

# Saint-Saëns' 'The Carnival of the Animals': Exploring Descriptive Sounds



In 1886, French composer Camille Saint-Saëns wrote 'The Carnival of the Animals'.

It is a selection of 14 different movements all based on various animals.

We are going to study these different movements and see how Saint-Saëns uses different instruments, sounds and techniques to represent the animals he is writing about. We will then use these different ideas, sounds and techniques to create our own compositions about animals from Saint-Saëns' Carnival as well as our own.

## Movements in 'The Carnival of the Animals'

A movement is a short section of new music like a chapter in a book. These are some of the movements in 'The Carnival of the Animals':



The Royal March  
of the Lion



Hens and  
Roosters



Wild Donkeys



Tortoises



Elephants



Kangaroos



Animals in an  
Aquarium



The Cuckoo in  
the Depths of  
the Woods



Birds in an Aviary

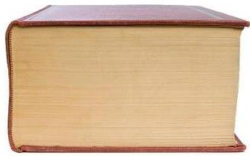


Fossils



The Swan

## Texture



A thick texture is when lots of people are playing.



A thin texture is when only a few people are playing.

## Pitch



Pitch is how high or low a sound is.

Smaller instruments tend to have a higher pitch.



Flute

Larger instruments tend to have a lower pitch.



Bassoon

## Tempo

This is the musical word for speed. Is the music...



or



## Pulse and Rhythm



Pulse is the heartbeat of the music.



Rhythm is when long and short notes are joined together.

## Dynamics



***f***

Loud



***p***

Quiet

## The Conductor

The conductor tells musicians what to do, whether they should play loud or quiet, fast or slow.

