

THE CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS



By Camille Saint-Saëns

Symphonic Adventures Concerts



NEW WEST SYMPHONY
MICHAEL CHRISTIE | Music Director

30th Anniversary



Michael Christie,
conductor

Welcome to the Concert!

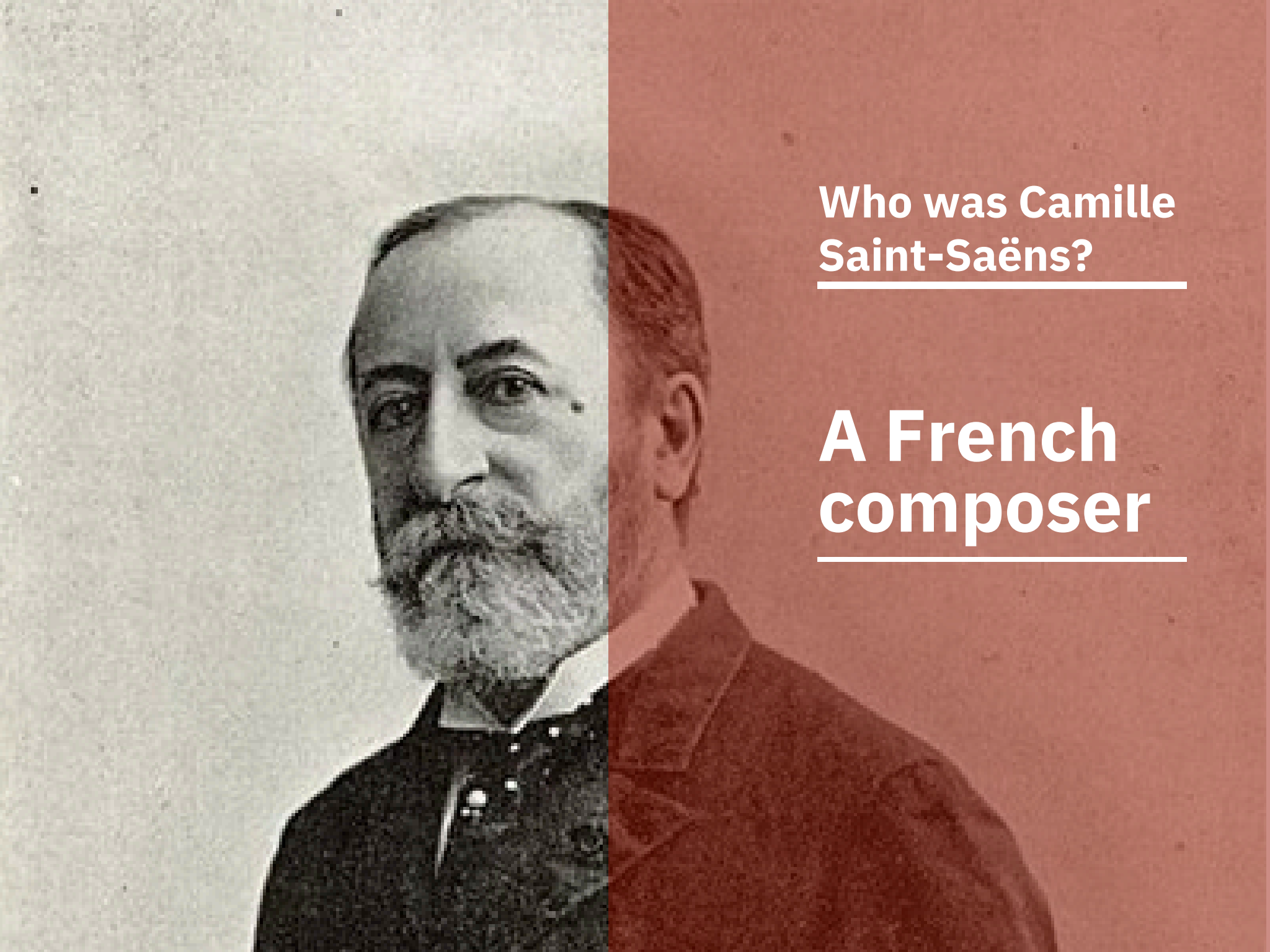
We're so excited to have you here for a special *wild*, interactive musical adventure! Each part of the music from *The Carnival of the Animals* represents a different animal. Listen closely and see if you can hear the lion's powerful roar, the swan's graceful glide, or the elephant's heavy footsteps!

Get ready to use your imagination as the orchestra brings these animals to life through music. Enjoy!

