

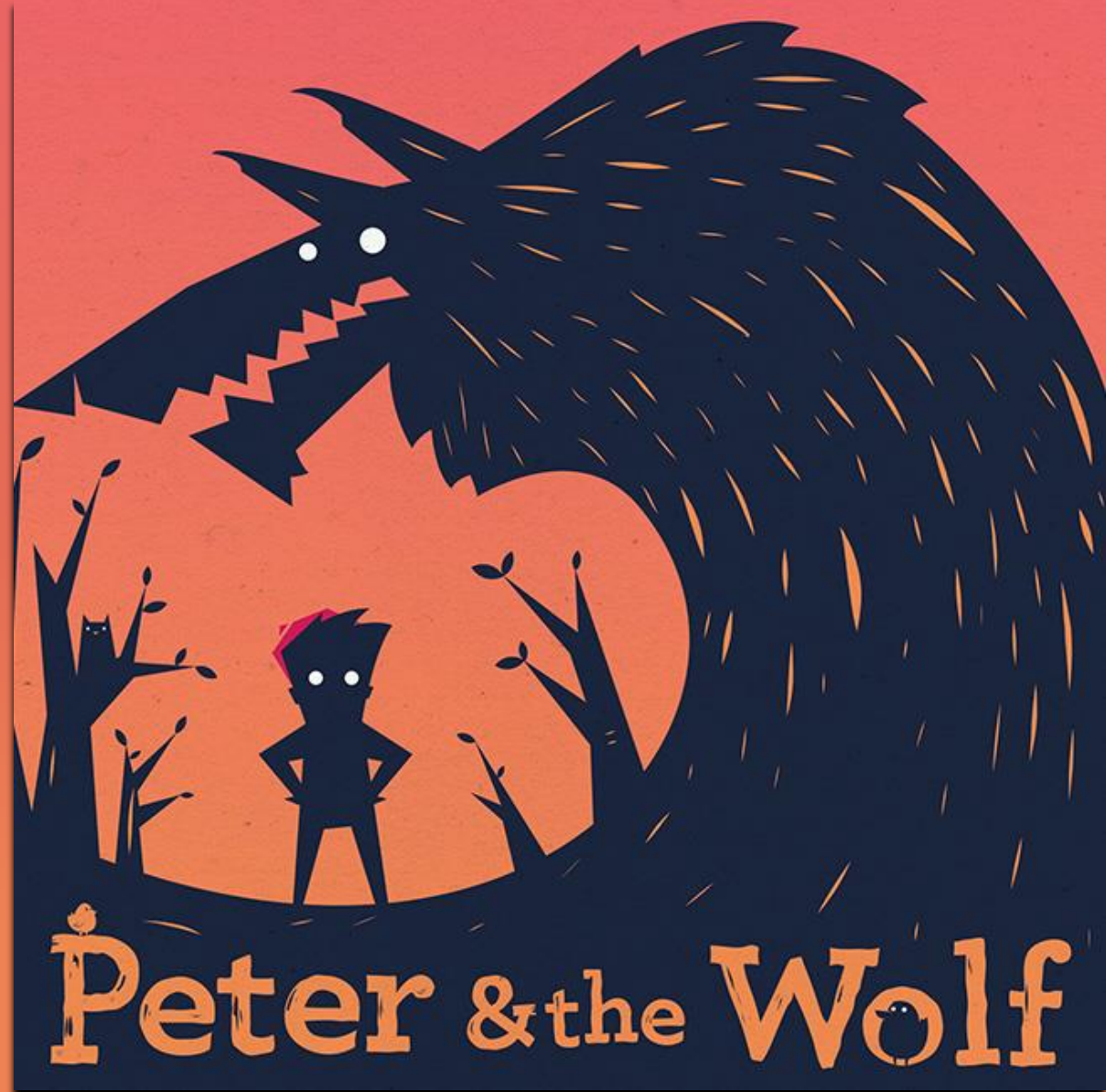


QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
CONNECT

PETER AND THE WOLF

Education Resource

Please click [here](#) for QSO's digital concert recording of Peter and the Wolf



THE STORY OF **PETER** AND THE **WOLF**

BY **SERGEI PROKOFIEV**



*Early one morning,
Peter opened the gate
and walked out into the big green meadow.*



MEET THE CHARACTERS – PETER IS PORTRAYED BY THE STRING FAMILY

MEET THE INSTRUMENTS – STRING FAMILY

Peter is represented by the string family - the violin, viola, cello and double bass. The string family is the largest section of the orchestra and they sit at the front. All the instruments are made of wood and have four strings, but they are different sizes and have different ranges of sounds.

