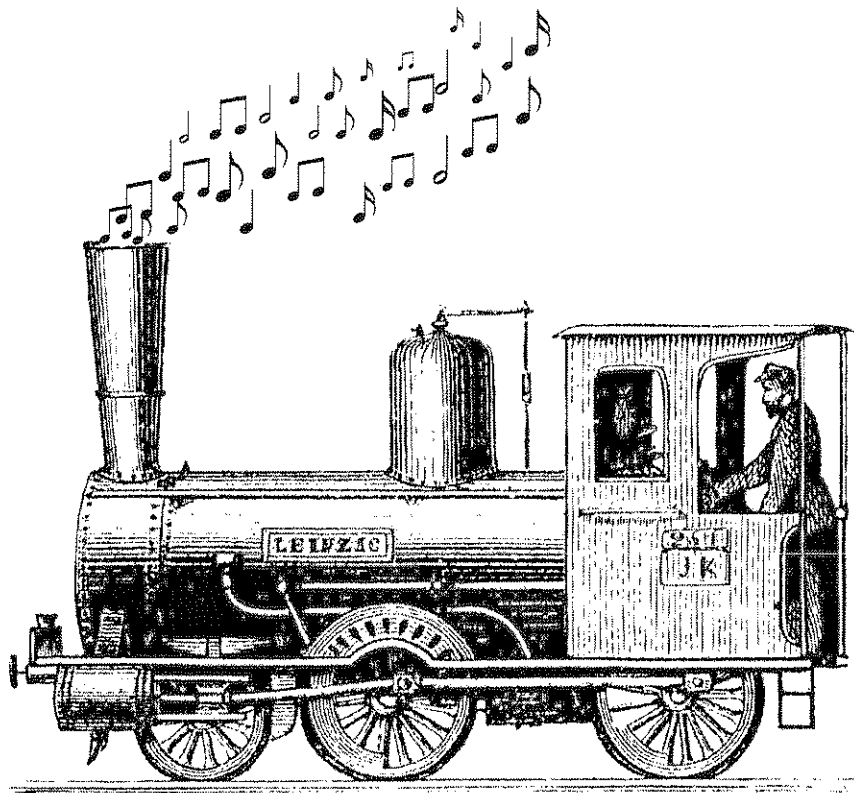


SYMPHONY EXPRESS!

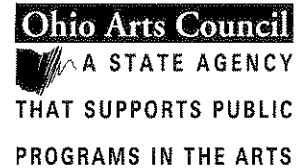


Educational Packet

Activity guide for teachers,
parents, and kids.

2011

Concerts for Kids Concert Series Sponsors



Additional support was provided by:



The Mary and Dr. George L. Demetros Charitable Trust

The Burton D. Morgan Foundation

The Welty Family Foundation



**Concerts for Kids is a collaborative project
of the Akron Symphony Orchestra and the Akron Symphony Guild.**

Promotional Support provided by Western Reserve Public Media:



Very Special Thanks to Magical Theatre Company and Dennis O'Connell and Holly Barkdoll for a fully artistic collaboration of Concerts For Kids.

**Very special thanks to our Education Committee and Chairman,
Barb White; and the Akron-Summit County Public Library
for their contributions to this educational packet.**

Dear Parents and Teachers,

Welcome to the Concerts for Kids. These concerts are designed especially for your children and are meant to introduce them to classical music in a developmentally appropriate way.



Please use this pre-teach packet to help your child or students prepare for the concert. The ideas and suggestions provided are designed in a way that allows your child to be creative, to use his or her imagination, and to have fun with you while being introduced to the concepts that will be presented in the concert.

We want the parents, teachers, and children who come to our concerts to have a memorable and pleasant time with us as we enjoy the music together.

Have fun with your child as you do the activities in the packet. Check out the bibliography of books and stories and the music that is available at your library to make this musical experience fun and interesting for all!

Five Steps to Enjoying the Akron Symphony Orchestra

- ♪ Use the restroom before the concert begins so you don't miss any of the fun!
- ♪ Sit on the floor with the adult that brought you. (Don't worry...you'll be able to see once the concert starts.)
- ♪ Once the concert begins, please stay seated so that people behind you can see.
- ♪ Use your listening ears and watch the conductor.
- ♪ You have a job too! Let the orchestra members know how much you enjoyed the music by clapping when the piece is over!

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR A CONCERT EXPERIENCE

♪ **Learn about musical instruments.**

1. Look at picture books and magazine pictures to identify *musical instruments*.
2. Do you have some musical instruments at home? Get them out and examine them. How do they make a sound? What do they sound like?
3. Listen to your favorite recordings of children's songs. Can you hear different instruments in the music? What do you think those instruments are?

