

KidNotes!



Program Notes for Young People

Weinberg

Rhapsody on Moldavian Themes

Rachmaninoff



*Rhapsody on a
Theme of Paganini*

Kate Liu, Pianist



- Intermission -



Prokofiev

Symphony No. 5 in B^b Major



Evanston
Symphony
Orchestra



Lawrence Eckerling, Music Director

October 26, 2014, 2:30 p.m.

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University

Here Come the Romantics!

Welcome to the Evanston Symphony Orchestra's first concert of the 2014-15 season! *KidNotes* are written especially for you, our younger concert-goers. We write KN for every ESO performance to tell you a bit about the music, the composers and our soloists - and we add some games and puzzles and *really* bad jokes, too! (HINT: Pay attention to the words in **bold**! They're puzzle clues!)



This year's theme is "Romanticism Endures" and we'll be featuring some of the great composers of the Romantic Era. But first, we need to get something straight: by "**romantic**" we don't mean what a friend of ours calls "that yucky, kissy-face stuff." Rather, a **romantic** was – and is – someone whose emotions are *BIG!* A problem is never ordinary – it's a *CRISIS*. There are no ordinary days - every day brings an *ADVENTURE!* See? *BIG!* For more about Romanticism, see page 13.

Today's concert is called "Russian Rhapsodies." (You can find out what "**rhapsody**" means on page 12.) All of the works are by famous Russian (or almost Russian) composers: Weinberg and Prokofiev as well as Rachmaninoff, whose ***Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*** will be played by the fabulous pianist, **Kate Liu**.

In February, the German Romantics have their turn: Brahms, Strauss and Wagner, and we welcome back one of our all-time favorite sopranos, Michelle Areyzaga, who will sing Richard Strauss' *Four Last Songs*.



March brings us three American composers - Copland, Barber and Hanson – as well as Arvo Pärt, who is from Estonia). The talented Chicago violinist Desirée Ruhstrat will give us a double treat: she'll play *both* the Barber and Pärt concertos!



Our last concert of the year is in April, quite fitting for a season dedicated to the Romantics! Tchaikovsky is one the most famous of the Romantics, and the ESO will play his symphonic suite for the ballet *Swan Lake* as well as a symphony by Mozart. Mozart died several years before the Romantic Era began, but, he was Tchaikovsky's favorite composer and influenced him, so it makes perfect sense to play two of their great works in the same concert.

Meet Julie Fischer!

The ESO's New Concertmaster!

On March 20, 1998, a teen-aged violinist named **Julie Fischer** stood on the stage at ETHS with her **violin** and played the first movement of the Sibelius *Violin Concerto in D Minor* in the ESO's Young Artists' Competition. She walked away with first prize.



Fast forward 16 years. That very same **Julie Fischer**, now a highly accomplished professional violinist, again takes the stage with the Evanston Symphony - but this time as our brand new concertmaster!

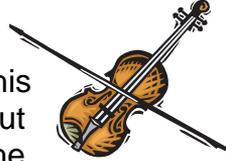
So what does a concertmaster actually *DO*? Maestro Lawrence Eckerling describes the job this way: "At every concert, the audience sees the concertmaster walk on stage at the start of each concert, then cue the principal oboist to play the note "A" so that the orchestra can tune. More importantly, because almost all orchestral music includes solos for various instruments, it's the concert-master who plays the solos written for the **violin**. But there is SO much more!"

"A large orchestra like the ESO can have 100 players or more. Approximately 70–75% of those musicians are string players. String instruments have limitless possibilities of sound, and these possibilities are one of the main reasons why the sound of the orchestra is so magical. Whether the bow is going up or down changes the sound. The amount of *vibrato* or musical vibration that the string player creates with the left hand at any given time also contributes to the range of possibilities."

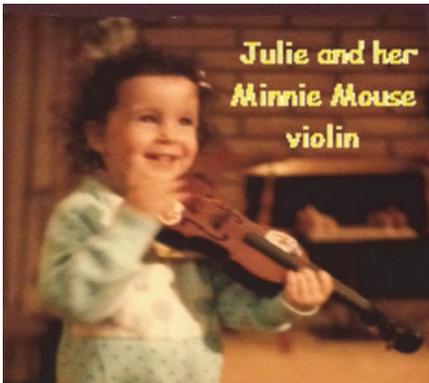


Maestro Eckerling says that his most important role as conductor is that of a “concept unifier.”