Guest Artists
The Vieness
Piano Duo



In The Carnival of the Animals, the pianos help bring the music to life! Our guest pianists work as a team, creating exciting rhythms and harmonies that make the animals sound real. Sometimes, they play together in perfect unison, and other times, they "talk" back and forth in a fun musical conversation. Their playing adds energy, contrast, and excitement, making this musical animal world even more fun to imagine!



Who was Camille Saint-Saëns?

A French composer

Camille Saint-Saëns (pronounced San-Sohns) was a French composer who loved music from a very young age. He was a child prodigy, meaning he could play and write music incredibly well even as a little boy! Born in 1835, he grew up to become one of the greatest musicians of his time, writing beautiful music for orchestras, operas, and even movies (before movies had sound!).

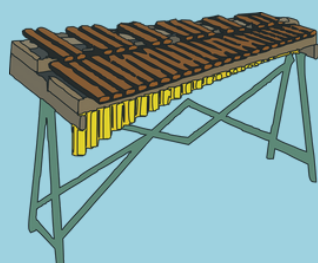
One of his most famous pieces is *The Carnival of the Animals*, a fun and playful set of short musical pieces inspired by different animals. Even though he first wrote it as a joke, Saint-Saëns worried that people wouldn't take him seriously as a composer if they heard it. He only allowed *The Swan*—the beautiful cello solo—to be performed while he was alive. Today *The Carnival of the Animals* is one of Saint-Saëns most beloved works, making people smile all over the world!



Each part of *The Carnival of the Animals* is called a movement—it's like a chapter in a book, but for music! There are 14 movements, and each one represents a different animal.

Listen carefully to each movement. Can you find the instrument in the picture above that is not played in *The Carnival of the Animals*?

Are there any other instruments you hear that are missing from the picture of the orchestra? Which movements feature these instruments?





Music Paints a Picture!

Music isn't just sounds—it can tell a story! Composers use different musical tools to make us feel emotions and imagine scenes, just like an artist uses colors to paint a picture.



Here are some of the Musical Terms

- Forte – Loud and bold, like a lion's roar



- Piano – Soft and gentle, like a turtle slowly walking



- Adagio – Slow and flowing, like a swan gliding on a lake



- Staccato – Short and bouncy, like a hopping kangaroo



Listen for these sounds! Can you hear how the music changes to match different animals?

Can you match these animals to the sound of the instruments?



As you listen, try to figure out which animal or sea creature is being played! Match the sound to one of the animals on the page.

Which instruments are playing:

- Deep, slow notes – A big, heavy animal
- High, bouncy notes – A fast, jumping animal
- Soft and smooth melody – A graceful, floating animal or sea creature

Listen for these animals	Which Instruments sound like each animal?
LION	
HEN	
TORTOISES	
ELEPHANT	
KANGAROO	
AQUARIUM	
SWAN	



How did you do?

Were you able to hear which movement Camille Saint-Saëns wrote (or composed) for each animal?

Let's describe some of the animals with the musical terms.

The Lion – Hear the bold, marching melody as the lion roars with the **forte** power and grandeur of a king played by the piano and strings.

The Rooster and Hens – The clucking and pecking are brought to life with bouncy, **staccato** rhythms, capturing the busy movement of a barnyard full of chickens.

The Tortoises – Slow and steady, the tortoises march along to a very familiar, **adagio** tune. **Do you recognize it?** It is a slow and humorous version of the famous "Can-Can" from Orpheus in the Underworld by Jacques Offenbach.

The Elephant – The deep, heavy tones of the double bass represent the mighty elephant stomping and swaying with a **grand forte** sound.

The Kangaroos – Quick and bouncy notes, played in a lively **allegro and staccato** style, make the kangaroos hop across the music with excitement!

The Aquarium – Magical, flowing sounds of the piano and strings take you underwater, with **legato** tones that mimic the gentle movement of fish swimming and bubbles rising. **Legato** means playing the notes smoothly and connected, without breaks in between.

The Swan – Did you hear the graceful, flowing notes of the cello? The soft, slow **adagio** melody beautifully captures the image of a swan gliding peacefully across a lake.

Other Animals in the Carnival – From donkeys braying to cuckoos calling, the music brings each animal's special sound to life through playful dynamics and rhythms!



Dear Educators and Chaperones, Thank you for helping to build the next generation of music lovers! Repeated exposure to great classical music nurtures a child's appreciation for creativity, expression, and excellence.

We hope you and your child enjoyed The Carnival of the Animals and had fun listening for the different musical clues that bring each creature to life. Music has the power to inspire imagination, spark curiosity, and create lasting memories!

Thank you for joining us today. We look forward to seeing you at our next year, where another exciting musical journey awaits!

Until then, keep listening, keep exploring, and let the music inspire you!

For updates, please visit
<https://newwestsymphony.org/music-education/symphonic-adventures/>

*Created for
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