The violin is the *smallest* and *highest* sounding of the instruments. The viola is **LARGER** and, like the violin, is held under the chin. The cello is **LARGER STILL** and sits on the floor in front of the player. The double bass is the **LARGEST** and makes the *deepest* sounds. The player stands or sits on a high stool to play.



Violin

Viola



Cello



Double Bass

MEET THE MUSICIANS – STRING FAMILY



Natsuko Yoshimoto
Violin
Concertmaster



Go to 02:55 in the [digital concert](#)
to hear Peter's theme



Phoebe Russell
Double Bass



Martin Alexander
Viola



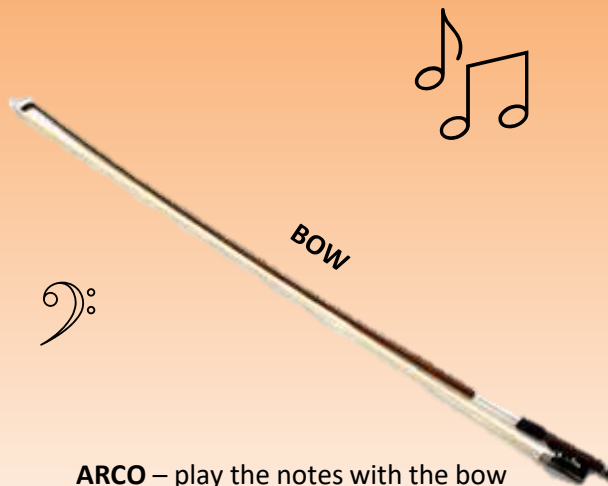
Hyung Suk-Bae
Cello

MEET THE MUSIC – PETER’S THEME

A **bow** is made of horsehair and stretched *tightly* on a wooden frame. It is drawn across the strings to make sounds.

The strings can also be *plucked* with your fingers.

The **vibration** of the strings makes the sounds.



Natalie Low
Violin

ARCO – play the notes with the bow

PIZZICATO – pluck the strings with your fingers

Andantino ♩ = 92

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a series of eighth notes with accents. A crescendo hairpin leads to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second staff continues the melody with various dynamics, including a decrescendo hairpin leading to a *dim.* (diminuendo) dynamic. The piece concludes with a fermata over a final note.

PETER AND THE WOLF CONTINUED



On a branch of a big tree sat a little bird,
Peter's friend.

"All is quiet" chirped the bird happily.



Go to 01:04 in the [digital concert](#)
to hear the bird's theme

MEET THE CHARACTERS – THE BIRD IS PORTRAYED BY A FLUTE

MEET THE INSTRUMENTS – THE FLUTE AND PICCOLO



Hayley Radke
Flute

The flute is one of the earliest types of musical instruments.

The sound is produced by blowing air across an opening and different notes are achieved by pressing fingers over holes along the length of the instrument.

The flute has **keys**, which cover the holes.

In the orchestra, the flute is a member of the **WOODWIND FAMILY**.

Other members of the **WOODWIND** family are the **PICCOLO, OBOE, CLARINET** and **BASSOON**.



Kate Lawson
Piccolo

The **piccolo** is *half* the size of the flute and plays one octave *higher*.

The piccolo and flute are played with the same fingerings.

MEET THE MUSIC – BIRD'S THEME



Ledger lines – notes written higher than the staff.

Tempo(speed)
Lively and fast.