“That means getting all 100 musicians to play with the same musical concept or idea for each work. And the role of the concertmaster is that of a “strings unifier,” so that the sound of all of the string players, with their limitless possibilities, matches the conductor’s concept of every work. This means making the proper decisions about up or down with the bow, which part of the bow to use at any given time, and how much *vibrato* should be used. The concertmaster works with the other principal strings so that they can help spread that same concept through their own sections. The concertmaster, therefore, has a huge impact on the sound of the string section, and in turn, the sound of the orchestra.”



This sounds like a huge job to us, but we’re sure Julie is up to the task because music has always been part of her life. Her mother, Paula, an ESO violinist, was Julie’s first teacher and bought her her first **violin** when she was just



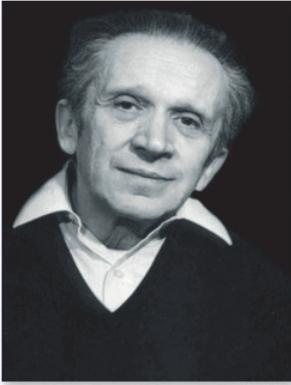
two and a half. The **violin** was plastic and had Minnie Mouse and stickers on it! Julie played on it until she was four, when she got her first “real” **violin**. Julie also has perfect pitch, a talent she got from her dad, Bruce.

Julie now teaches at the Music Institute of Chicago and gives private lessons.

She enjoys teaching very much, particularly the challenge of adjusting her teaching methods to each student – and, she says, each student changes how he or she learns every week! In her spare time, she volunteers at a local hospital and also enjoys making jewelry. Busy lady!

Welcome (back!) to the ESO, Julie!

Mieczyslaw Weinberg (1919-1998)



Mieczyslaw **Weinberg**, known to his friends at “Mietek,” was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1919. His family was Jewish of Moldavian descent and very involved in the Yiddish or Jewish popular theater of the day. His mother was an actress and his father was a violinist, composer and conductor in several theater companies. Mietek joined his father in one theater company as a pianist at the age of ten and was later a musical director of several performances.

Life had always been difficult for Jews in Eastern Europe and got horribly worse when Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. Mietek was able to flee to **Russia**, then part of the Soviet Union, but his parents and younger sister stayed behind in Warsaw and, unfortunately, died in the Holocaust.

After arriving in Russia, Mietek became close friends with the great Russian composer, Dmitri Shostakovich, who was very impressed with the younger man. However, the strict rules that all artists had to follow (see page 9) also applied to Weinberg, and he often found it hard to make a living. In fact, he sometimes had to support his family by composing music for the theater and the circus! Then, in 1953, he was arrested on false charges but was saved by two events: a letter from Shostakovich on his behalf and the death of Russian dictator Josef Stalin, which ended a lot of the unfair arrests. He lived the rest of his life in a slightly more tolerant **Russia**, where he died in 1996.

Weinberg's ***Rhapsody on Moldavian Themes*** is 13 minutes long. It has a slow beginning followed by a fast ending, and almost all of the instruments are featured. The finale is very exciting with a main theme from *klezmer*, the wonderful Jewish folk music of Eastern Europe. You'll be tapping your toes!



Meet Kate Liu!

Imagine that you're 8 years old and live in Singapore, a warm, sunny country near the Equator on the other side of the world. Then one day, you and your parents and your 12-year-old sister get on a plane. It's a very long flight – 13 hours - and you're not having much fun, especially since you got airsick. Yuck! But the plane finally lands and all of the misery of the past 13 hours is forgotten: You're in *Chicago* – and it's *SNOWING!* Quite an exciting sight for a little girl from the tropics! And that little girl was **Kate Liu**.