♪ **Read books.**

1. Read books about orchestras, instruments, and music.
2. Read books about trains.
3. Read books about perseverance, like *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss and *The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle.

♪ **Listen to recordings of the music that will be in the program.**

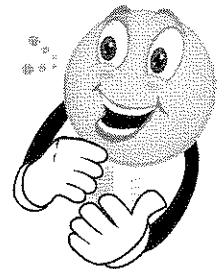
1. March, move, paint, hum, imagine, play, pretend, relax, enjoy while listening.
2. Pretend to be an orchestra conductor.
3. Pretend to be a *musician*.
4. Listen to other songs about trains (www.songsforteaching.com/trainsongs)

♪ **Do the suggested activities in the packet.**

1. Enjoy doing the activities at home or at school.
2. Bring the things you make to the concert.

♪ **Consider what my job will be at the concert.**

1. Use the restroom before the concert begins.
2. You have the most important job of all! You are part of the *audience*. Sit on the floor with your friends and the adult with you.
3. Listen and participate in the activities. Use the materials you brought with you.
4. Let the conductor and the musicians know that you are having a good time and are enjoying the music by clapping.



♪ **Continue to enjoy your concert experience.**

1. Talk about your concert experience. What was your favorite part? What instrument was your favorite?
2. Enjoy listening to recordings from the concert again and again!
3. Create a pretend concert with your friends. Make a program book and tickets. Pretend to be an orchestra conductor with a *baton*, a musician with an instrument you have made yourself, or a member of the audience applauding and enjoying the music!



Concerts for Kids 2011

Symphony Express!

Here are some of the pieces you will hear at the concert:

Igor Stravinsky	Suite No. 2 for small orchestra I. MARCHE
Traditional	I've Been Working on the Railroad
Allen Feinstein	The Little Engine That Could
Aaron Copland	John Henry
Johann Sebastian Bach	Brandenburg Concerto No. 3
Claude Debussy	Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun
Ludwig van Beethoven	Symphony No. 5
Igor Stravinsky	Suite No. 2 for small orchestra IV. GALOP

Make a Flag and bring it to the concert!

Like the clown's flag in the story, use your flag to wave down the Shiny New Passenger Engine, the Big Black Freight Engine, the Rusty Old Engine, and the Little Blue Engine!

What can you make your flag out of?

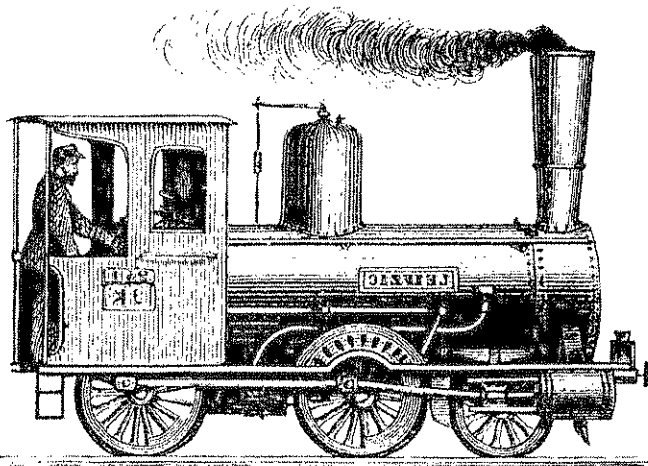
- Could you use fabric?
- Could you use construction paper?
- Could you use cardboard?
- Could you use newspaper?
- Could you use colorful paper plates?
- Could you use scraps of wallpaper?
- What else could you use?

Make a design and put decorations on your flag.

- Could you use crayons and markers?
- Could you use stickers?
- Could you use ribbon?
- Could you use streamers?
- What else could you use?

Attach your flag to something:

- Could you use a twig?
- Could you use a straw?
- Could you use a ruler?
- What else could you use?



Create your own Little Blue Engine!

For the body of the Little Blue Engine:

- Could you use a shoebox?
- Could you use an oatmeal box?
- Could you use a big plastic juice bottle?
- Can you think of something else you could use?

For the wheels of the Little Blue Engine:

- Could you use big silver washers?
- Could you use large bottle caps?
- Could you make wheels cut from cardboard?
- Can you think of something else you could use?