Allegro ♩ = 176

A musical score for a piece titled 'Bird's Theme'. The score is written in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* and a tempo marking of **Allegro** with a quarter note equal to 176 beats per minute. The first staff contains a measure with a first ending bracket labeled '2' and a triplet of eighth notes. The second staff features a triplet of eighth notes and a grace note. The third staff consists of eighth notes with slurs. The fourth staff shows a long melodic line with slurs and a final measure with a fermata. The score is annotated with orange arrows pointing to specific musical features.

Grace note
is a music
ornament.

PETER AND THE WOLF CONTINUED

Just then, a duck came waddling round.

She was glad that Peter had not closed the gate and decided to take a nice swim in the deep pond in the meadow.

Seeing the duck, the little bird flew down upon on the grass, settled next to her and shrugged his shoulders.

"What kind of bird are you if you can't fly?" said he.

To this, the duck replied "What kind of bird are you if you can't swim?" and dived into the pond.



MEET THE CHARACTERS – THE DUCK IS PORTRAYED BY THE OBOE

MEET THE INSTRUMENT – OBOE

The oboe is a member of the the **WOODWIND FAMILY**.

The oboe is made of wood and has a conical bore and a flared bell. Holes which are covered by metal keys are pressed with the fingers to lengthen or shorten the instrument to change the pitch.

The mouthpiece is a double reed and sound is made by blowing into the reed so that both pieces of reed are vibrating. The reed is made of cane.



Huw Jones
Oboe

The orchestra tunes to the oboe.

At the beginning of a live concert, you will hear the oboe set the note first and all the other instruments will match the pitch perfectly.



Oboe reed



Oboe

MEET THE MUSIC – DUCK’S THEME



A grace note is a music ornament. Grace notes do not add to the rhythmic count of the bar and can be interpreted in various ways.

Find all the grace notes in this excerpt.

Go to 01:16 in the [digital concert](#) to hear the duck’s theme



6

mf espress.

dim.

p

PETER AND THE WOLF CONTINUED

They argued and argued, the duck swimming in the pond and the little bird hopping along the shore.

Suddenly, something caught Peter's attention.
He noticed a cat crawling through the grass.

The cat thought; "That little bird is busy arguing, I'll just grab him.

Stealthily, the cat crept towards him on her velvet paws. "Look out!" shouted Peter and the bird immediately flew up into the tree, while the duck quacked angrily at the cat, from the middle of the pond.

The cat walked around the tree and thought,
"Is it worth climbing up so high?
By the time I get there the bird will have flown away."



MEET THE CHARACTERS – THE CAT IS PORTRAYED BY THE CLARINET

MEET THE INSTRUMENT – CLARINET

The clarinet is a member of the **WOODWIND FAMILY**.

The instrument is made of wood, although many students play clarinets made of a very hard plastic.

The clarinet has a cylindrical bore, meaning that the hole through the centre of the instrument is the same size at the top as at the bottom. A flared bell is at the end of the instrument to spread the sound.

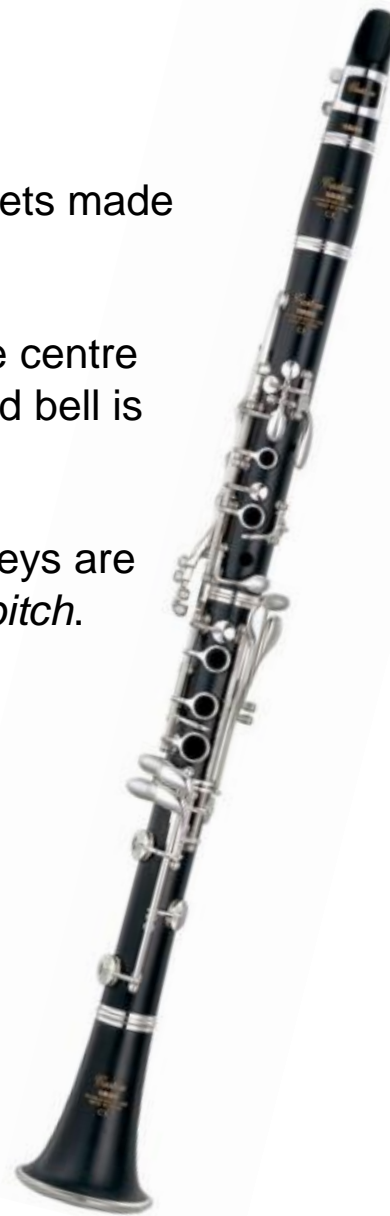
Holes along the length of the clarinet are covered with keys. When keys are closed, the length of the instrument changes and this changes the *pitch*.



