

Symphony for the Schools

We're Going to the Symphony!

Educator's Guide



the phoenix symphony



Arizona Academic Content Standards

The Symphony for the Schools concert experience and accompanying Study Guides meet numerous Arizona Academic Core Content Standards.

Look for the red apple within Study Guides to easily locate the standards.

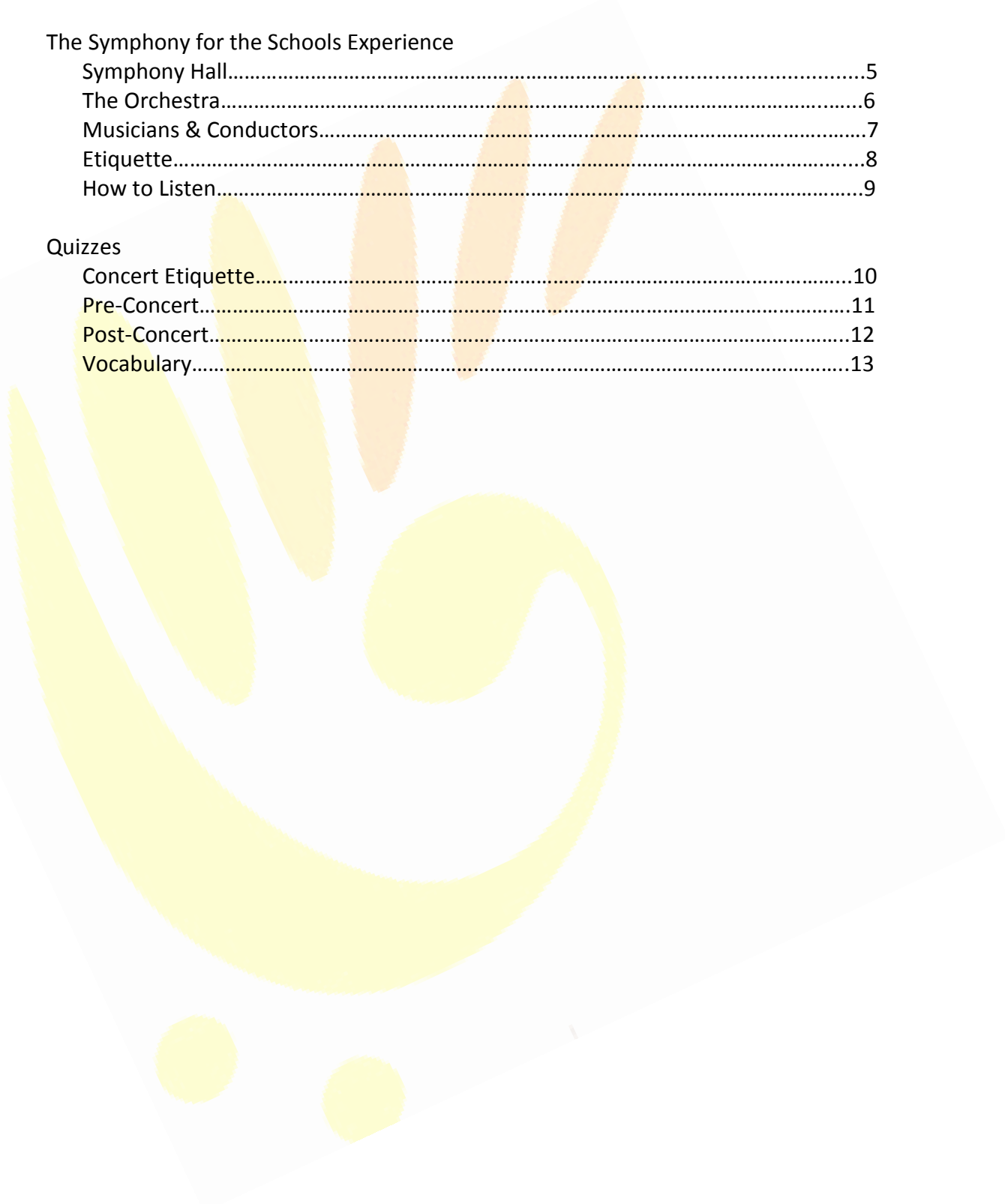
Standards met in *We're Going to the Symphony* are as follows:

MUSIC

Strand 2; Concept 2 PO 1
Strand 2; Concept 2 PO 2
Strand 3; Concept 2 PO 1
Strand 3; Concept 2 PO 2

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For Teachers: How to Use This Guide

For many students, attending a Phoenix Symphony concert will be a new and exciting experience. *We're Going to the Symphony* provides educators with basic information on how to prepare students to make the most of their Symphony visit.