Kate's sister had started **piano** at 4 in Singapore and, from the time she was a baby, Kate heard her sister practice. "I was fascinated by the sound," she said, "and really looked up to my big sister." So, when Kate turned 4, she also started **piano** lessons and kept them up even after her idol switched to the **violin**.



After Kate's family settled in Winnetka, Kate continued her **piano** studies at the Music Institute of Chicago. She said that she had very good training at MIC and "survived" on the **piano** for about ten years without any thought of making it her career. Then, when she was 14, she spent two weeks at the International Institute for Young Musicians Summer Music Academy in Lawrence, KS. For Kate, these two weeks were enlightening; it was the first time in her life that she was with a group of people who were spending all of their time concentrating on playing the **piano**. "It showed me what the **piano** had to offer," she said. She came home thinking that perhaps she would become a concert pianist.

Kate says this was also when she realized something very important, especially for kids who are learning an instrument: *you have to practice slowly*. “You have to get the pieces into your bones,” she said, because you often can’t do that when you’re older if you don’t do it when you’re younger.

In the past six years, Kate has built up quite an impressive résumé. In 2008 she played Schubert’s four-hand *Fantasy* with renowned Chinese pianist Lang Lang in Chicago’s Symphony Center. (“Four hands” means two players at the same **piano**, which we think is quite a “feat”!) In 2009 she had solo performances in Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center as part of a tour with the Music Institute of Chicago. She has since performed with a number of orchestras in North America and has given recitals in major cities such as Chicago, New York and Washington, DC. She has also won quite a few major **piano** competitions and scholarships.

After graduating from New Trier in 2012, Kate entered the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Kate says she has fallen in love with Philadelphia, which she finds cozier and not so big as Chicago or New York, but still has all a city can offer.



Like anyone else, Kate enjoys hanging out with her friends. She also likes to read and, especially, to draw. She had at one time wanted to be an artist and now finds herself covering any blank paper with realistic and cartoon images.



Since Halloween is here, we’ll leave you with a funny story Kate told us. One year, Kate wore a Ninja costume for trick-or-treating, but needed to go home and change clothes because she was scheduled to play something at her school. However, they ran out of time, so off they went to the school, where the audience was entertained on the **piano** by a very fierce Ninja warrior! We welcome this extremely talented young pianist to our stage – but suspect she won’t be wearing a Ninja costume today!

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

You have to feel a bit sorry for the young Sergei **Rachmaninoff**. His family were Russian aristocrats, but his father lost the family fortune, then deserted the family. Luckily for us, Sergei didn't become an army officer, something aristocrats in **Russia** did in those days, because it required paying a lot of money. Instead, he went to the conservatory and studied music.



Although he was a bad student at first, he finally got his act together and graduated in 1892 with a gold medal. His fame and popularity as a composer and a pianist were immediate with the premiere of a **piano** piece the same year. He went on to become one of the great **virtuoso** pianists and, as a composer, one of the last great representatives of Romanticism in Russian classical music. (See page 13 for more on Romanticism.)



Rachmaninoff plays for his granddaughter Sophie in 1927

In 1917, the Russian Revolution led to major changes in government that **Rachmaninoff** didn't like, so he left his homeland, never to return. He went first to Scandinavia, then came to the U.S., where he spent the last 25 years of his life. His **Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini** (1934) is his last piano composition and one of his most popular. It is variations on a theme from a famous work by Italian composer Niccolò Paganini for solo **violin**.

Before you can have a "variation" in music, you first need a "theme," or main melody. Then the composer starts repeating the theme and changing ("varying") it in different ways - its harmony or rhythm or even its melody. In fact, Rachmaninoff even has one variation where the notes are "upside down," that is, a mirror image of the original! But, beneath all of the variations, the original is still there, although you sometimes have to listen very hard to find it! When composing variations on a theme, a composer usually puts the main theme first, then the variations. This time, however, Rachmaninoff gives the first variation, *then* the theme, so listen very carefully for the first five minutes of the piece. Once you hear the theme, you can listen for it as the wonderful **Kate Liu** plays the rest of the variations - 24 in all!

