

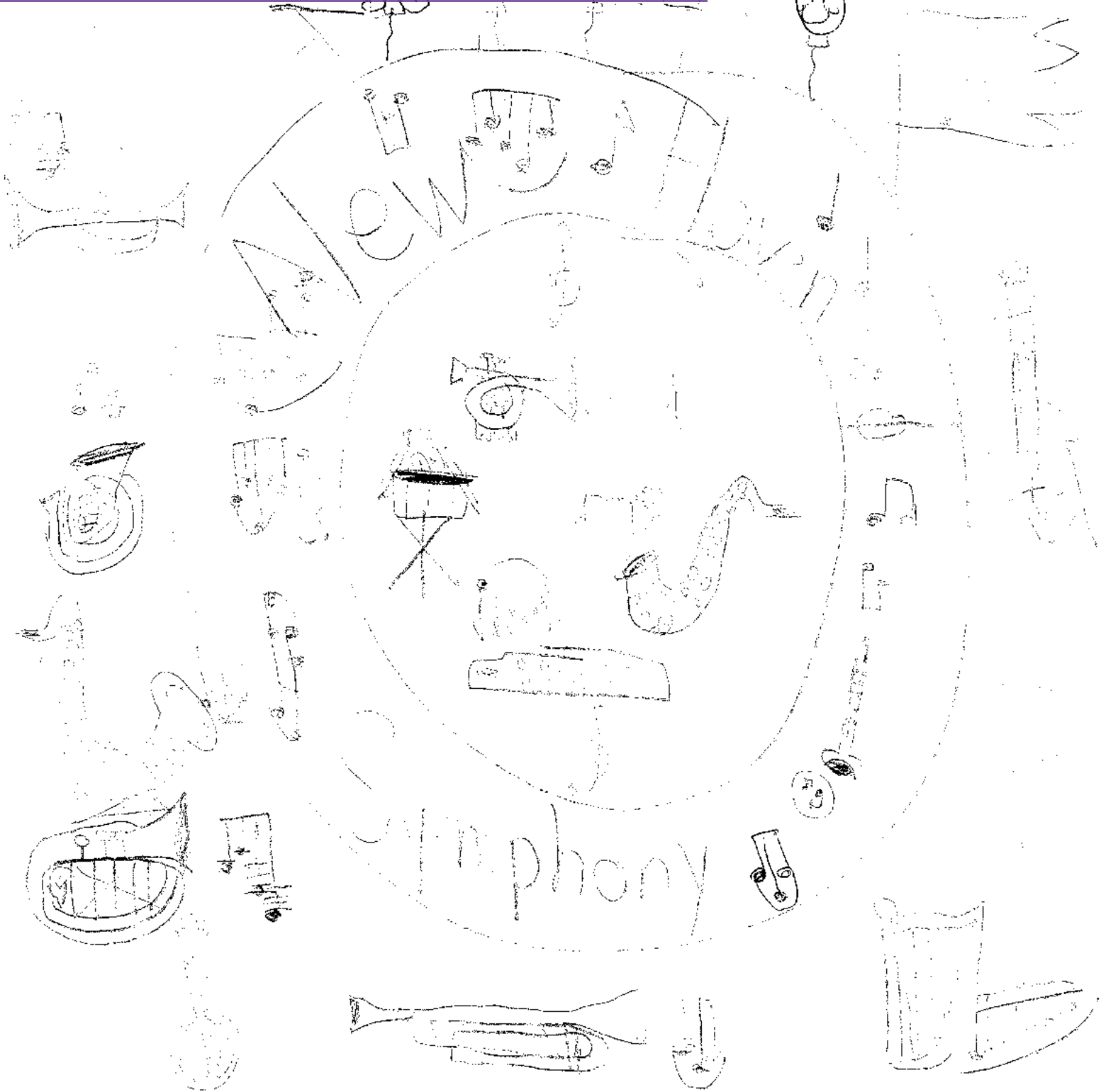


NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Program Notes for Kids

September 26 | Woolsey Hall

You won't
regret it



Beethoven & Adams

The Chairman Dances
John Adams

Piano Concerto in A Minor
Robert Schumann

--- INTERMISSION ---

Symphony No. 7
Ludwig van Beethoven

Congratulations to tonight's
Art Contest Winner:
Marco Blakeslee, Grade 6,
St. Lawrence 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*.

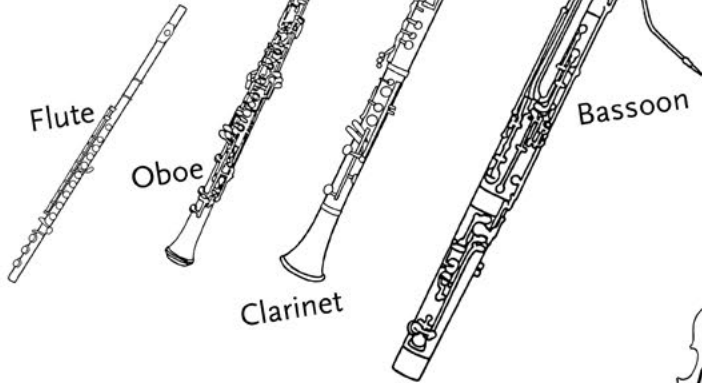


ENJOY!