The **clarinet mouthpiece** is made of a single reed, made of cane.

The reed is attached to the mouthpiece by a metal ligature.

When air is blown **between** the reed and the wooden mouthpiece, the reed *vibrates* and the sound is made.



MEET THE INSTRUMENT – CAT’S THEME



Go to 01:37 in the [digital concert](#) to hear the cat's theme



Irit Silver Clarinet



Ledger lines – notes written lower than the staff.

Moderato

A musical score for a clarinet, consisting of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time and marked 'Moderato'. The score includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings like 'v' (accents). An orange arrow points from the 'Ledger lines' text to the first few notes on the top staff, which are written below the bottom line of the staff.

Staccato – play short and detached



PETER AND THE WOLF CONTINUED

Just then, grandfather came outside.

He was upset because Peter had gone in the meadow.

"It's a dangerous place. If a wolf should come out of the forest,
then what would you do?"

But Peter paid no attention to his grandfather's words.

Boys like him are not afraid of wolves.

But grandfather took Peter by the hand,
led him home and locked the gate.



MEET THE CHARACTERS – GRANDFATHER IS PORTRAYED BY THE BASSOON

MEET THE INSTRUMENT – BASSOON

The **bassoon** is the lowest and largest member of the woodwind family and is a **double** reed instrument like the **oboe** and **cor anglais**.

The bassoon is usually made of wood and has a metal crook (tube) coming from the instrument. The mouthpiece is placed on the end of the crook.

The sound made by a bassoon is *low* and **dark** but the instrument can also play high notes. The player covers the holes using the keys to make the different sounds.



The **bassoon mouthpiece** is a larger version of the oboe's double reed. Two pieces of cane are held together and when air is blown through the reed vibrates.



Nicole Tait
Bassoon

MEET THE MUSIC – GRANFATHER’S THEME

Go to 02:03 in the [digital concert](#) to hear Grandfather’s theme

Tempo (speed) - a little quicker than walking pace

Bass Clef

Poco piu andante

15

Style direction - heavy and ponderous.

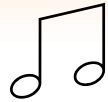
Accent – make the note stronger.

The musical score is written on two staves in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and includes a measure with a fermata. It features a triplet of eighth notes and a triplet of quarter notes. The second staff starts with a dynamic marking of *energico* and includes a fermata. The score is annotated with various performance directions and articulations.

energico

Style direction - energetically

pesante



PETER AND THE WOLF CONTINUED

No sooner had Peter gone,
than a big grey wolf came out of the forest.

In a twinkling, the cat climbed up the tree.
The duck quacked, and in her excitement,
jumped out of the pond.

But no matter how hard the duck tried to run,
she couldn't escape the wolf.

He was getting nearer, nearer, catching up with her.
Then he got her, and with one gulp, swallowed her.



MEET THE CHARACTERS – THE WOLF IS PORTRAYED BY THE FRENCH HORN

MEET THE INSTRUMENT – FRENCH HORN

The French Horn is a member of the the **BRASS FAMILY**.

The metal tube starts small at the mouthpiece and gets wider and wider through to the bell.

To make a sound players *vibrate* their lips to make a *buzzing* sound.

By tightening the lips and using more air the sound changes.

Many notes can be made by using the lips alone.

Other notes are made by **pressing valves** to open more lengths of tubing on the instrument.

There are approximately 4 meters of tubing in a french horn.

Brass instrument mouthpieces have a rim where the player places their lips. The mouthpiece has a cup shape interior and is placed into the small end of the instrument's tubing.



