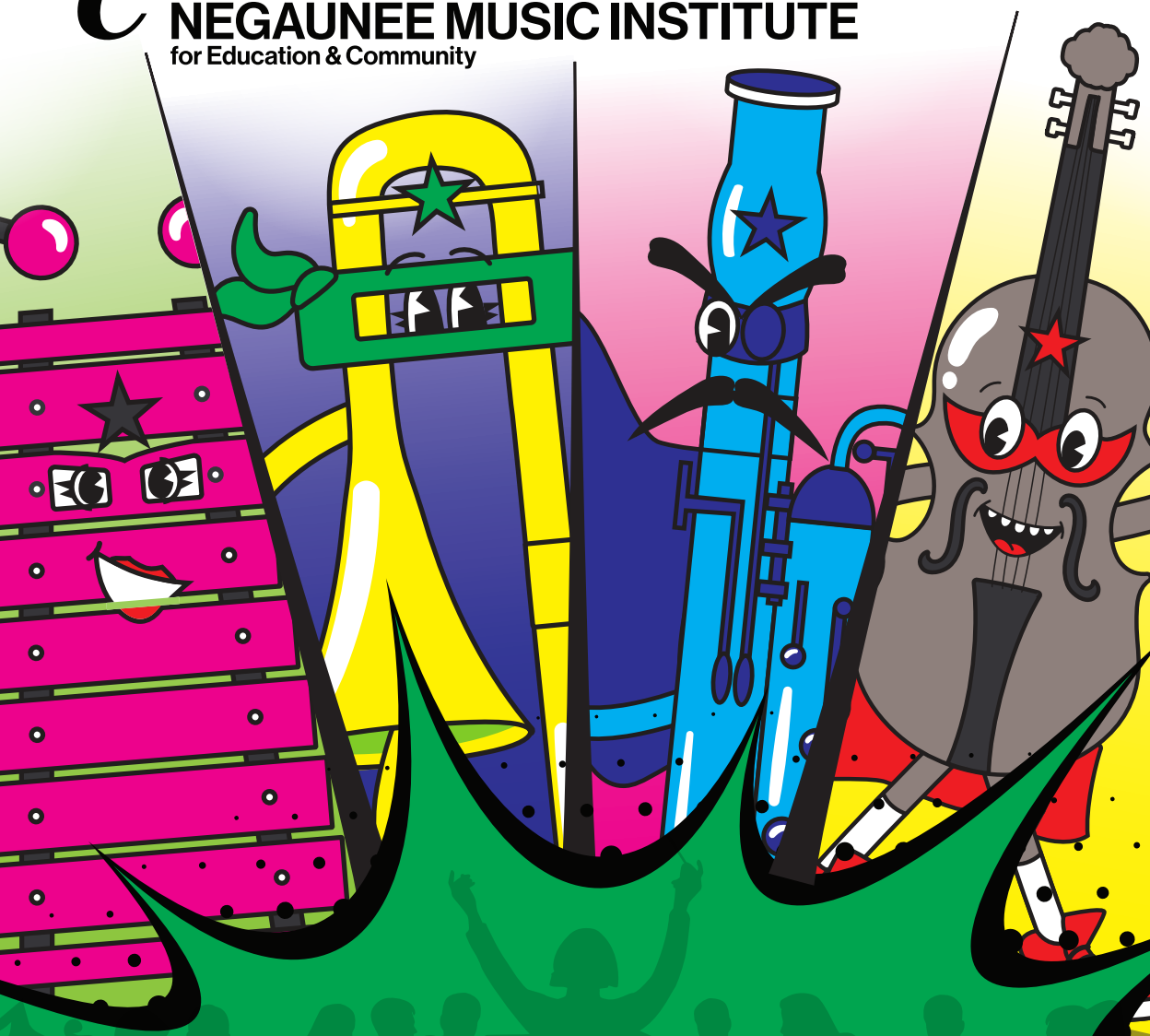


**C CHICAGO SYMPHONY
NEGAUNEE MUSIC INSTITUTE**
for Education & Community



SYMPHONIC SUPERHEROES

Kidsbook

School Concerts
November 20, 2026 | 10:15 & 12:00

Family Matinees
November 21, 2026 | 11:00 & 12:45

WELCOME!

Not all superheroes wear capes or leap tall buildings in a single bound! Sometimes they pull a bow across a string, blow into a mouthpiece or dream up sounds no one has ever heard before. Join us as we explore the superpowers of the orchestra, and how you can be a superhero, too!

