



NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Program Notes for Kids

September 26 | Woolsey Hall



Opening Night!

Star Spangled Banner
Traditional

Banner
Jessie Montgomery

Dances and Delights
Michael Abels

--- INTERMISSION ---

Symphony No. 2
Sergei Rachmaninov

Congratulations to tonight's
Art Contest Winner:
Priya Kim, Grade 8,
Hamden Middle School

Welcome to the NHSO!

Before the concert begins:

- Turn off any device that makes noise.
- Read the *Program Notes for Kids*.
- Locate the restrooms and exits.
- Look around at the architecture of the theater.
- Listen to musicians warm-up their instruments.

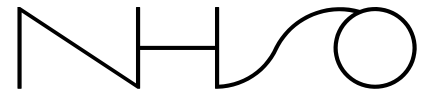
During the concert:

- Clap as people enter the stage.
- Listen quietly as the orchestra plays.
- Wait for every section (called *movements*) of a piece to be played, then clap. (Hint: the conductor will turn to face you when it's time.)
- During intermission, you are free to get up.
- At the end of the concert, people may stand up to show their appreciation. This is called a *standing ovation*.



ENJOY!

Instruments of the Orchestra



125 YEARS
NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

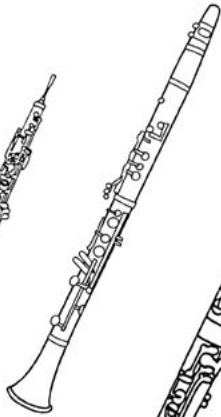
Woodwinds



Flute



Oboe



Clarinet



Bassoon

Strings



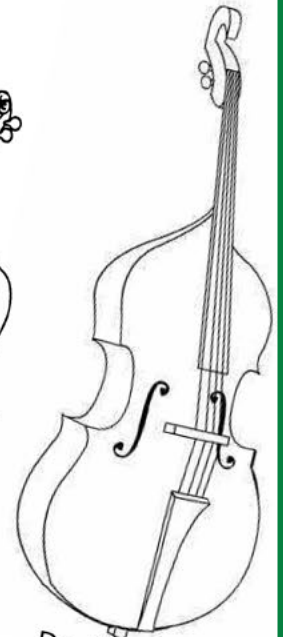
Violin



Viola



Cello

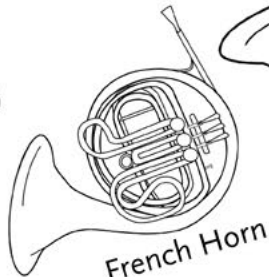


Double Bass

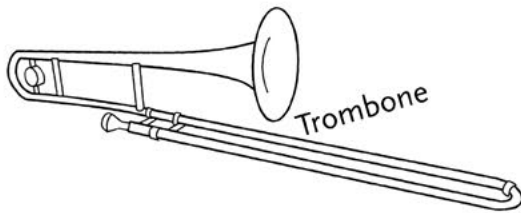
Brass



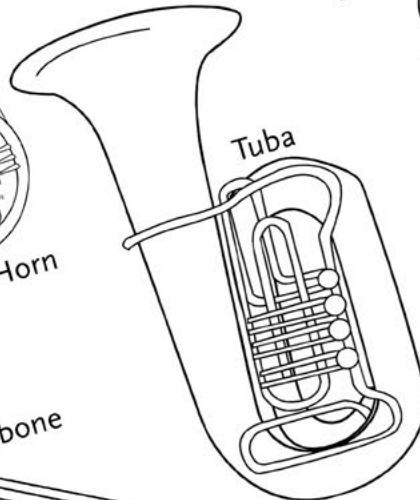
Trumpet



French Horn



Trombone



Tuba

Percussion



Bass Drum



Timpani



Gong



Snare Drum



Triangle



Tambourine

and more!



The orchestra is led by a conductor, sometimes called "maestro"

Star Spangled Banner

America's National Anthem is called *The Star Spangled Banner*, and was written in 1814. The lyrics were actually a poem written by Francis Scott Key, who saw Fort McHenry (in Baltimore, Maryland) being attacked by the British. The battle went into the night, and he wasn't sure who had won. When the sun came up the next day, he was able to see that the American flag was still flying above the fort, meaning that the Americans had won. Most orchestras around the country play the Star Spangled Banner as their first piece of music in their new season!

Did you know?!

Every country around the world has a National Anthem! But just a handful of countries, like Spain, don't use any words!



Banner

Jessie Montgomery is one of the members of the Catalyst Quartet, our guests tonight (see below for the other members). Not only does she play her violin really well, but she also loves to compose (write) music! She was born and raised in New York City, and her mother was a theater performer and her father was a musician.

In 2014, Jessie was asked to write something inspired by our National Anthem because it was the 200th anniversary of when *The Star Spangled Banner* was written. She thought about how America is made up of many different people and types of music, and decided to use little snippets of the Star Spangled Banner throughout her piece, but play them in different ways and different styles to represent all the different types of music in the country. Can you hear all of those different snippets throughout the piece?

Tonight's guest artist is actually FOUR musicians! Their names are Jessie Montgomery (violin), Karla Donahew-Perez (violin), Paul Laraia (viola), and Karlos Rodriguez (cello), and they play together in a group called the **Catalyst String Quartet** (a quartet means a group of 4 musicians).

They have been playing together since 2013, and have played around the world and even won a Grammy (the same award that Beyonce, Drake, and Taylor Swift have all won!). They will play some music by themselves in front of the orchestra, and also some music while the orchestra is playing with them. Make sure to give them a huge round of applause when they're done!