For the cowcatcher of the Little Blue Engine

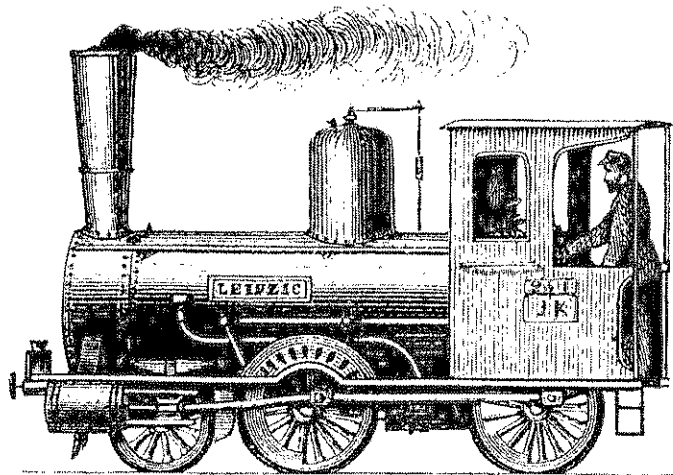
- Could you use the edge of a pie tin?
- Could you use the corner of a box?
- Could you cut and fold construction paper?
- Can you think of something else you could use?

For the smoke stack of the Little Blue Engine:

- Could you use a paper or plastic cup?
- Could you use a paper tube?
- Could you use a small can?
- Can you think of something else you could use?

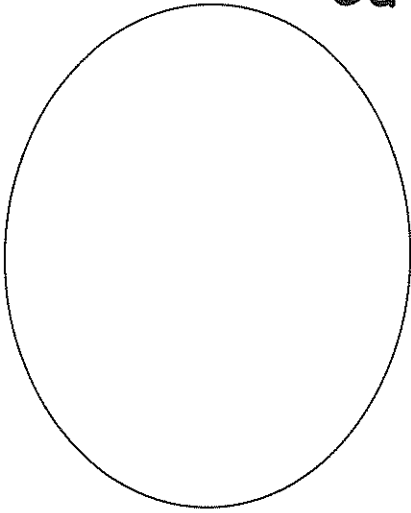
To make your Little Blue Engine blue:

- Could you paint it blue?
- Could you use crayons or markers and color it blue?
- Could you cover it with blue paper?



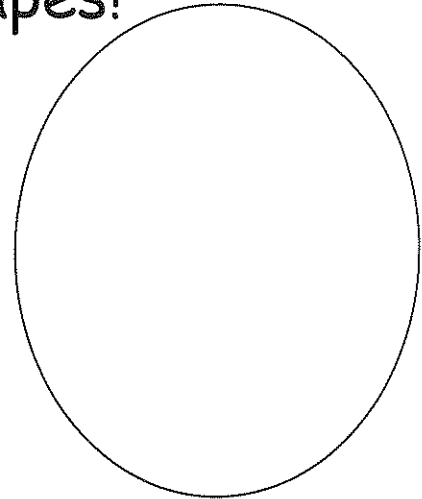
Get Out Your Scissors, Markers, and Crayons!

Cut out the shapes!



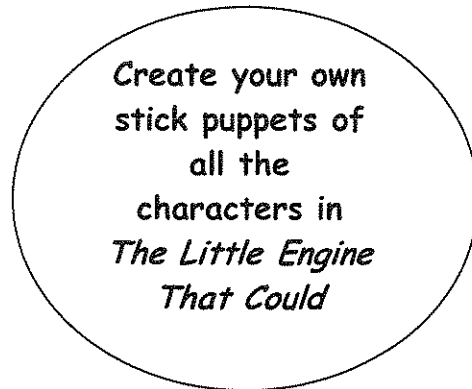
CLOWN

Glue on pom-poms
Fabric scraps,
Foil, Glitter, Fur
Pretty Paper
Tissue paper

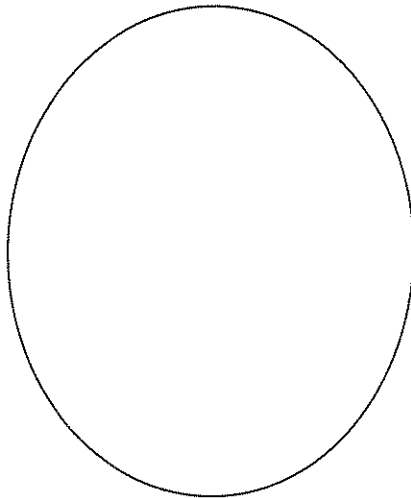


DOLL

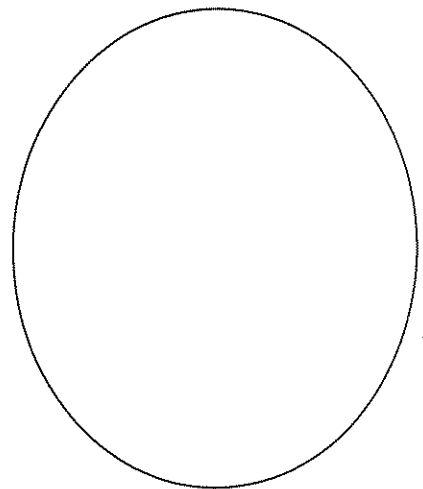
Yarn, Buttons
Foam Sheets
Doll's eyes, Beads
Feather, Confetti
Pipe Cleaners