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Sergei Sergeievich **Prokofiev** was born in 1891 in a part of **Russia** that is now Ukraine. He was a child prodigy, composing for **piano** at age 5 and writing an opera at 9. His first teacher was his mother, a talented pianist. In 1904, **Prokofiev** entered the St. Petersburg Academy of Music as a cocky teenager, and loved to shock his teachers with his daring new compositions that didn't follow the patterns or theories of the time. At first, his originality gained him only bad grades and at one point he was almost expelled. However, he was encouraged by one teacher in particular and finally, in 1914, he graduated from the conservatory first in his class, with a grand **piano** as a prize.



Like **Rachmaninoff**, **Prokofiev** left **Russia** in 1918 because he didn't like the new government that came after the Russian Revolution. He went back and forth between the US and Europe and was becoming famous. But, he was homesick, and in 1936 he and his family moved back to **Russia** permanently. He found that

official policy towards music had changed. The government had a special bureau, the "Composers' Union," to keep track of composers; rules governed what kind of music was acceptable. If the composers didn't follow the rules, they could be arrested! Prokofiev kept a low profile during this period and composed some "acceptable" music for children; *Peter and the Wolf* is the best known. He also composed some music that was never produced because it violated the rules, but by then he was too famous to be arrested!

Prokofiev died in 1953, ironically on the same day as Josef Stalin, Russia's dictator and a man for whom Prokofiev had no respect at all. Because the government had ordered everyone to go to Stalin's funeral, only about 40 came to say good-bye to Prokofiev.

Prokofiev's greatest triumph was the 1945 premiere in Moscow of his Fifth Symphony, which he conducted and which the ESO will perform today. At the time, Prokofiev described it as a "hymn to free and happy Man, to his mighty powers, his pure and noble spirit."

"El Sistéma" & The Might

If you stop by Evanston's **Family Focus** late afternoon any Monday or Wednesday, you'll find about two dozen kids very busy with music. One day we found them learning to drum as part of the Bucket Band, and on another they were decorating old, unplayable violins with paint and stickers to give them new life as decorations in the music room. Their main focus, however, is on the stringed instruments: every kid in the program is learning to play the violin, viola or cello. (Some might even try the bass when they're older and taller!)



The program is given by the People's Music School of Chicago. Their goal is not so much to turn out professional musicians, but rather to make music a regular part of kids' lives, regardless of what work they end up in when they grow up. With the help of ESO 1st violinist Caroline Dehnert and the Evanston Community Foundation, TPMS first came to **Family Focus** for a program this past summer and is continuing that program this fall. The students will give a concert for their parents at the end of the term. **Family Focus** hopes to provide the program in the spring and again next summer.



Banging away with the Bucket Band!



Ms. Nicole shows h

y Strings of Family Focus!

The classes are based on a very successful program from Venezuela called “El Sistema” in Spanish. Kids learn in a group and are all together from the beginning of the program.



Program Director Nicole Negrete says that having each other as support and as peer teachers is very valuable because students who are more advanced can work with those who just need a little help to bring them up to speed. A real community develops, which often can't be the case if someone just has private lessons.

Another advantage to the program is that it's more intensive: students start with three hours per week of classes, which can increase to eight hours or more as the students advance. The kids come up with their own rules of behavior based on respect and cooperation, and every student signs a social contract at the beginning of each term. We really enjoy stopping by **Family Focus** because we love seeing how much the kids love their classes and are excited to learn how to play their instruments. Let's hear it for **The Mighty Strings of Family Focus!**



how to tighten a bow



Decorated Violins & the Decorators!

What Does THAT Mean?



Music has a vocabulary all of its own. Most of these words are Italian, especially the directions to the musicians. For example, “**f**” stands for “**forte**,” which means “loud.” Then there’s “**ff**” for “**fortissimo**,” which means *really* loud! (If you ever see “**fff**,” you might want to cover your ears!) Here are some common music terms related to today’s concert.

Concertmaster? – The head of the first violin section, who is also the coordinator for all of the string sections and is responsible for making sure the entire orchestra is in tune at the beginning of a concert. The word “concertmaster” comes from the German “**konzertmeister**,” which means, well – “concertmaster”!



