

### **Birds**

An agile and nimble \_\_\_\_\_, which is a woodwind instrument played sideways, depicts the call of our little feathered friends, and shimmering strings their fluttering in the sunshine. The pianos ring out sparkling pools of water in the sunlight.

### **Pianists**

Two novice piano students labour at scales and five-finger exercises. It clearly isn't fun, as they soon lose their patience and quit, banging three chords to ease their stress.

### **Fossils**

Brittle fossils are brought to life by the mellow \_\_\_\_\_, a percussion instrument, accompanied by the piano and strings. In this section, Saint-Saëns quotes music from a French folk tune (better known to us as *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*), Rossini's *Barber of Seville* and even the Devil's tune from his own *Danse Macabre*.

### **The Swan**

Perhaps the most famous section of the entire work, 'The Swan' was also the only one ever performed in Saint-Saëns' lifetime; he allowed it to be used in a ballet and it actually became immensely popular. The piano depicts calm, clear, sparkling waters, and the \_\_\_\_\_, a low-pitched string instrument, glides silently and gracefully along.

### **Finale**

All the animals come together again for a delightful finale to the piece. You can hear parts from each of the previous sections played over again here.

Answers: piano, violin, piano, double bass, violin, clarinet, flute, xylophone, cello.

# Carnival of the Animals

By Camille Saint-Saëns

## **Introduction and the Lion's Royal March**

The lion awakes to a rousing fanfare and after that comes his majestic march. The piano plays the fanfare, and the warmth of the strings almost depicts the rising sun. The large range of notes of the \_\_\_\_\_, which has eighty-eight keys, is put to use here with the low notes growling as the higher keys march along.

## **Hens and Roosters**

Cluck-cluck-cluck. The \_\_\_\_\_ and piano, played in staccato, depict our key characters, a bunch of squabbling domesticated fowl. The frantic clucking rises to a climax, and finally, it becomes apparent that an egg has been laid!

## **Wild Donkeys**

Wild donkeys appear as a galloping piano, run across the entire expanse of the keyboard, up and down, up and down, and are gone in no time at all, leaving only a cloud of dust. This section is played by the \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Tortoises**

Tortoises perform the 'Can-Can' to Offenbach's *Orpheus and Euridice* at an excruciatingly slow pace. The strings draw out prolonged notes depicting the slow motion of the tetrapods. They even take a long time getting off the stage, and the last note lingers, hanging in the air.

## **The Elephant**

The enormous elephant makes a thunderous entrance to the largest member of the string family, the \_\_\_\_\_, swinging his trunk from side to side. This instrument is so large that it is played standing up! The pounding chords of the piano depict the earth-shaking footsteps of this large animal.

## **Kangaroos**

Kangaroos bound lightly over the piano, sometimes fast, sometimes slow. They hop up and down the scale nimbly, pausing in between leaps.

## **Aquarium**

The flute and the strings bring us to a dimly lit underwater world, where fish weave through the water and become visible momentarily as they enter a beam of light. Air bubbles to the surface in the form of quick notes on the piano. The piano also represents the swirling waters, and a glockenspiel can be heard sparkling in the gloom.

## **Long-eared Personages**

Bunny rabbits bound around to the sounds of the \_\_\_\_\_. Faster and faster they go, and then they fade out of sight and hearing.

## **The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Forest**

The unchanging two-note call of the cuckoo, played by the \_\_\_\_\_, a member of the woodwind family, can be heard clearly through the silence of the woods. Chords on the piano evoke a dark, peaceful atmosphere.