Create your own
stick puppets of
all the
characters in
*The Little Engine
That Could*



TOY SOLDIER



TOY BEAR

Tape a craft
stick to the
back of your
circle

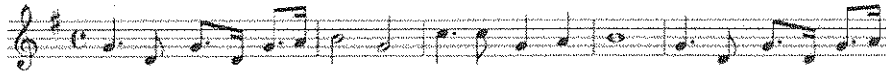
CHUGA! CHUGA! TOOT! TOOT! RHYTHM WALK

Trains make their own music with *rhythm*. Let's go for a walk and listen for other things that make music through *rhythm*.

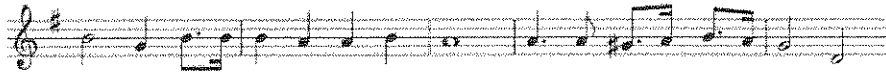
- People walking.
- Cars going over a bump in the road.
- A dog barking.
- A squeaky wheel.
- A lawn mower, leaf blower, weed whacker.
- Someone humming, singing, whistling.
- A song on a car radio.
- The leaves moving in the breeze.
- An insect chirping.
- A bird's whistle.
- A train!
- A child playing.
-
-

Clip this list to a clip board and take it with you on your walk. Check off the things you hear. Add some of your own. After your Rhythm Walk, talk about what you heard and draw pictures of the things you saw that had *rhythm*.

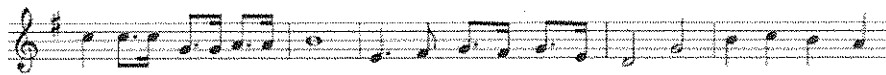
I've Been Working on the Railroad



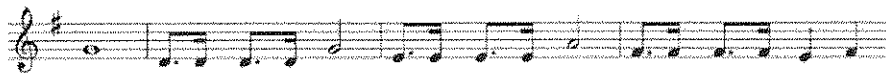
I've been wor- kin' on the rail- road, All the live- long day. I've been wor- kin' on the



rail- road, Just to pass the time a- way. Don't you hear the whis- tle blo- wing,



Rise up so ear- ly in the morn' Don't you hear the cap- tain shou- ting: "Di- nah blow your



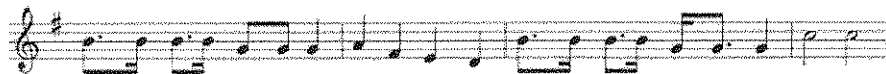
horn!" Di- nah won't you blow, Di- nah won't you blow? Di- nah won't you blow your



horn, your horn? Di- nah won't you blow, Di- nah won't you blow?



Di- nah won't you blow your horn? Some- one's in the Kit- chen with Di- nah,



Some- one's in the kit- chen I know, I know, Oh some- one's in the kit- chen with Di- nah,