Rhapsody? – A musical composition that is irregular in its form (as compared to, say, a symphony; see below) and is highly emotional in character, which is a good sign it’s probably **romantic**. Today we’ll hear two **rhapsodies**: the first, by **Weinberg**, is based on the Moldavian music of his ancestors, and the other is **Rachmaninoff**’s interpretation for the **piano** of a piece for **violin** by Niccolò Paganini, a famous Italian composer.



Vibrato? – A slightly quavery sound produced on a stringed instrument by a shaking movement of the left hand on the strings. Part of the concertmaster’s job is to tell the string players when to use vibrato and when not to use it.

Symphony? - A piece of music for an orchestra. It’s long and is usually divided into separate and distinct sections called *movements*. **Symphony No.5 in B^b Major** by **Prokofiev** has four movements.

Virtuoso? - A person who excels in musical performance. Rachmaninoff was a piano **virtuoso** and **Kate Liu** is becoming one!



Isn't It Romantic?

Today's composers – Weinberg, Rachmaninoff and Prokofiev – represent in part the **Romantic** Era of music. Rachmaninoff was a composer and virtuoso pianist in the **romantic** style, while Prokofiev and Weinberg were.... “**STOP!**” you're no doubt saying to yourself. “What's this **romantic** stuff? We're not going to see some sappy movie about people in love, are we?”

Good question, but you're quite safe – no sappy movies today! “**Romantic**” in music comes across as “exaggerated” or, well,



BIG! Some of it is even bombastic and over-blown. For example, Joe doesn't just join the army. Rather, our hero, Sir Joseph the Good, mounts his noble steed and, with trumpets blaring, sallies forth to slay the ferocious dragon. People don't just go to work every day, get married, have kids and



coach soccer. Rather, they have *Adventures* – they're kidnapped by pirates or imprisoned in towers by evil kings or shipwrecked on desert islands or born with strange magical powers. See? **BIG!**

The **romantic** movement in music and literature emphasized the emotions and encouraged people to use their imaginations.

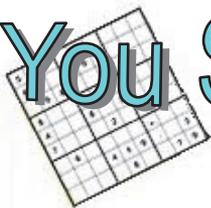
Romantic music helps you get a vivid picture in your mind of, for instance, a ship tossed in a stormy musical sea or someone falling madly in love. But, this is no *ordinary* storm, no *ordinary* love. It's really, really **BIG!**



All of Robert Louis Stevenson's books – *Kidnapped*, *Treasure Island*, et al. - are great adventure stories from the **romantic** era, and the *Harry Potter* books continue in that tradition. Then there are some of the popular adventure movies we all love - the *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *Lord of the Rings* and *Spider Man* stories. Can you think of others? How about the *Ironman* or *Batman* films? *WALL-E*? *Mulan*? *Brave*? *Frozen*? Add your list here:

And, what pictures and stories can you see and hear in the music of today's concert? Are they really, really **BIG!**!

Do You SUDOKU?



		1	5		
2					3
	6			1	
	4			3	
3					2
		4	3		

Easie

Here are two Sudoku puzzles for you to try your hand at. The one to the left is based on 6 and is easier. The one below, however, is called an Extreme Sudoku puzzle. It's based on 9 – but with something extra! You know the basic rule: no number can appear more than one time in any block, row or column. With this Extreme puzzle, you also have to get the numbers 1 through 9 in the X with no repeats! You can find the answers on page 19.

New!

E
X
T
R
E
M
E
!

1	7			9		6		5
5	3		6		7			4
	2		3		5			7
	8	2			1			6
	4	3		8		2	9	
6			4			3	7	8
2		7	9	5			6	
4			2		3		5	9
3				6			8	2

Hot Halloween!

The ancient Celtic peoples lived primarily in what are now Scotland and Ireland, as their descendants still do. New Year's Eve for the Celts was around our October 31. It's a night when, they believed, the barrier between this world and the spirit world was thinnest, making it possible for evil spirits to come back to haunt the living.