SYMPHONIC SUPERHEROES

PERFORMERS

Members of the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Alastair Willis CONDUCTOR

Kasey Foster ACTOR

ON THE PROGRAM

ROSSINI Overture to *William Tell*

GOUNOD *Funeral March of a Marionette*

DUKAS Fanfare from *La Péri*

TCHAIKOVSKY Dance of the Swans from *Swan Lake*

WILLIAMS Cantina Band from *Star Wars*

TCHAIKOVSKY *Elégie* from *Serenade for Strings*

HOLST *St. Paul's Suite* for String Orchestra

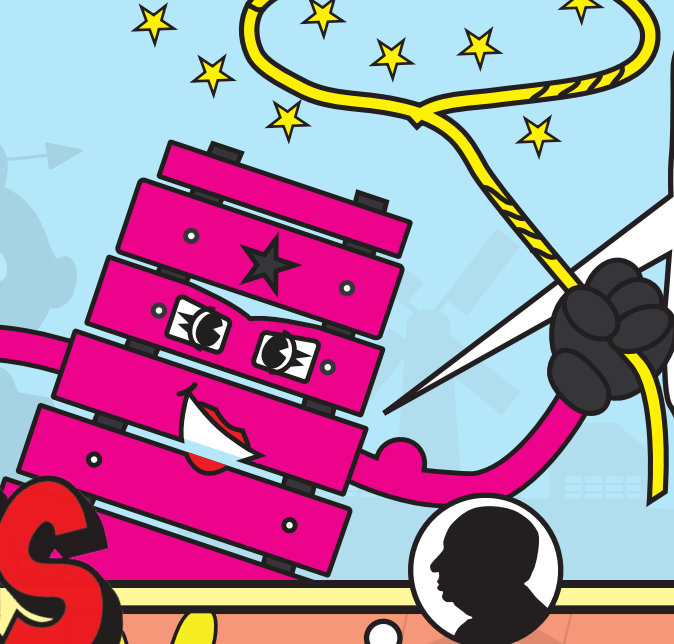
ROUSE *Ku Ka-Ilimoku*

STRAUSS, JR. *Thunder and Lightning Polka*

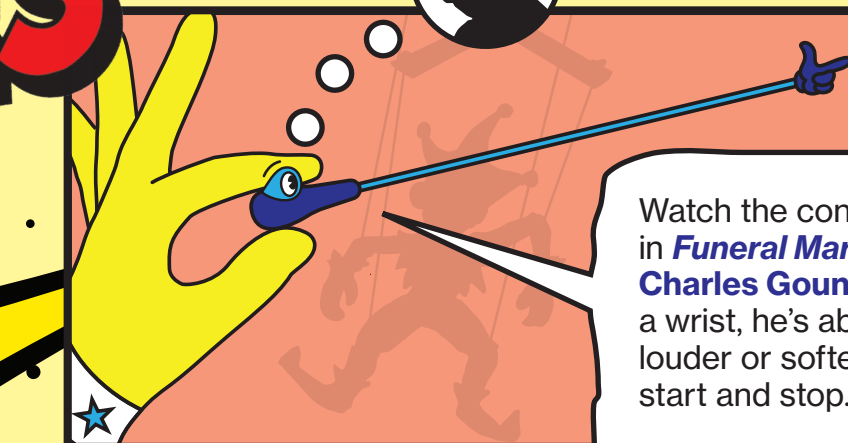
MASON *Shine Time*

OFFENBACH *Can-Can* from *Orpheus in the Underworld*

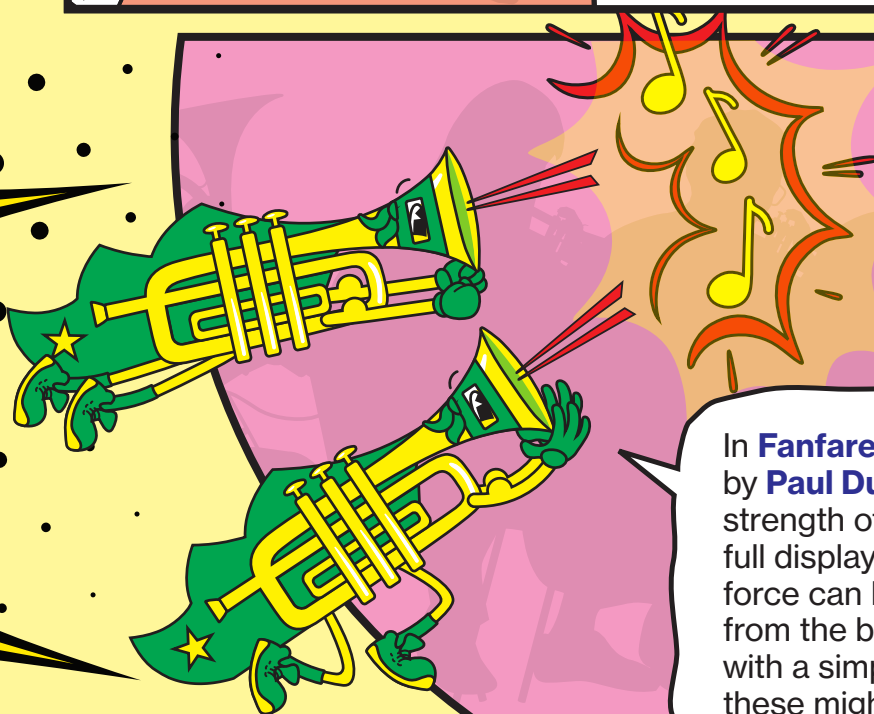
Script by **DOUG MACINTYRE**