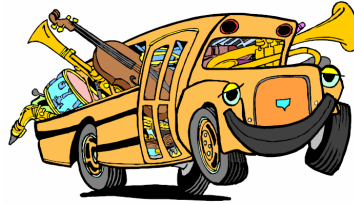
Included, you will find:

- Vocabulary words underlined to broaden student understanding of musical terms
- Information on Symphony Hall
- Descriptions of the instruments they will hear
- Descriptions of the people (musicians and conductors) they will encounter
- Concert etiquette information
- Tips on active listening
- Three quizzes:
 - Concert etiquette quiz
 - Pre-test on musical terms
 - Post-test on musical terms
- A glossary of vocabulary words used in this guide

More in-depth musical knowledge and connections to math, science, language arts and other content areas may be found in the Curriculum Resource area of The Phoenix Symphony's website.



The Symphony for the Schools Experience



Preparing for the Journey

The best kind of audience is an informed audience. The following section will help you and your students get the most out of your trip to Symphony Hall. Please access our *Music 101* and *Classroom Activities* resources for additional instructional ideas.

WHERE ARE WE GOING? To Symphony Hall!

Symphony Hall is the home of The Phoenix Symphony. Since the doors first opened in 1972, millions of people have crossed its welcoming threshold to enjoy the wonders of live music in the 2,312 seat auditorium.



Symphony Hall also features an art collection of international significance. The pieces are all gifts from interested and generous residents of Phoenix and include:

- Venetian Light Sculptures - Hand-blown glass chandeliers designed by Robert Weymers of Beverly Hills, CA and created on the Venetian island of Murano.
- Four Tapestries - Each 20 feet long and 8 feet wide. Designed by David Chethlahe Paladin of Prescott, AZ. Woven of Argentine wool by artisans at Teji dos Artisticos in Mexico City, representing a renewal of understanding of the interlocking elements of two cultures.



WHAT WILL WE SEE? The ORCHESTRA!

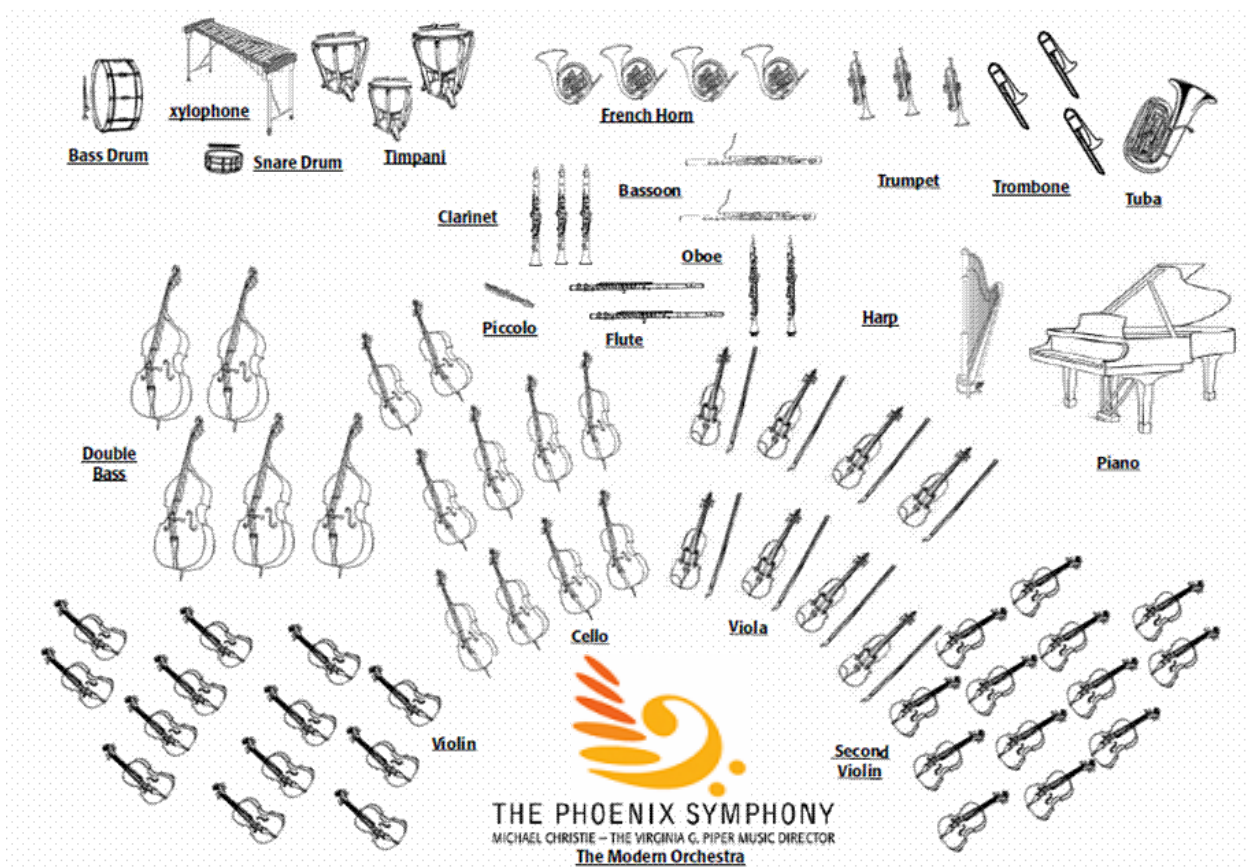
The Phoenix Symphony is an orchestra. An orchestra is a group of musicians combining string, woodwind, brass, and percussion sections. The instrument families include:

The String Family: *Violin, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass*

The Woodwind Family: *Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, and Bassoon*

The Brass Family: *French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, and Tuba*

The Percussion Family: *Timpani, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Xylophone, and more*



For more in-depth information on each instrument family, please consult the *Music 101* guide in the Curriculum Resource area.

WHO WILL WE SEE? MUSICIANS & CONDUCTORS!

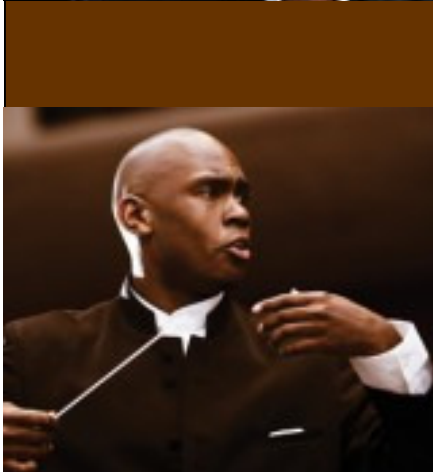
The **Musicians** of the Phoenix Symphony, like other national symphony orchestras, are



professional performers, which means they get paid to play! Many start playing when they are very young and practice throughout their lives, earning college or conservatory degrees before auditioning for symphony orchestras across the United States and the world. When they are not playing at Symphony Hall, they are constantly attending rehearsals and playing concerts at events all over the area.

The Conductor

The Phoenix Symphony, like many other professional orchestras throughout the world, has more than one **conductor**. A **conductor** leads the orchestra by giving the musicians **cues** such as how fast or slow to play, or how loud or soft. He or she is a very important member in the orchestra, as the conductor's responsibilities include rehearsing, choosing music for concerts, making musical decisions, and bringing together the instruments to make music. The conductor of The Phoenix Symphony's *Symphony for the Schools* Concerts is Joseph Young.



As the **Resident Conductor** for the Phoenix Symphony, Mr. Young is in charge of programming, rehearsing and conducting the Pops and Family concerts, the Symphony for the Schools education concerts, and classroom concerts. He is from Goose Creek, SC. He started playing the trumpet in 6th grade. The first time he saw a symphony orchestra perform was when he was 16. It was after witnessing that performance that he decided to become a conductor.

HOW DO WE BEHAVE? WITH PROPER ETIQUETTE!

You Are Part of the Concert!

Etiquette is a big word that means “manners.” Just about everyone at a concert has a certain set of “manners” to follow. The musicians on stage have a certain set of rules they follow, even down to their clothing so that they all look as if they are part of one large instrument—the orchestra! They take direction from their leader, the concertmaster, so they know when to sit and stand, and when to tune their instruments. The audience needs to practice good manners too as every noise you make can be heard by the musicians on stage and the people sitting around you. Symphony concerts are much different from rock concerts or sporting events and require you to know some specific concert manners. In order to make a concert enjoyable for everyone, here are some tips to remember:



Enter and leave Symphony Hall with your own group. Please walk! Follow the Usher's instructions and look for your color path.



An Usher will guide you to your seat. The lights will dim when it is time for the concert to start. Sit quietly so everyone can hear the music. The Concertmaster will enter to tune the orchestra. (You may clap, but be very quiet when she or he turns to face the orchestra.)



Sit quietly, watching for the conductor to enter. When the conductor appears on stage, start clapping to show your appreciation.



During the concert while the conductor is standing on the podium, sit quietly and keep your hands to yourself. Watch the musicians and listen to the beautiful sounds of The Phoenix Symphony.



Clap after each musical number, when the conductor drops her or his hands and steps off the podium. Tip: Clap loudly for the wonderful music you just heard. It makes the musicians feel really good.



After the concert: Listen for instructions to return to your bus. Leave the concert hall quietly. When you return to school, discuss your thoughts and feelings with your friends, classmates and teachers. Send a thank-you to **The Phoenix Symphony**.



HOW TO LISTEN TO AN ORCHESTRA

The listener's job is primarily to enjoy and appreciate the music of various composers, conductors and musicians. Music has the ability to create and inspire emotions, memories and images in each individual listener. A musical experience constantly changes as the music moves just like the colors in a kaleidoscope.