The Celts would put out all of the fires in their houses so that the bad spirits wouldn't be attracted there, then go to a big gathering where there was a huge bonfire. (Apparently evil spirits were afraid of really BIG fires!) The celebration ended at dawn of the next day, when the evil spirits had returned to their world. Then the people would light a torch from the bonfire and take it home to rekindle their fires. In later years, people dressed up like the evil spirits and went from house to house "trick-or-treating," much as we do today.



These customs and Jack-o-Lanterns were popularized in North America by Irish immigrants in the 1840's. The story goes that a man named Jack played a trick on the Devil and then made a deal with him. Instead of being sentenced to Hell, he was condemned to wander forever through the cold dark between Heaven and Hell. However, he was given a single ember to light his way. It was put in a lantern made out of a turnip so that it would last longer. In Ireland, "Jack's Lanterns" were made out of turnips, but when the immigrants came here, they discovered that pumpkins were much easier to use because they're already hollow! Over the past 170 years, Halloween has evolved into a fun holiday for everyone (especially chocolate-lovers!) Check out these websites for more!



<http://wilstar.com/holidays/hallow2.htm>

<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/halloween/>

Word Search Clues!

1. The ESO's new concertmaster!

2. She's the ESO's #1 _____ player

3. Our soloist! _____.

4. She plays the _____



5. She's playing " _____
on a Theme of Paganini by Sergei



6. _____ wrote *Rhapsody on Moldavian Themes* in memory of his ancestors.

7. _____ *No. 5 in B^b Major*
was composed by _____

8. Today's composers are from _____.

9. In music, _____ means BIG!

10. Rachmaninoff was a _____ on
the piano, which means he was the very best of the best!

10. Evanston community group with a great strings program!



11. Scary holiday! _____

12. Scary spirit from Clue #11 _____



13. She wears a pointed hat! _____

Word Search Puzzle!

Some important items (and people!) for today's concert are hidden inside this puzzle! Can you find them? Remember: Words can go across, up, down OR diagonally, AND backwards or forwards - 8 directions in all! And, can you find "OZ" 36 times?



REALLY Bad Piano Jokes...!

Why are a pianist's fingers like lightning?

Because they rarely strike the same place twice.

What do you get when you drop a piano on an army base?

A flat major.

Why did the pianist keep banging his head on the keys?

He was playing by ear...



Easy-Peasy, Lemon Squeezy!

Here's an easier puzzle for our younger readers!

N E E W O L L A H
 T R I A N G L E P
 M U R D I H O Z I
 T U B A K O Z F A
 O Z O Z P S P L N
 Z B Z O M T R U O
 N R O H U O A T Z
 Z O Z E P Z H E O

HALLOWEEN
PUMPKIN

GHOST

HORN

DRUM
OBOE

TUBA
HARP

TRIANGLE
PIANO
FLUTE

...and "OZ" 18 times!

Orchestra Word Scramble!

The ESO needs your help! Unscramble the words so these instruments can play today!



NIOPA _____

BATU _____

BOEO _____



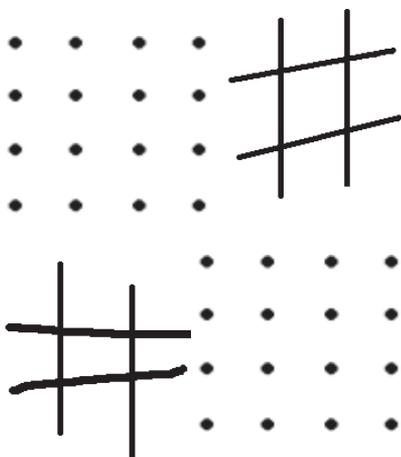
PYNIMAT _____

LOLCE _____

PUMRETT _____



Puzzle Answers



Word Search!