Orchestra musicians have musical superpowers that can spark imagination and tell many different stories with a single piece of music. When you hear the **Overture to William Tell** by **Gioacchino Rossini**, try picturing Superman defeating Lex Luthor or Wonder Woman using her golden lasso.



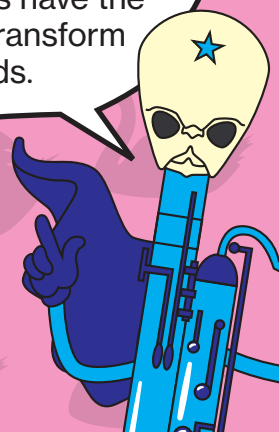
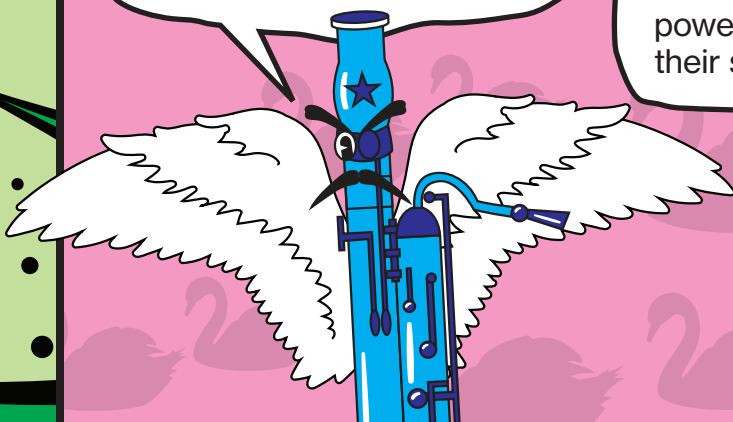
Watch the conductor use his powers in **Funeral March of a Marionette** by **Charles Gounod**. With the flick of a wrist, he's able to make the music louder or softer, faster or slower or start and stop.



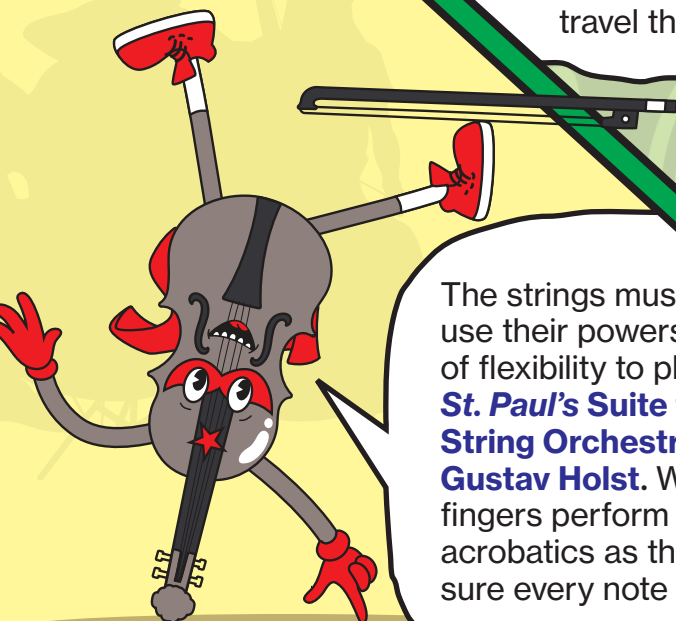
In **Fanfare from La Péri** by **Paul Dukas**, the super strength of the brass is on full display. Their impressive force can be heard clearly from the back of the stage with a simple breath from these mighty musicians.

