



THE MOUNTAIN THAT LOVED A BIRD LEARNING GUIDE

MISSOULA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA YOUTH CONCERTS

Hello, students!

Here at the Missoula Symphony, we are working hard to get our Youth Concert ready for you. This Learning Guide is an introduction to what you will see, hear, and experience at the performance. You will **see** the musicians and their instruments, as well as the actors and their props and costumes. You will **hear** the music, the voice of our conductor and Music Director, Julia Tai, and the story told by our narrator and Theater Director, Rosie Ayers. You will **experience** a really fun, interactive show, designed just for you!

The Mountain that Loved a Bird is the main piece you will hear at the Symphony concert. The music was composed by Caroline Shaw, and it is based on the book by author Alice McLerran. You will also hear other pieces of music to help you learn about the instruments and the orchestra.

We are very excited that you are coming, and we are looking forward to sharing beautiful music with you!

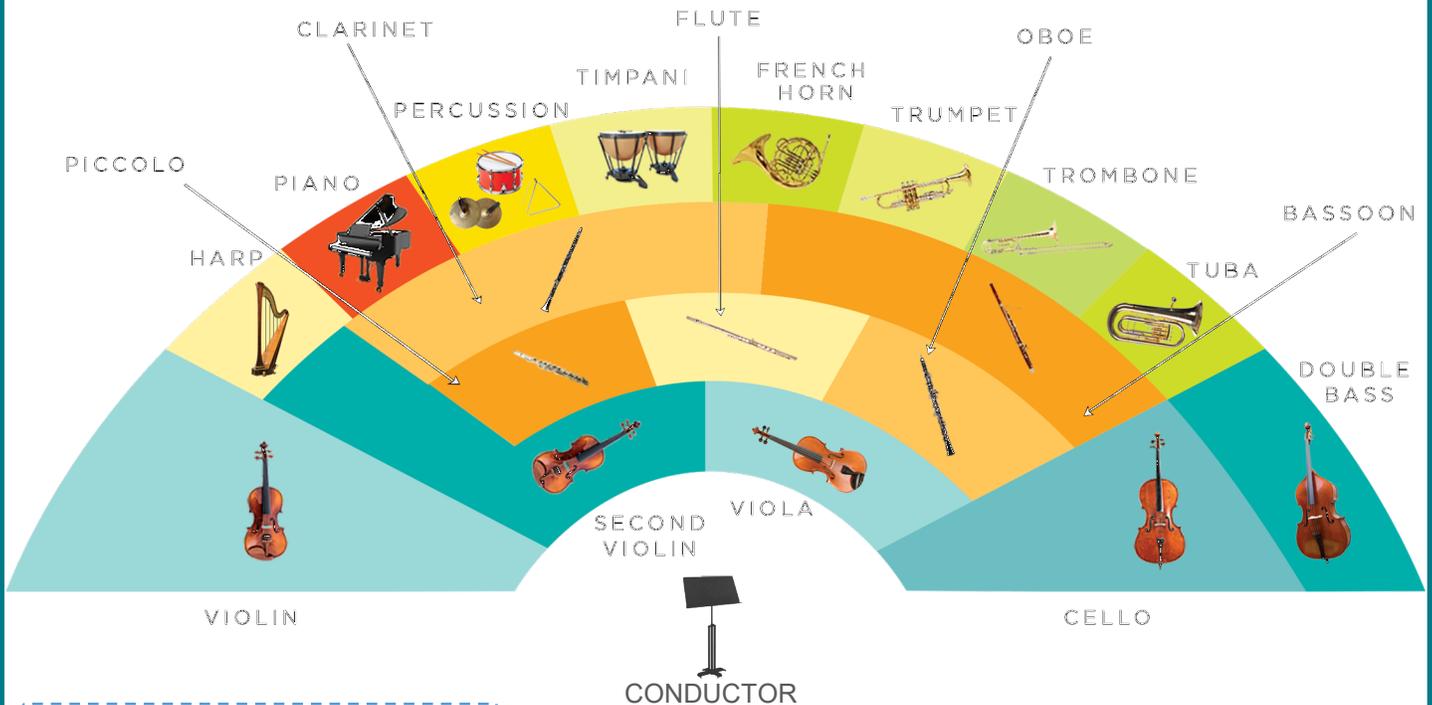
A Note to Teachers and Parents

There is a lot of information on the four pages of this Learning Guide! I have aimed to make it approachable by 4th grade students, but it would also be beneficial for students to read it with a teacher in the classroom and/or a parent at home. Even if you aren't able to cover all the material in class, please make special note of the section called "**How to Be a Good Audience Member.**" I hope this will help create the best possible experience for all who attend the concert.

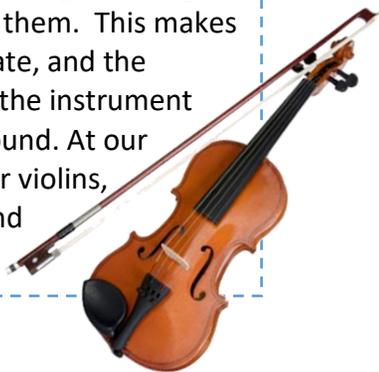
On behalf of the MSA staff and orchestra, I want to say a big "Thank You" you for making the extra effort to facilitate this musical experience for your students. We look forward to welcoming them to the Dennison Theatre very soon!