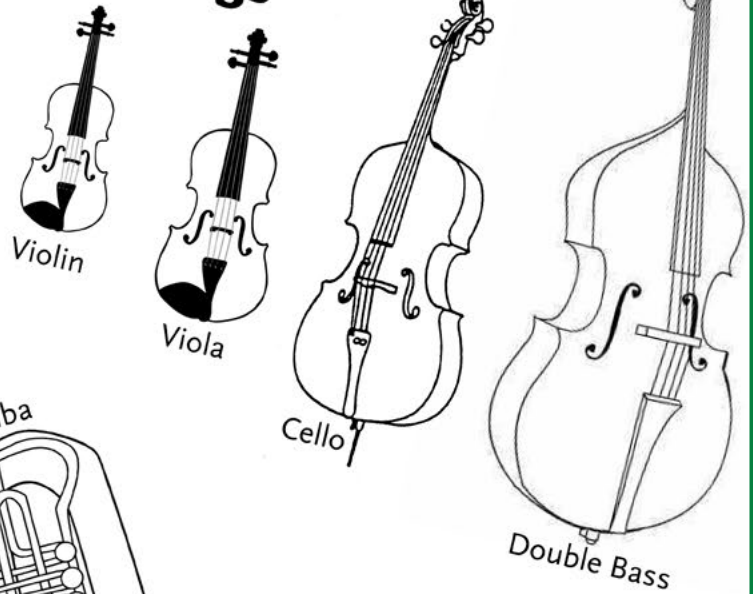
Instruments of the Orchestra



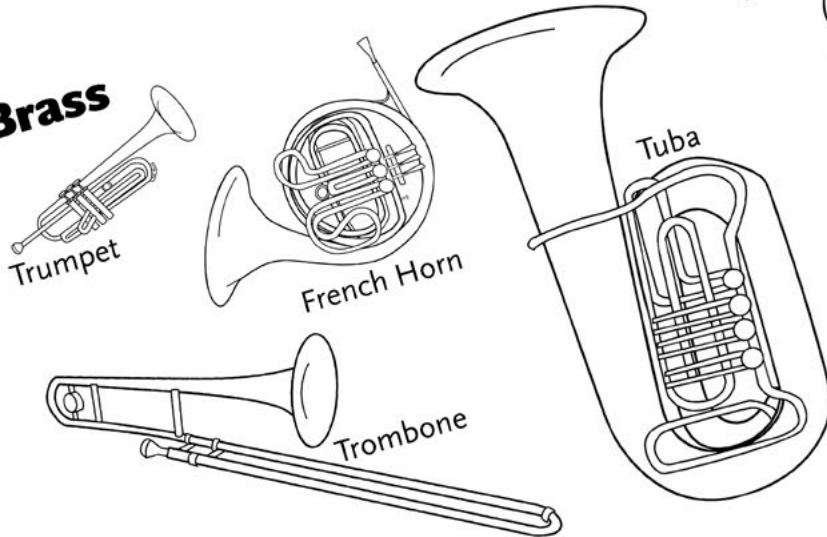
Woodwinds



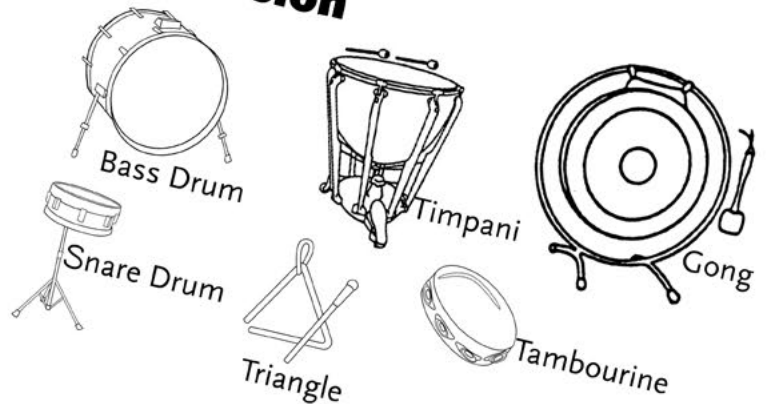
Strings



Brass



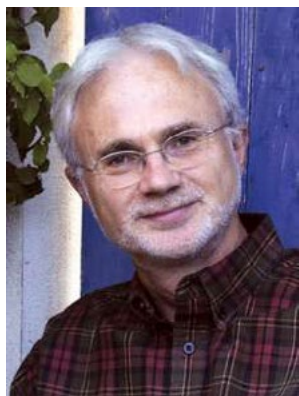
Percussion



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

and more!