Lauren Manuel
French Horn

MEET THE MUSIC – THE WOLF’S THEME

Go to 02:33 in the [digital concert](#) to hear the wolf’s theme

The theme is played by three French horns each playing different notes to make a chord.



Andante molto ♩ = 66

The musical score is divided into two systems. The top system features three staves for Horn 1, Horn 2, and Horn 3, all in bass clef. Horn 1 starts with a dynamic marking of *mp*, Horn 2 with *mp*, and Horn 3 with *mp*. The bottom system features three staves for a string section, all in treble clef, with a *cresc.* marking. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *mf* and *f*.

Chord – notes played at the same time.

Bass clef notes are lower than treble clef notes

PETER AND THE WOLF CONTINUED

And now, this is how things stood: the cat was sitting on one branch,
the bird on another... not too close to the cat.
And the wolf walked around and around the tree,
looking at them with greedy eyes.



PETER AND THE WOLF CONTINUED

Grabbing hold of the branch, Peter lightly climbed over on to the tree.

Peter said to the bird: "Fly down and circle over the wolf's head.

Only take care that he doesn't catch you". The bird almost touched the wolf's head with his wings while the wolf snapped angrily at him, from this side and that.

How the bird worried the wolf! How he wanted to catch him!

But the bird was clever, and the wolf simply couldn't do anything about it.

Meanwhile, Peter made a lasso and carefully letting it down, caught the wolf by the tail and pulled with all his might.

Feeling himself caught, the wolf began to jump wildly trying to get loose.

But Peter tied the other end of rope to the tree,
and the wolf's jumping only made the rope around his tail tighter.

PETER AND THE WOLF CONTINUED

Just then, the hunters came out of the woods,
following the wolf's trail and shooting as they went.

But Peter, sitting in the tree, said:

"Don't shoot! Birdie and I have already caught the wolf.

Now help us take him to the zoo."

**MEET THE CHARACTERS – THE HUNTERS ARE PORTRAYED BY THE
TIMPANI**

MEET THE INSTRUMENT – TIMPANI

Timpani are percussion instruments.

A skin is stretched tightly over large copper bowls of different sizes.

Timpani are usually played in sets of 3, 4 or 5 depending on the music.

Pedals at the base of the instruments can be pressed to tighten or loosen the skin and this changes the pitch of the notes.

The timpani is a tuned instrument meaning that the drums can play pitched notes.



Beaters are used to hit the skins to make the sound.



PETER AND THE WOLF – THE END

And now, imagine the triumphant procession:
Peter at the head; after him the hunters leading the wolf;
and winding up the procession, grandfather and the cat.

Grandfather shook his head discontentedly:
"Well, and if Peter hadn't caught the wolf? What then?"

Above them flew Birdie chirping merrily.
"My, what brave fellows we are, Peter and I!
Look what we have caught!"

And if one would listen very carefully,
he could hear the duck quacking inside the wolf;
because the wolf in his hurry, had swallowed her alive!



CHOOSE AN INSTRUMENT

TO MATCH YOUR FAVOURITE ANIMAL

There is no right answer. Think of the characteristics of an animal and the sounds of the instrument.

Which instrument would you choose to represent your chosen animal?

Consider that instrument can be played in different ranges, *high* and **low** (e.g. piano), different techniques (e.g. violins played with a bow or plucked) or different dynamics (very *soft* or **VERY LOUD**). An instrument could suit a different animal if it was played in a different style.

Elephant

Harp

Baby Chicken

Trumpet

Lion

Flute

Ants

Double Bass



MEET THE COMPOSER – SERGEI PROKOFIEV

Sergei Prokofiev was a Russian composer born in 1891 and died in 1953. He was also a pianist and a conductor.

His first piano teacher was his mother. Later he attended the St. Petersburg Conservatorium. As a pianist Prokofiev travelled the world many times visiting London, Paris and United State of America.

In 1936 he returned to live permanently in Russia and it was there that he composed *Peter and the Wolf* for the Central Children's Theatre in Moscow. Prokofiev wrote both the music and the story.

It was a success and has been performed around the world since to introduce children to the Orchestra.





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