Sylvia Allen Oman
MSA Education Coordinator

A Symphony Orchestra is a group of musicians playing many different instruments. They all work together with the conductor to create beautiful music. When you watch the concert, look for these instruments on stage.



The String instruments are instruments with strings on them! They are played by either pulling a bow across the strings or using fingers to pluck them. This makes the strings vibrate, and the wooden box of the instrument amplifies the sound. At our concert, look for violins, violas, cellos, and double basses.



Percussion instruments are played by either striking (with hands, sticks or mallets), shaking, or scraping. Some percussion instruments, like the triangle, are non-pitched and are used for rhythms. Some percussion instruments, like the xylophone, are pitched and are used for melodies. The timpani is a pitched drum that uses a pedal to change pitches.



The Brass instruments at our concert will be trumpets, French horns, trombones and tubas. They are played by buzzing the lips into a cup-shaped mouthpiece attached to long pipes. To change pitches, the player uses their fingers to press valves that look like buttons—except for the trombone! This instrument uses a long slide to change pitches.



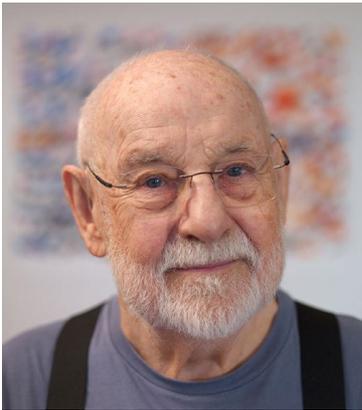
The Woodwind instruments include flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, and saxophones. Woodwind players blow into or across their instrument's mouthpiece while opening or closing the its holes with their fingers. Some woodwinds use a wooden reed on the mouthpiece. **PRO TIP:** Listen for the special note "A" that the oboe plays before the concert begins and you will see all the players tune their instruments.



Good To Know

the Author

Alice McLerran was an archeologist and an author of books for children. *The Mountain that Loved a Bird* was published in 1985 with illustrations by Eric Carle. Since then, the book has been translated into over 20 languages. It is well-loved by children and adults all over the world.



the Artist

Eric Carle was well-known and loved as a creator of picture books for young children. He illustrated more than seventy books, most of which he also wrote, and more than 152 million copies of his books have sold around the world.

Eric Carle created his artwork in collage technique, using hand-painted papers. He cut and layered them to form bright and cheerful images. At our concert, we will feature student artwork inspired by his creations.

the Music

Composer **Caroline Shaw** was paid to write a piece of music based on a children's book for the famous Carnegie Hall in New York City. She asked her friends about their favorite children's books, and one of them suggested *The Mountain that Loved a Bird*. After she read it, Caroline decided it was the perfect book for her project. Her piece was premiered at the Carnegie Hall Family Concert in October 2017.



the Composer



Caroline Shaw is a musician who tries to imagine a world of sound that has never been heard before but has always existed. She often works with others as a producer, composer, violinist, and vocalist.

Caroline is the recipient of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in Music, several Grammy awards, an honorary doctorate from Yale, and a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. She has worked with a range of artists including Rosalía, Renée Fleming, and Yo-Yo Ma. She has contributed music to films and tv series including *Fleishman is in Trouble*, Beyoncé's *Homecoming*, Dolly Parton's *America*, and *More Perfect*.

Caroline's favorite color is yellow, and her favorite smell is rosemary.



A Word from our Theater Director

This is a story of a Mountain who was very lonely. This loneliness is lifted when a Bird visits the Mountain, but the Mountain becomes deeply sad and full of grief when the bird is gone.

Art, Music, and Creative Movement help us to immediately understand the feelings in this story and how they relate to times we have felt loneliness, grief, comfort, and joy. **Being able to understand and share the feelings of another's experiences (or story) is called *empathy*.**

Music and performance are the most direct vehicles of empathy; we are called to empathy through storytelling. In relating to the deep grief and sadness in this story, we also get to be reminded that the joy of living is always present, even during the greatest loneliness in our lives. We hope you find light and hope through this beautiful piece as well.

Rosie Ayers, Theatre Director & Teaching Artist

You are almost ready to join us at the Symphony!
There is just one more, very important, thing that you need to know:

How to Be a Good Audience Member

Before You Take Your Seat:

- Take care of all restroom needs.
- Leave all food, drink, and gum outside the concert hall.
- Leave all cameras and recording devices outside the hall as well.
- Turn off all cell phones, watch sounds, alarms, or anything that might make a noise.

Once You Take Your Seat

- Think about things you learned at school before the concert.
- Show appreciation by clapping when the concertmaster enters to tune the orchestra, and clap again when the conductor enters the stage.
- Watch the conductor carefully to see the cues she gives the orchestra to get them to play the music they have rehearsed.
- Remain seated and quiet while the musicians are playing so you don't distract your neighbors or the performers on stage.
- Show your appreciation by clapping at the end of the performance.

