





## Welcome to the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra!

**Hello!** We're so excited to have you here today! Classical music is full of beautiful and expressive sounds made up of pieces that may tell stories or paint pictures in your mind, all without words. Some pieces are hundreds of years old, and some are brand new – **can you try to guess which pieces are which?**

**The Instruments:** Classical music is performed by an **orchestra**. An orchestra has groupings of musicians who play different instruments that work together to create incredible sounds together.

 <p><b>STRING INSTRUMENTS</b> HAND DRAWN VECTOR SET</p>	<p><b>Strings:</b> These instruments (violins, violas, cellos, and basses) make smooth sounds when a bow touches its strings. These strings can also be plucked with a finger to make a fun <b>*plink – plonk*</b> sound.</p>
 <p><b>WOODWIND INSTRUMENTS</b></p>	<p><b>Woodwinds:</b> Ever heard a flute or clarinet? They join the oboes, bassoons, and saxophones as part of the <i>woodwind</i> family. They can make soft and breathy sounds, something like birds singing – <b>can you listen for the woodwind singing tones?</b></p>
 <p><b>BRASS INSTRUMENTS</b></p>	<p><b>Brass:</b> Trumpets, trombones, tubas, and French horns can make <b>BIG</b> sounds. They're the superheroes of the orchestra! <b>Listen for a sound that's smooth like a slide or booming like a king's fanfare.</b> <i>Announcing the king and queen!</i></p>
 <p><b>PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS</b> HAND DRAWN VECTOR SET</p>	<p><b>Percussion:</b> From the big bang of the timpani, to the tiny tinkle of the triangle, these instruments add rhythm and excitement – <b>can you listen for the heartbeat of the whole orchestra?</b></p>

## Concert Etiquette Tips (That's a Fancy Way of Saying "Concert Manners")

1. **Sit back and listen:** Classical music concerts are all about *listening* carefully. There are lots of details in the music, so try to quietly focus and enjoy the different sounds. Pay attention to all that you can see and hear. ***Can you find your favorite instrument out of the orchestra and watch carefully to see if you can hear the sounds it makes within the whole group?***
2. **Applause time!:** It's fun to clap, but in classical music, we wait until the music **STOPS**. Everyone will then **clap together** when the conductor puts their hands down.
3. **Quiet as a mouse:** While the music is playing, let's all be super quiet with our mouths and bodies. This way, everyone who comes to the concert can hear and see everything clearly.
4. **Get comfy:** Bring a cozy sweater in case the concert hall might feel chilly. It's okay to adjust your body quietly in your seat if you need to.

**What You'll Hear During the Concert:** Each piece of music you hear might make you feel something different. One moment you might feel happy, the next, you might feel like you're in a magical forest or even on a daring adventure!

### Did You Know? Fun Facts:

- **Did you know** the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is **81 years old**?
- **Did you know** our conductor, Jim Ross (the person waving a stick in front of the orchestra), helps everyone play together by keeping the beat with his arms and hands – ***can you notice any patterns he makes?***
- **Did you know** classical music has been around for over **300 years** and comes from many different countries?

**Fun Challenge:** ***As you listen, try to quietly imagine a story that matches the music. Are you in a castle? Twirling through a meadow? Flying with dragons? Racing through a forest? Let your imagination fly and tell us what you come up with as you leave the performance.***

**We're So Glad You're Here!** We hope you enjoy the concert and discover the magic of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. After today, you'll surely have become a concert pro! We hope you'll consider joining us next time!

**Now Let's Get Ready to Listen and Have Fun**