

January 2019

🎵 music newsletter 🎵

I will be in FL checking on my parents the beginning of this new year, returning January 8. UPON MY RETURN! A NEW MUSICAL PROJECT BEGINS! I will be introducing "Carnival of the Animals" by the French composer Camille Saint-Saens to the children beginning the week of January 14. This suite is comprised of 14 movements, and I will be introducing one each week, which will take us to the middle of May, taking into account our Artist-in Residence week in late March and my two week absence back to FL in early March.

The children will be introduced to the suite with an overview of musical instruments included in the work, mostly piano and strings, although other instruments are introduced throughout.

Week 1: Introduction and the Royal March of the Lion The introduction and march begins with the pianos playing a stately theme. The children will act this out as the Lion marches among the other animals of the kingdom, who bow when he comes near them. The Lion roars in occasion as signified by the piano, to which the children will carefully listen to identify.

Week 2: Hens and Roosters

Strings without cello and double bass, two pianos, with clarinet: this movement is centered around a pecking theme played in the pianos and strings, which is quite reminiscent of chickens pecking at grain. The clarinet plays small solos above the rest of the players at intervals. The piano plays a very fast theme based on the crowing of a rooster's Cock a Doodle Doo. The children will act this out, as the hens socialize and the the roosters strut about trying to get their attention!

Week 3: Donkeys

Two pianos: the animals depicted here are quite obviously running, an image induced by the constant, feverishly fast up-and-down motion of both pianos playing scales in octaves. These are [dziggetai](#), donkeys that come from Tibet and are known for their great speed. The children will make their ribbon sticks move in time to the donkeys' movements!

The children will also be introduced to rhythm sticks and the skills of tapping, hitting, sliding and keeping in time to the music, following a specific sequence of movement! And there will be plenty of songs to sing and dance to!

♥ *Connie*