin
Dmitri Kabalevsky
Wolfgang A. Mozart
Modest Mussorgsky
Sergei Prokofiev
Otto R. Respighi
Robert Schumann
John Philip Sousa
Peter Tchaikovsky

Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra
Children’s Corner Suite
The Sorcerer’s Apprentice
Rhapsody in Blue
The Comedians
Eine kleine Nachtmusik
Pictures at an Exhibition
Peter and the Wolf
Pines of Rome
Scenes from Childhood
Any march
Nutcracker Suite

The Concert Companion with Christopher Seaman
Tune in to WXXI 91.5/90.3 FM on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. for five minutes of engaging chat about a musical topic. The program repeats Wednesdays at 8:55 p.m., Thursdays at 12:30 p.m., and Saturdays at 10:40 a.m. Log on to www.wxxi.org/concert to find out more.

Finally, check out our website at www.rpo.org
Dear Friends,

It's always a pleasure for me to greet such enthusiastic audiences at our orKIDStra concerts. Every time I walk onto the stage at Hochstein I look forward to a fun-filled and inspirational hour spent with my two favorite groups of people: the great musicians of the RPO and the parents, grandparents, and children who fill the seats. If you've been here before, you know how integral you are to the concert experience. If you're a first-timer, get ready to think, laugh, contribute ideas, and create!

We're pleased to bring you this guide that you can keep for the entire season. We hope it will help to eliminate some of the mystery that sometimes surrounds classical music, and provide a starting point for further exploration through our listening list and suggested follow-up activities.

This season's offerings focus on the basics of music: melody, harmony, rhythm and expression. Guided activities will precede each performance, allowing children to get their creative juices flowing prior to the concerts. Each concert will then build on the previous ones, culminating in a performance of Prokofiev's Lieutenant Kije on May 18. Each performance will be a complete experience in itself, but because of the foundations we'll be building, we hope you can join us for the entire series.

Through the arts, and through music in particular, we share with each other the joys of life and express our hopes and dreams, as well as our frustrations and disappointments. Simply put, music deepens the experience of life, and there's no better time for us to be introduced to it than during childhood. This is why I'm so proud of the work the RPO is doing to bring music to children, and why I'm so pleased that you've come here to join us today. We hope you'll be entertained, stimulated and energized, and that you'll want to continue to spend these Sunday afternoons with the RPO. Enjoy the concert!

Michael Butterman
Principal Conductor for Education & Outreach
The Louise & Henry Epstein Family Chair

Musical Activities Page

**Play the melody game**
This is a really fun game to play with your family or friends. Simply take turns singing or humming a melody to the rest of the group. Then see who can be the first to guess the name of the song!

**Be a conductor**
Find a baton around the house (a pencil works well), put on your favorite piece of music and conduct away! If you are feeling really adventurous see if you can make your own podium just like a real conductor!

**Make your own percussion instrument**
Three easy steps for your very own shaker:
1. Find an empty plastic bottle (with lid)
2. Pour some rice, birdseed, or dried beans into the bottle and close the container (secure the lid with tape)
3. For a decoration, wrap colored paper around the outside of the bottle and shake away!

**Listen to the radio**
Tune in to WXXI 91.5/90.3 FM to listen to more classical music with your family. Try to listen for the different instruments in the orchestra. Listening to the radio will also give you an opportunity to become familiar with the melodies, harmonies, and rhythms from composers all over the world!

**Link Up!**
Parents...
Did you know that listening to and making music is good for your children? Statistics show that children who study music do better in math and have higher reading scores. Find out more here:
www.nasaa-arts.org/nasaanews/nga.shtml
www.americansforthearts.org/public_awareness/
The Audience
Now we know about the orchestra musicians, the conductor, and the composer, but we haven’t talked about YOU, the audience! The audience is made up of wonderful people who enjoy listening to music made right in front of their very eyes. They are perhaps the most important part of a concert because without an audience there wouldn’t be anybody to enjoy what is happening on stage.

What should you remember for your concert journey?
The most important thing for the audience to remember is that there will be many exciting sights and sounds throughout the concert. Come prepared to listen actively and watch carefully as you are taken on this musical journey! The best way to do this is to sit quietly in your seats while the orchestra is performing. When each piece is over you will applaud (clap your hands) to show the musicians how much you enjoyed the music.

Time for the concert to begin!
The music has been written, the musicians have rehearsed, the conductor is prepared, and everyone is ready. There are three things that will happen before the music starts.

1. Ready...
First the concertmaster will walk to the front of the orchestra and bow as you applaud. The concertmaster is the first violinist who is in charge of tuning the orchestra.

2. Set...
Then the concertmaster will point to the oboe player who will then give the tuning note. First the woodwind and brass players will check to make sure their instrument is in tune with that note, then the string players will do the same.

3. Go!
Finally, you will welcome the conductor with applause as he walks on stage to begin the concert!
Orchestra Seating Chart
When the orchestra performs on stage you will see the musicians sitting in a special arrangement. See if you can find the four instrument families!

The Conductor
A conductor has many different responsibilities. He plans the music that the audience will hear, learns the different parts that each musician plays, decides how to interpret what the composer has written and keeps all the musicians together during the performance. Usually the conductor stands on a podium, which is a platform that raises him up so everyone in the orchestra will be able to see him. See if you can spot the conductor’s podium in the front between the violins and the cellos!

The Baton
The conductor uses each of his hands differently. If you watch carefully you will see the conductor using a baton while conducting the orchestra. With this small stick (usually held in the right hand), the conductor keeps the beat with a specific pattern. With the left hand he communicates the expressive qualities of the music.

The Score
When the musicians are performing, they have only their part in front of them. The conductor has a special piece of music that shows what all the musicians are playing. This is called the score. Just as a driver uses a map when traveling, the conductor uses the score when leading the orchestra.

The Composer
The composer is the person who creates the music for the orchestra to perform. Just as an author writes a book for many people to read, a composer writes music for many people to listen to now and in the future.

Listen for a musical story!
When you listen to the orchestra you will hear many different types of music. It might be happy, sad, peaceful, angry, exciting, or scary, and you might even hear several of these emotions in one piece! Composers can use these emotions to tell a story through their music. See what stories you hear the next time you listen to music!

A Composer’s Tool Kit
The composer uses three main tools to construct a piece of music.

Melody
The first tool is melody, which is a string of notes that you can sing or hum. Have you ever found yourself humming a song you heard from the radio or at a concert? The part you remember is the melody. Some melodies will be smooth and flowing, and others will be more sharp and jagged.

Harmony
The second tool is harmony, which is many notes sounding together. The harmony accompanies and supports the melody played above. Sometimes it is easy to miss the harmony because it’s usually in the background, but it helps to make the melody more interesting.

Rhythm
The third tool is rhythm, which is the alternation between short and long notes. When a composer writes music they use many different note lengths in the melodies and harmonies. For example, you might hear short, quick notes followed by longer, more sustained notes. Using different rhythms in the melodies and harmonies helps to keep the music fresh and interesting for the audience.

The composer also decides the tempo (fast or slow) and dynamic level (loud or soft) of the music, as well as which instruments play the melodies, harmonies and rhythms.