The Chairman Dances



John Adams is an American composer that was born in 1947 in Massachusetts. He started composing music when he was only 10 years old, and had a performance of one of his pieces when he was only 13! He still writes music today, and is most known for his operas.

This piece of music was ALMOST included in one of his operas, called *Nixon in China* (about President Richard Nixon's visit to China). He wrote it in 1985, and it is a popular piece for orchestras to play. Adams was picturing a woman from the play walking into a big, fancy dinner, and then dancing with one of paintings on the wall! The man in the painting was the leader of China, and Adams thought about the man climbing out of the portrait and then climbing down the wall to dance with the woman. Listen for fun dance rhythms and see if you can imagine them dancing!

Piano Concerto in A Minor

Help!: What's a concerto?!

A concerto is a piece of music, usually in three movements, written to have one musician (or a small group of them) play in front of an orchestra and show the audience all the cool things that their instrument(s) can do. At the end of the first movement, the entire orchestra will stop playing and the soloist will get to show off in front of the orchestra and audience! This is called a **cadenza**, and from time to time soloists even write their own. Sometimes, there's an extra cadenza in the third movement to give the soloist another chance to show off.

Normally, audiences aren't supposed to clap in between movements, but during some performances, people get so excited about how well the soloist played that they burst into applause at the end of the first movement!

Robert Schumann was a composer who was born in 1810 in Germany. He was also a piano **virtuoso**, which means he was a VERY good piano player. He fell in love with his piano teacher's daughter, named Clara, and a lot of his music is dedicated to her.



The piece that you will hear tonight was written in 1845 and was Schumann's only Piano Concerto. People loved it right from the beginning, and it is one of the most played Piano Concerti that has every been written!



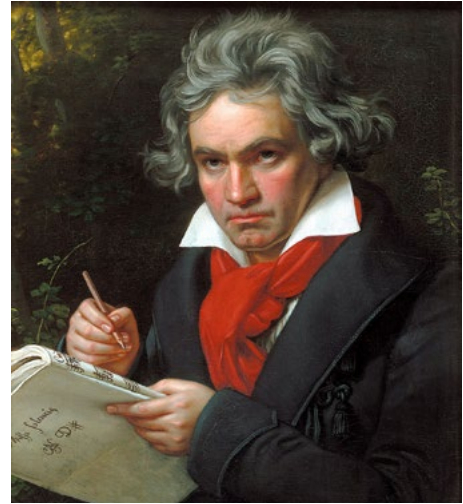
Tonight's soloist is **Orion Weiss**. He was raised in Ohio, and started playing piano when he was very young. He attended college at Juilliard, one of the best music schools that has every existed!

One time, a few years ago, a piano player got very sick and had to call out of a concert. Orion was asked to play the concert instead - ONE day before the concert! He played very well, and the orchestra asked him to play again. Make sure to give him a big round of applause tonight!

Symphony No. 7

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany, in 1770. He was an amazing pianist and composer who wrote many different types of music, including an opera, church masses, symphonies, and concerti. At the age of 28, he began to lose his hearing, and was almost completely deaf by age 44. Despite his hearing loss, he continued to write beautiful music that is still loved by many people today.

Tonight you are going to hear the 7th of his 9 symphonies, which Beethoven once said "...is one of my best works." It took him two years to write, and was finished in 1812, but played for the first time in public in 1813. Imagine each movement as a sort of dance - some are fast, some are slow, and some go back and forth between different speeds. The second movement is the most famous one - it has been played in many different movies during scenes when characters are sad.



Beethoven's Seventh Symphony movements:

1. Poco Sustainuto - Vivace

(Very long and sustained - then really fast)

2. Allegretto

(A little lively)

3. Presto Assai - Assai meno poco

(On the fast side - then get a little bit slower)

4. Allegro con brio

(Fast and with spirit)

A **symphony** is a 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!



A CLOSER LOOK:

What's a **COUNTERMELODY**?

A **countermelody** is a *melody* (the main, hummable tune of a piece of music) that is played at the same time as another melody. There is a very famous countermelody in the second movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. When the movement starts, you will hear the first melody played by the low strings (viola, cello, bass). It is very quiet. After they play through the melody the first time, some of the violins will play that first melody over again, while the violas and cello play the countermelody at the same time. After that, the melody and countermelody are passed around and played by many different instruments - listen for both of them throughout the movement!

Melody →  Counter melody

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 bassoons are on stage? _____
4. How many string instruments are on stage? _____
5. How many lights are hanging from the ceiling? _____

If you were writing a review of Orion Weiss' 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 Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7* performed piano (softly) or forte (loudly)?

Beginning of Movement:

End of Movement:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|
| I. Poco sostenuto | _____ | _____ |
| II. Allegretto | _____ | _____ |
| III. Presto | _____ | _____ |
| IV. Allegro con brio | _____ | _____ |

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