As you listen to music, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Does this piece of music tell a story? If so, what is it?
2. If it is not telling a story, then what do you think the composer was thinking about when he or she wrote the music?
3. Which instrument families are playing during a piece of music?
4. What kind of adjectives can you think of to describe the music?
5. What is the mood of the music? How does it make you feel?
6. Does any of the music repeat itself or is it constantly something new?
7. What are the tempo and dynamics of the music?
8. How does the music make you feel?

The audience can also use their eyes to help their ears listen. Try the following tips to make your listening experience more interesting:

1. Try watching individual players and picking out their sounds from other players around them.
2. Notice how the front string players for each section (violins, violas, cellos, and bass) lead their sections by the body movements they make.
3. Percussionists add interesting effects and sounds to the music. They sometimes hold their instruments up so you can see and hear them better.
4. What else do you notice about the orchestra using your eyes and ears?

Concert Etiquette Quiz

This quiz will reinforce for students how to properly behave during a live concert.

1. You should enter the auditorium

- a. As loudly as possible
- b. Quietly
- c. Walking backwards

2. When the conductor enters, you should

- a. Scream his or her name
- b. Wave and try to get his or her attention
- c. Clap to show your appreciation

3. During the concert, it is a good idea to

- a. Discuss the performance
- b. Sit quietly and listen
- c. Eat dinner

4. You should applaud

- a. After each number when the conductor steps off the podium
- b. Whenever you want
- c. Only at the very end of the concert

5. You should use the restroom

- a. Before the concert begins
- b. Frequently throughout the concert
- c. Every time the orchestra plays a new piece

6. While listening to the orchestra you should

- a. Chew gum
- b. Put your feet on the back of the seats
- c. Think about how the music makes you feel

Answers:

- 1. B
- 2. C
- 3. B
- 4. A
- 5. A
- 6. C

Pre-Concert Quiz

Administer this quiz to students to measure their music knowledge prior to attending the concert. Use the embedded concepts as a teaching tool to enhance student understanding about the different aspects of the orchestra.

1. A clarinet is a member of which instrument family?

- a. percussion
- b. woodwinds
- c. strings

2. The dynamics of the music refers to

- a. the title of the piece
- b. how loud or soft the music is being played
- c. whether or not you're having a good time

3. An orchestra is

- a. a group of musicians made up of strings, woodwind, brass & percussion
- b. a rock band
- c. a choir

4. The conductor's job includes

- a. giving the orchestra cues on when to play
- b. giving the musicians a ride to the concert
- c. writing all of the music for the concert

5. Tempo refers to

- a. how fast or slow the music is going
- b. how loud or soft the music is playing
- c. the podium the conductor stands on

6. A composer is the person who

- a. shows you to your seat
- b. warms up the orchestra
- c. creates and writes all of the music for the concert

Answers:

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. A
- 4. A
- 5. A
- 6. C

Post-Concert Quiz

Administer this quiz to students after you return from the Symphony to reinforce what was learned as a result of the experience. Compare scores with the Pre-Concert Quiz to measure growth in musical concepts and vocabulary.

- 1. A violin is a member of which instrument family?**
 - a. percussion
 - b. woodwinds
 - c. strings
- 2. The mood of the music refers to**
 - a. the title of the piece
 - b. how the music makes you feel
 - c. whether or not you have good seats
- 3. The conductor's name is**
 - a. Bruce Pulk
 - b. Damien Shindelman
 - c. Joseph Young
- 4. The conductor's job includes**
 - a. giving the orchestra cues on when to play
 - b. giving the musicians a ride to the concert
 - c. writing all of the music for the concert
- 5. Tempo refers to**
 - a. how fast or slow the music is going
 - b. how loud or soft the music is playing
 - c. the podium the conductor stands on
- 6. A composer is the person who**
 - a. showed you to your seat
 - b. warms up the orchestra
 - c. creates and writes all of the music for the concert

Answers:

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. C

VOCABULARY WORDS

Concertmaster: the first-chair first violinist who sits next to the conductor's podium and serves as the representative of all the orchestra's members

Conductor: the director of the orchestra in charge of rehearsing, choosing music, and giving cues to the musicians while they play

Composers: a person that writes music

Cue: a signal or gesture from the conductor that tells the musicians how or when to play

Dynamics: how loud or soft the music is played

Instrument Families: groups of instruments based on the way they make a sound

Mood: the general feeling that the music gives you

Orchestra: a group of musicians divided into string, woodwind, brass, and percussion sections

Professional Musician: someone who is paid to play music

Tempo: how fast or slow the music is going

Thanks for coming to Symphony Hall!



For questions about The Phoenix Symphony's education programs, please contact Kim Leavitt, Director of Education at (602)452-0470 or kleavitt@phoenixsymphony.org