Can you hear the woodwinds shapeshift between **Dance of the Swans from Swan Lake** by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** and **Cantina Band from Star Wars** by **John Williams**?

Both pieces feature the same instruments, but you might not have guessed it because woodwinds have the power to transform their sounds.



It isn't just the musicians and conductor who have secret abilities. **Tchaikovsky**, the composer of **Élégie from Serenade for Strings**, was a superhero, too! 146 years ago, this music was just a dream in his head. Using nothing but a pencil, his music transports us back to 1880 and his ideas forward to 2026. Listen as he helps us travel through time.



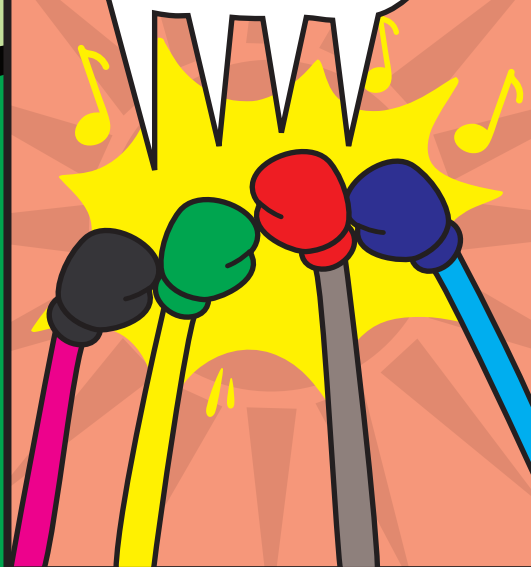
The strings must use their powers of flexibility to play **St. Paul's Suite for String Orchestra** by **Gustav Holst**. Watch their fingers perform amazing acrobatics as they make sure every note is just right.



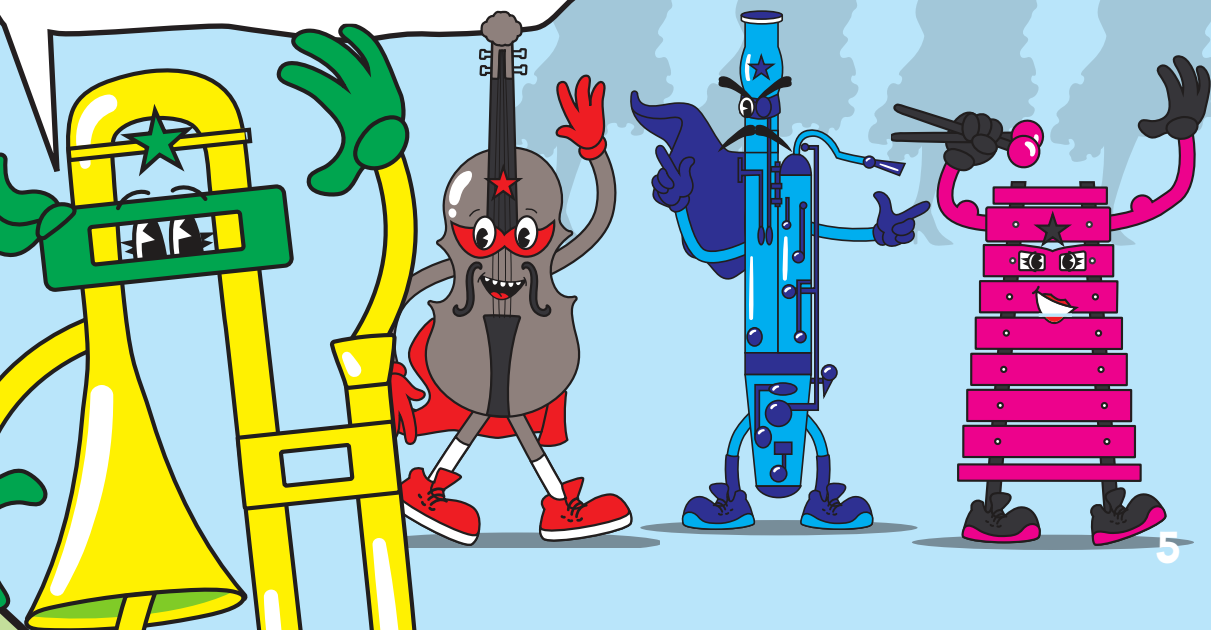
The percussionists are masters of illusion. In ***Thunder and Lightning Polka*** by **Johann Strauss, Jr.** they disguise themselves as a fierce storm. Can you hear the crash of lightning and the clap of thunder?



