



# HARRY POTTER AND HIS MAGICAL ORCHESTRA JOURNEY

## LEARNING GUIDE

### MISSOULA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA—2024 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 Sorcerer's Apprentice* is one piece you will hear, as well as the music that John Williams composed for the movie *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Through it all, you will learn about the orchestra and its instruments. We are very excited that you are coming, and we are looking forward to sharing beautiful music with you!

On the next page of this Guide, you will learn about the symphony and its instrument families. If an orchestra was to be divided into the Houses of Hogwarts, these would be...

**Hufflepuff:** Loyal, Hardworking, Humble—The String Family

**Gryffindor:** Brave, Daring, Adventurous—The Brass Family

**Ravenclaw:** Intelligent, Creative, Intuitive—The Woodwind Family

**Slytherin:** Resourceful, Ambitious, Focused—The Percussion Family

Keep reading to discover the magical world of the orchestra and its instruments!

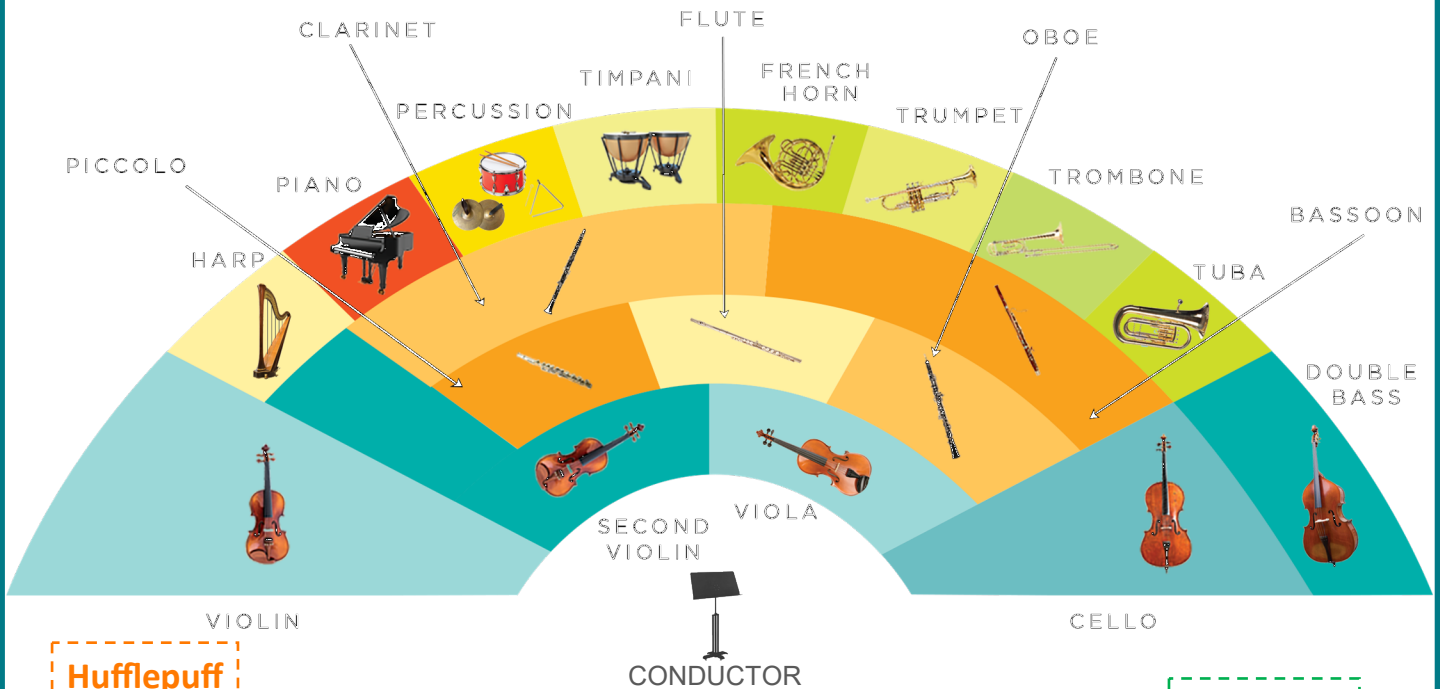
### A Note to Teachers and Parents

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!

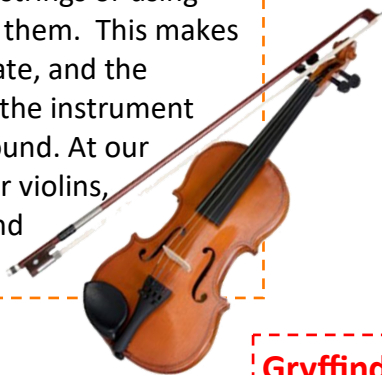
*Sylvia Allen Oman, MSA Education Coordinator*

**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.



**Hufflepuff**

**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.



**Gryffindor**

**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.



**Slytherin**

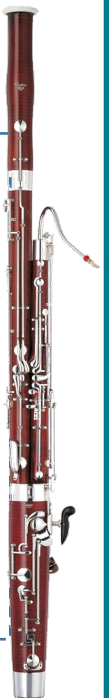
**Percussion instruments** are played by either striking (with hands, sticks or mallets), shaking, or scraping. Some percussion instruments, like the triangle, are non-pitched and are used for rhythms. Some percussion instruments, like the xylophone, are pitched and are used for melodies. The timpani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