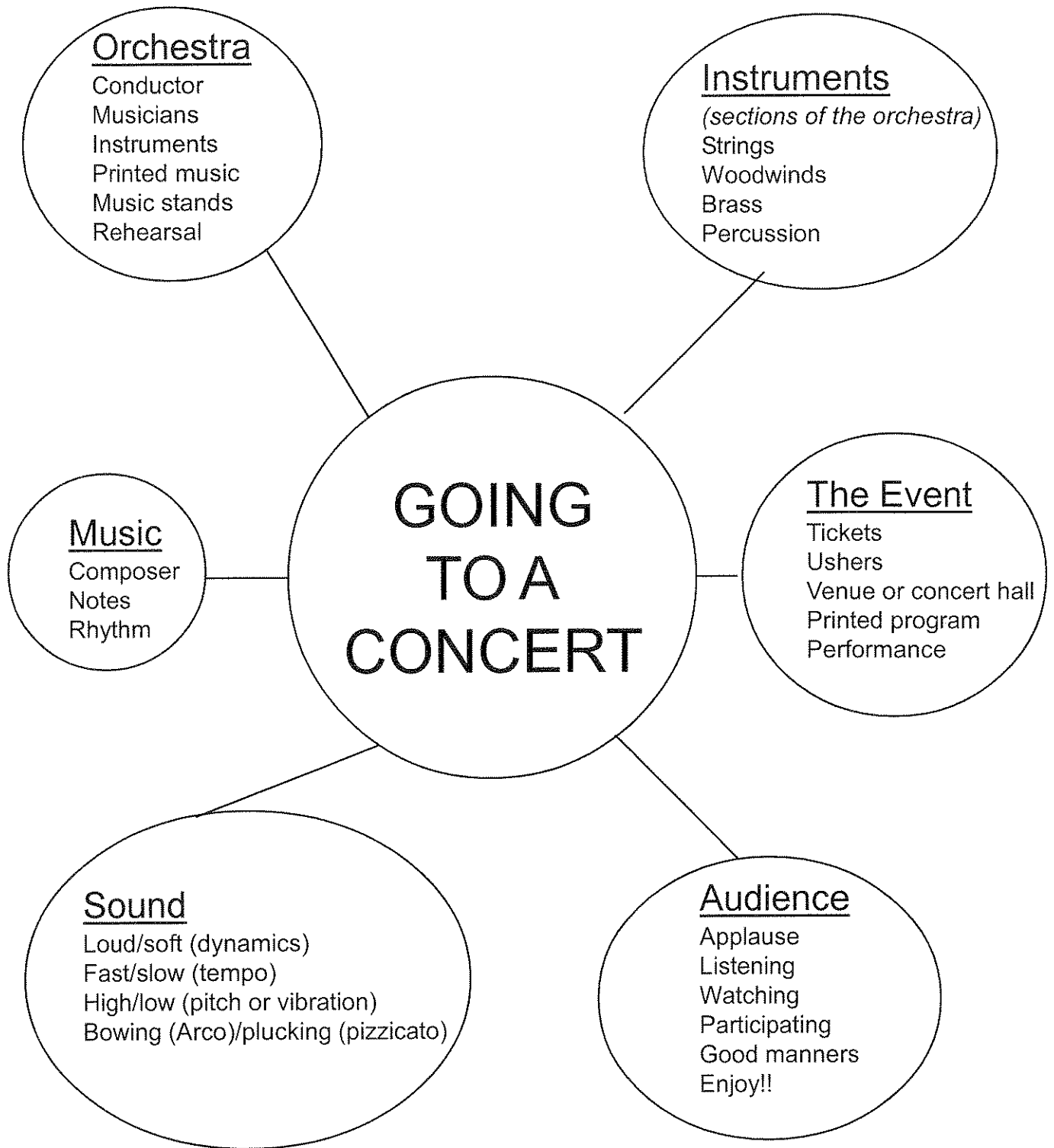


Strum- min' on the old ban- jo. Fee Fi fid- dle- dee I o, Fee fi fid- dle- dee I