Julie Fischer  Violin
 Kate Liu  Piano
 Rhapsody Rachmaninoff
 Weinberg  Symphony
 Prokofiev  Russia
 Romantic  Virtuoso
 Family Focus Halloween
 Ghost Witch

1	7	4	8	9	2	6	3	5
5	3	9	6	1	7	8	2	4
8	2	6	3	4	5	9	1	7
9	8	2	7	3	1	5	4	6
7	4	3	5	8	6	2	9	1
6	5	1	4	2	9	3	7	8
2	1	7	9	5	8	4	6	3
4	6	8	2	7	3	1	5	9
3	9	5	1	6	4	7	8	2

Sudoku
answers



4	3	1	5	2	6
2	5	6	1	4	3
5	6	3	2	1	4
1	4	2	6	3	5
3	1	5	4	6	2
6	2	4	3	5	1

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KidNotes

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Editor Kelly Brest van Kempen

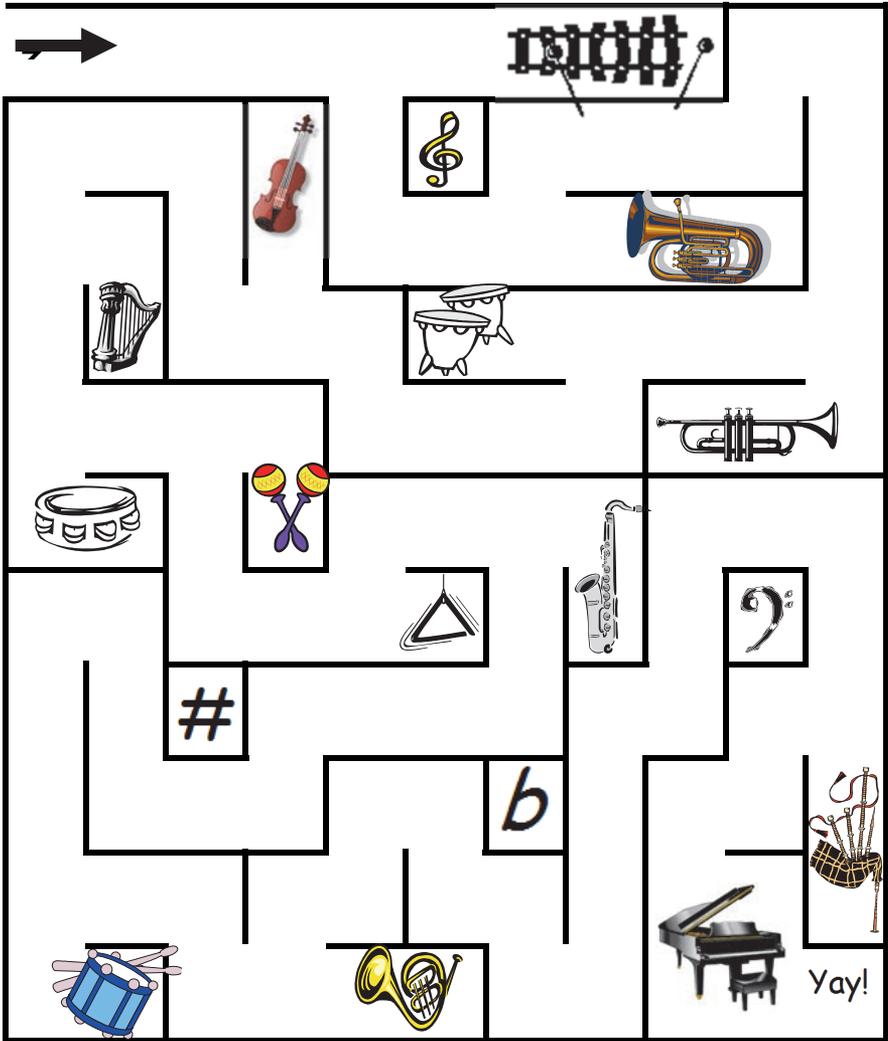
Writers David Ellis, Kelly B.v.K

Puzzle & Maze Checkers Addison Lockerby, Ryan Lockerby & Gus B.v.K

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Help! Kate Liu's piano is lost in the maze!
Find it and save the concert!



Congratulations! You did it!

Now match the instruments with their names!

- Drum Xylophone Maracas Harp Tambourine Tuba
 Trumpet Cello Bagpipes Saxophone Triangle Tympani
 Violin PLUS Treble Clef Bass Clef Sharp Flat