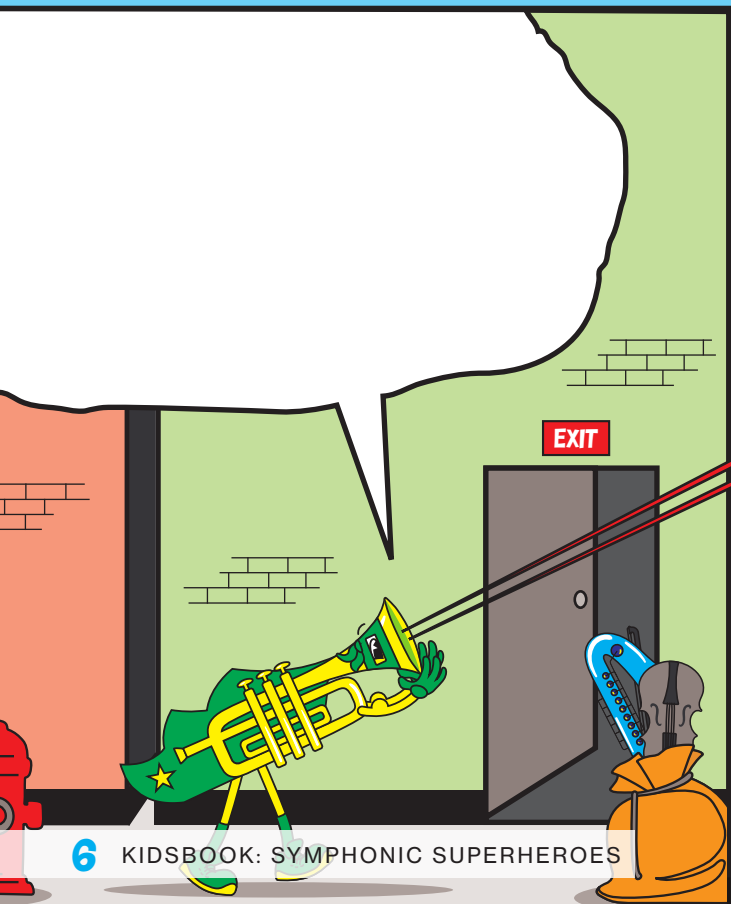
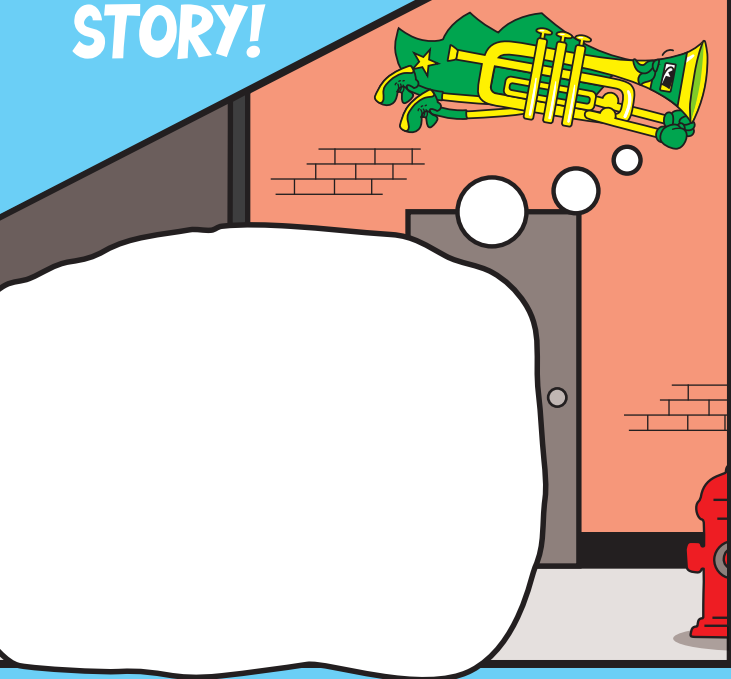
Just like the Avengers, the orchestra is stronger together. In ***Shine Time*** by **Quinn Mason**, you can hear the magic that is created when they combine their powers.