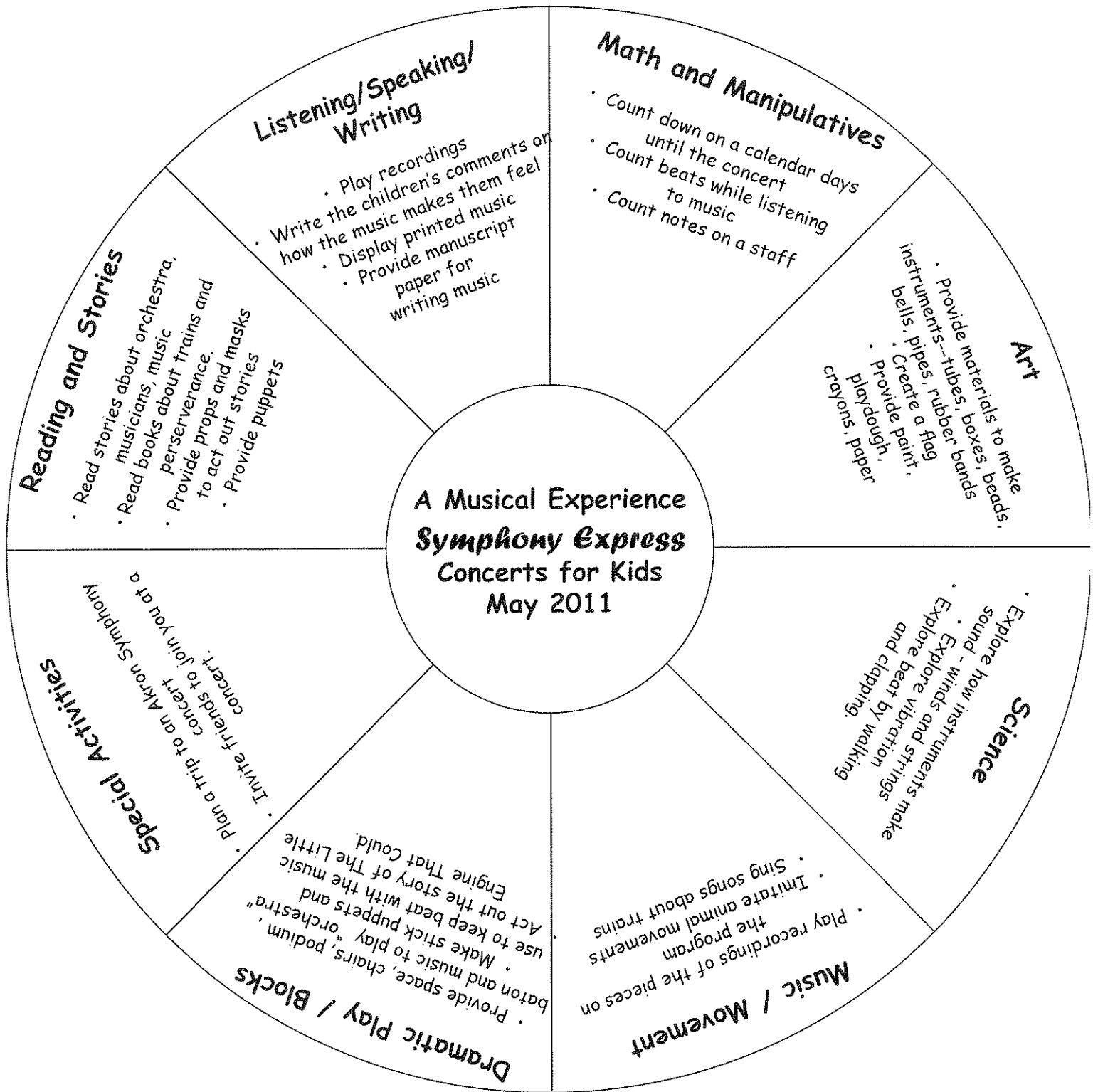


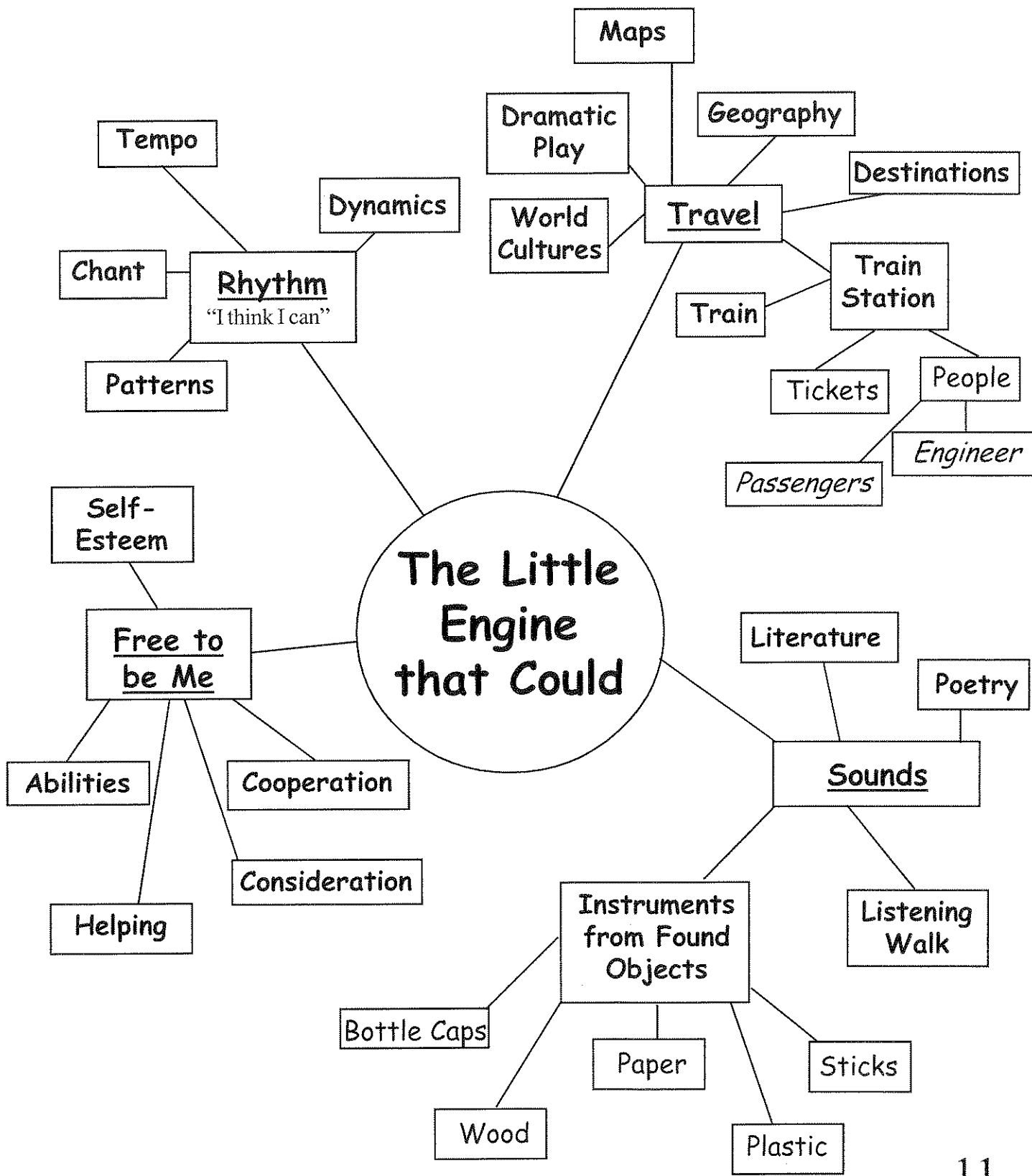
o, I o, I Fee fi fid- dle- dee I o, Strum- min' on the old ban- jo.