**Ravenclaw**

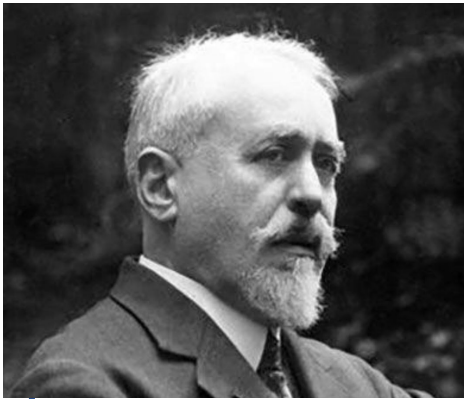
**The Woodwind instruments**

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.



## the Composers

A composer is someone who writes (composes) music. Some composers work by writing music down on paper; this is called 'written notation'. Classical music writers work this way. Writers for TV and movie music also usually write this way, so that an orchestra or other players can read the music and play it.



## The Sorcerer's Apprentice

**Paul Dukas** was born in Paris, France in 1865. "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" was his most famous piece, but he composed other works for orchestra, including a symphony. He also wrote pieces for solo piano, and he composed music for a ballet and an opera. He was a very harsh critic of his own work. Before his death in 1935, he destroyed many pieces he didn't feel were good enough for anyone else to hear or perform.

Throughout his career, Dukas worked as a music critic, writing reviews of performances and pieces for multiple publications. Later in his life, Dukas taught music composition at the prestigious Paris Conservatory. Some of his students became well-known composers, including Maurice Duruflé, Olivier Messiaen, Manuel Ponce, and Joaquín Rodrigo. Through his teaching and relationships with many different composers, he had a great influence on the future of French music.

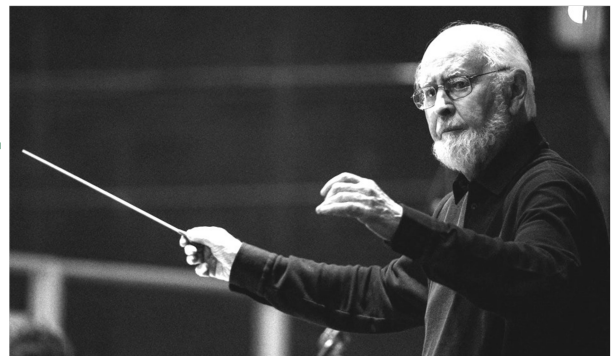
## Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

**John Williams** is the most well-known living composer of film music, and he has received more Oscar nominations than any other man now alive.

Williams was born in Queens, New York in 1932. He moved to Los Angeles when he was 16 years old. After serving in the Air Force, Williams returned to New York to study piano at the famed Juilliard School. While there, he worked as a jazz pianist, both in nightclubs and on recordings. After college, he went back to Los Angeles to begin his career in the film industry. Since that time, he has composed music for over 100 movies and over 200 television episodes. A few famous movies that feature music by Williams are *Star Wars*, *Superman*, and *Home Alone*.

Williams was not originally invited to compose the score for *The Sorcerer's Stone*, but he was asked to write something to accompany a short video promoting the film. That short piece turned out to be "Hedwig's Theme." It was immediately so well-liked that Williams was asked to write the rest of the score for the movie, as well as for the next two Harry Potter movies. "Hedwig's Theme" was used in all the other Harry Potter movies, too.

When you hear "Hedwig's Theme" listen for the celeste, a percussion instrument that looks like a small piano but has a bell-like sound. That unique sound helps make both the music and the movie feel whimsical and magical.



a celeste



## A Word from our Theatre Director

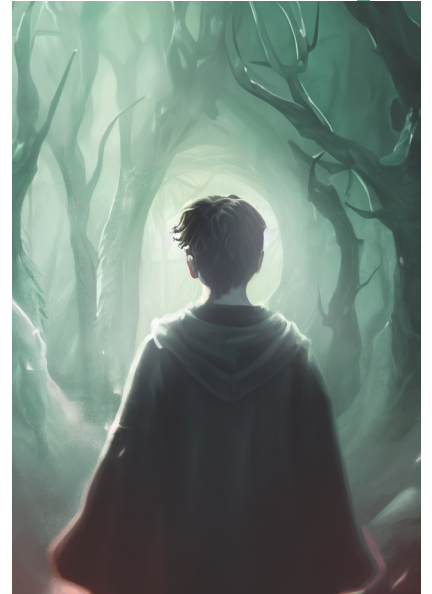
This year we are exploring stories of magic and connection. Through the magical landscape of the symphony music, our main character realizes they are never alone even when they have to face things by themselves.

As we travel through the music to another world, each task completed shows that our main character, Harry, conquering their fears by identifying positive skills and growing towards collaboration to learn new skills they don't have yet.

Learning how to ask our friends to help encourages us to grow in our strengths. We can always tap into the love and knowledge of those who care for us whether they are from our past and gone now or if they are just out of sight for the moment.

Harry finds how to be Loyal, Brave, use their Intelligence, and be Resourceful through this musical adventure, reminding us all that we can do hard things together, even when we are afraid!

*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 members 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.