As you listen to ***Can-Can*** from ***Orpheus in the Underworld*** by **Jacques Offenbach**, think about all the superpowers the orchestra needs to make beautiful music. What are yours? Are you reliable, generous, kind, smart, good at listening or cheerful? All of those are superpowers, too. How do you use your superpowers at home, at school and in your community?



WRITE YOUR OWN SUPERHERO STORY!





MEET THE CONDUCTOR



Alastair Willis

Grammy-nominated conductor Alastair Willis is the music director of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra and principal conductor and artistic adviser of the Symphonia Boca Raton.

In past seasons, he has guest conducted orchestras around the world, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Mexico City Philharmonic, Orquestra Sinfonica de Rio de Janeiro, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, China National Orchestra (Beijing) and Silkroad Ensemble (with Yo-Yo Ma), among others. His recording of Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* for Naxos with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, along with members of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Classical Album in 2009.

Last season he was re-engaged by the Qatar Philharmonic, Salute to Vienna, and made his debut with Vienna's Imperial Philharmonic. This season he returns to the Qatar Philharmonic, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, Seattle's Music of Remembrance and Salute to Vienna.



MEET THE ACTOR



Kasey Foster

Kasey Foster (she/her) is a performer, producer, creator, director, singer, choreographer, puppeteer and mom. She is an ensemble member at Lookingglass Theatre, where she also currently serves as the artistic director.

She has been performing on Chicago and regional stages throughout the country for the past 20 years (Lookingglass, Goodman, Northlight, Berkeley Rep, South Coast Rep, Alliance, Arena, STC, Old Globe, Manual Cinema, Actors Gymnasium) and has recently begun to explore the world of TV/film. As a producer, director, and creator, Foster has created over 50 works in Chicago, and has choreographed for theaters, live music acts, school productions, and self-productions across the city. Foster sings with bands Babelon 5, Nasty Buoy, Old Timey, and toured the U.S. for over 10 years with This Must Be the Band, a group that now plays annual benefit concerts to raise funds for various causes.

She is an educator who specializes in puppetry, and a community builder that emphasizes joy. This breadth of experience all leads to Foster's primary goal of bringing people together.

INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA

THE STRING FAMILY includes violin, viola, cello, bass and harp. These instruments are made of wood and strings and are played by vibrating the strings using a bow, or plucking or striking the strings with the fingers.



Violin



Viola



Cello



Bass



Harp

THE WOODWIND FAMILY includes flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and saxophone. These instruments all have the same basic shape: a long tube with a mouthpiece at one end. The flute is played by blowing across a mouthpiece to create a vibration. Oboe, clarinet, bassoon and saxophone are all played by blowing air into a single or double reed attached to the mouthpiece, creating a vibration that results in sound.



Flute



Oboe



Bassoon



Clarinet



Saxophone

THE BRASS FAMILY includes horn, trumpet, trombone, euphonium and tuba. Brass instruments make a sound when the players vibrate their lips inside a mouthpiece, which is fitted into the instrument. The players can change pitch on a trumpet, horn or tuba by pressing on valves. Trombone players change pitch by moving the slide back and forth.



Trumpet



Trombone



Tuba



Horn

THE PERCUSSION FAMILY includes snare drum, bass drum, gong, triangle, xylophone, timpani and piano, among many others. Percussion instruments are struck, scraped or shaken.



Timpani



Snare Drum



Xylophone



Cymbal



Piano

Support for Chicago Symphony programming for children and families is provided by John Hart and Carol Prins, Kinder Morgan, PNC, Megan and Steve Shebik, Michael and Linda Simon, the Walter and Caroline Sueske Charitable Trust and an anonymous family foundation.

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Content for Kidsbook was created by Katy Clusen with graphic design by Shawn Sheehy.

Kidsbook® is a publication of the Negaunee Music Institute. For more information, call 312-294-3410 or email institute@chicagosymphony.org.