Concept Web



Activity Wheel





Concept Web Activities

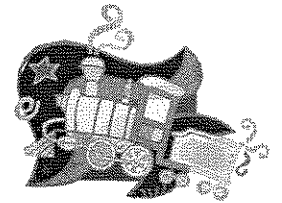
Following are activities that can be used with the preceding Concept Web for *The Little Engine That Could*.

Sound Sacks

- Invite students to find items that can be used to make noise. *Think out of the box!* Any item can make *some* kind of noise--paper, cardboard, wood, plastic, fabric, metal, man-made, things found in nature...be creative! Children can bring objects from around their homes or plan a “look for” adventure as a class, inside and outside. Give each child a bag to keep their items in.
- Invite the students to share their sound sacks in a group, large or small. As a group you can use the objects to explore math skills, classification and sorting skills, negotiation skills, compromising skills, conversation and decision making skills. Invite discussion about things that make sounds that CAN'T fit into their bag, too...brooms, pots and pans, our bodies, trains...

Rhythm

- Use the found objects to make rhythm instruments. Explore the many different ways each object can make sound...dropping, plucking, hitting, tapping, spinning, crinkling, flattening, smoothing, ruffling, blowing, striking, waving...
- What is “rhythm?” Provide experiences using the found objects for students to explore reoccurring patterns and long and short sounds that create rhythm.
 - Explore natural sounds (insects, leaves, wind, people walking)
 - Explore man-made sounds (trains, cars, sports, instruments)
 - Sew buttons on cotton gloves and use with clean paint trays (the kinds used for house painting) to make “musical washboards.”
- Invite the children to make their own rhythmic patterns with the found objects.
 - Invite the children to introduce their patterns antiphonally with one child “calling” with their pattern and the group “answering” back the same pattern.
 - Experiment with calling with one pattern and answering with different patterns.
 - Perform the patterns in unison as a group.
 - Divide the group and perform 3-4 patterns simultaneously. Experiment with “cueing” groups in and “cutting” groups off. Invite children to take turns “conducting.”
 - Vary the materials used. Use all the same types...use contrasting types.



Rhythm Literacy

- Rhythm is all around us, even in our names and in stories that we read and poems that we recite. Invite children to explore the rhythms of their names, favorite stories and poems.
 - Play a calling game where children use their found objects to call to each other by tapping out their names.
 - Read *The Little Engine that Could* and invite discussion about how the Little Blue Engine's “I think I can” mimics the rhythm of a steam engine.
 - Invite children to create their own chants to represent repeating sounds.
 - Go on a Listening Walk. Invite children to go on a walk and make observations about all the things they hear. Be sure to stop along the way and listen quietly!
 - Invite children to make a list or draw pictures of all the things they heard.