Delights and Dances

Michael Abels is a composer based out of Los Angeles, California. He has been composing since he was only 8 years old! He was born in Phoenix, Arizona, but spent a large part of his childhood with his grandparents on their farm in South Dakota. He started playing piano at age 4, and wrote his first piece for full orchestra when he was 13. He recently was in the news a lot because he wrote the music for two scary movies (*Get Out* and *Us*) that won a lot of awards.

Michael wrote this piece, *Delights and Dances*, in 2007. It is written for string quartet and orchestra, and has three musical ideas in it. The first idea is a slow, snake-like group of notes played by the cello, which passes that musical idea onto the viola. The passage is marked **rubato** in the music, which means that the music doesn't have to be played in strict time - they can choose how fast or slow to take it in the moment. The next section is called Bluesy, and the orchestra will play **arco** behind the quartet (they will play with their bows instead of plucking, or playing **pizzicato**). The last section is called Bluegrass, and it will sound like there is some fiddling going on! The last section is faster than the others and helps the piece to end in a happy, upbeat way.



Symphony No. 2

Sergei Rachmaninov (SIR-gay Rock-mon-in-ov) was born in Russia in 1873. His family came from a long line of kings and queens and other important people in Russian history. Besides being well-known for composing music, he was an amazing piano player and also a very good conductor.

When World War I started, Sergei decided to move his family out of Russia to America for everyone's safety. They settled in New York City, and Sergei mostly performed on the piano to make money. Today, we remember him as a composer first, and a piano player second - but back then, he was known as a piano player first and a composer second!



Help! What's a SYMPHONY?!

A **symphony** is one piece of music that normally has four **movements** (kind of like chapters in a book). They usually sound different from one another: the first movement is fast, the second is slow, the third is medium/fast, and the last is fast again.

There are short pauses between movements. Usually, people don't clap then, but sometimes they get really excited and can't wait until the end of the whole piece to clap for the orchestra!

In this symphony, Rachmaninov plays with the order of his movements. Can you hear which two he switches around?

Symphony No. 2

Written in: 1907
First performed: 1908

Rachmaninov himself was the first conductor of the piece!

- 4 Movements:
1. Largo - Allegro moderato
 2. Allegro Molto
 3. Adagio
 4. Allegro Vivace



Did You Know?

In Russia, children's middle names are based on their father's first name. Boys take their father's name and add an "-ovich" or "-ich" to the end of it, and girls add "-ova" or "-ichnina." So, from Rachmaninov's middle name, Vasilyevich, we know that his father's name was Vasily. If Rachmaninov had been a girl, her middle name would have been Vasilyichnina. What would your middle name be if you were born in Russia?



SCAVENGER HUNT

How many questions can you answer?

1. How many columns are there around Woolsey Hall? _____
2. How many organ pipes are there behind the stage? _____
3. How many french horns are on stage? _____
4. How many woodwind instruments are on stage? _____
5. How many lights are hanging from the ceiling? _____

If you were writing a review of the Catalyst Quartet's performance tonight, which words would you use to describe it? Check all that apply!

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Captivating | <input type="checkbox"/> Boring | <input type="checkbox"/> Effortless | <input type="checkbox"/> Quick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhilarating | <input type="checkbox"/> Amazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Fascinating | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibrant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet | <input type="checkbox"/> Fast | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire | <input type="checkbox"/> Slow |

Are the beginning and ending of the movements in Rachmaninov's *Symphony No. 2* performed piano (softly) or forte (loudly)?

Beginning of Movement:

End of Movement:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| I. Largo - Allegro Moderato | _____ | _____ |
| II. Allegro Molto | _____ | _____ |
| III. Adagio | _____ | _____ |
| IV. Allegro Vivace | _____ | _____ |

Out of the three pieces that you heard tonight, which one did you like best? Why?

CONCERT REVIEW

Write or draw about your experience at the concert tonight.

Who did you see? What did you hear?

What did you think about the music and the experience?

What would you like to tell the Maestro and the musicians?

We would love to know what you think! Scan or copy this page and send it to us:

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Family Concert Series: AROUND THE WORLD

The NHSO Family Concert Series provides fun, interactive concerts for students ages 3-9 to meet the instruments of the orchestra. These concerts will be held from January - March at Davis Street School in New Haven and Shelton Intermediate School.

Before each concert, the NHSO offers an Instrument Petting Zoo where children can tap, tickle, and toot real orchestral instruments before the performance. Following the concert, families are invited to stay for a healthy snack. New Haven Reads provides free children's books for everyone who attends the concert. Attendance is FREE but donations are welcome!

CHINA

January 18 & 19

Join erhu player Kevin Chen as we kick off Chinese New Year celebrations!

GHANA

February 1 & 2

We invited John Wesley Dankwa to share his home country of Ghana's music and culture.

PUERTO RICO

March 14 & 15

Guitarist Lorena Garay will introduce us to the rhythms and melodies from her home country, Puerto Rico.

Visit NewHavenSymphony.org/Family to learn more.



Did you know?

Kids go **FREE** to **ALL**
NHSO concerts!

The NHSO offers free KidTix for children age 17 and under with the purchase of an adult ticket. Additional child tickets are available for \$10 each. KidTix can be purchased online or by calling the NHSO box office at 203.787.4282.

Frontier
COMMUNICATIONS

NewHavenSymphony.org