On the Go

- Use the “Train Theme” to explore travel, geography, multi-culturalism, maps, etc.
 - Invite children to build a train and/or a train station in the block area.
 - Invite students to discuss who you would meet at the station, (engineer, passengers, ticket seller) etc.
 - Invite students to make additional props, such as a comb harmonica, or filled pop bottles for the train whistle, boxes for luggage, etc.
 - Use maps to locate places that you could travel to by train.
 - Invite discussion about what kinds of sights and sounds you would see when you arrive at your destination.
 - Invite discussion about the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.
 - Take a trip on the railroad, or to see the train.

Dramatic Play

- Invite children to cast characters, make props, costumes and:
 - Reenact the story of *The Little Engine that Could*
 - Reenact other favorite stories
 - “Write” a play about taking a trip
 - Go to a concert
 - Cast members could include the orchestra, the conductor, the audience, ticket sellers, ushers...
 - Use found instruments with classroom instruments to create the orchestra
 - Invite other classes and/or parents to attend the “concert”

Free to Be Me

- Invite children to share experiences about trying and succeeding.
 - In small groups use make-believe topics for problem solving
 - How would you stop a cat and dog from fighting?
 - How would you weigh an elephant?
 - Invent a Sleep Machine to help people sleep
 - How would you improve the human body?
 - draw pictures of your new improvements
- Invite children to create a list of things that they would like to try:
 - new foods, travel, sports, play an instrument, dance
 - create opportunities in the classroom for students to explore these ideas
 - invite parents in to cook foods that are native to their culture
 - use Dramatic Play and On the Go ideas to travel
 - Work with a Music Education professional to create a musical instrument



The Symphony Express!

A Selected List of Resources

Multi-Media Resources

The following is a collection of materials that have been recommended by the Akron-Summit County Public Library to enhance the concert experience for your child or class.



All About Trains

Big Book of Trains. Another super DK publication loved by young readers for its great photos of locomotives, cars, tunnels, stations, and more. (See also: John Coiley's Train from the *Eyewitness* series.)

Crews, Donald. Freight Train. Brief text and illustrations trace the journey of a colorful train as it goes through tunnels, by cities, and over trestles.

Johnson, Angela. I Dream of Trains. The son of a sharecropper dreams of leaving Mississippi on a train with the legendary engineer Casey Jones.

Klingel, Cynthia and Noyed, Robert B. Trains. An early Reader for train enthusiasts and lovers of non-fiction.

Lester, Julius. John Henry. Terrific retelling of the life of the legendary African-American hero who races, among other things, a steam drill as it cuts through a mountain.

Piper, Walter. The Little Engine That Could. When the other engines refuse, the Little Blue Engine tries to pull a stranded train full of toys and good food over the mountain.

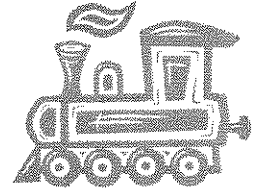
Siebert, Diane. Train Song. Rhymed text and illustrations describe the journey of a trans-continental train.

Sturges, Philemon. I Love Trains! Simple text and bright bold illustrations convey the excitement of the book's title.

Walker, Pamela. Train Rides. The "train experience"—from boarding to arrival!

Wormell, Christopher. Puff, Puff, Chugga-Chugga. Here comes the little train—but just how much can a train that size hold?

All About Music and the Orchestra



Cummings, Phil. Boom Bah! After a tiny mouse taps a cup with a spoon and creates a noise, everyone wants to join in. Follow the band as it gathers and grows from a solo performance to an explosive, full-scale orchestra.

Moss, Lloyd. Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin. An award-winner for its illustrations, this counting book shows 10 instruments as they play their part one by one in a performance.

Pinkney, Brian. Max Found Two Sticks. Although he doesn't feel like talking, a young boy responds to questions by drumming on various objects, including a bucket, hat boxes, and garbage cans.

Pritchett, Dylan. The First Music. A series of accidents in the jungle proves that everyone has something special to add when it comes to making music

Turner, Barbara J. Out and About the Orchestra. We're going on a field trip to the orchestra...

Van Kampen, Vlasta and Eugen, Irene C. Orchestranimals. It's almost time for the big performance, but none of the animal musicians have arrived!

Williams, Sheron. Imani's Music. Imani, an African grasshopper, brings music to the new world when he travels aboard a slave ship.

All About Toys

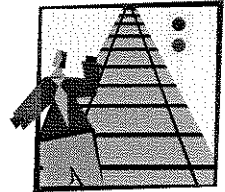
Bunting, Eve. Ducky. A yellow plastic duck makes a long perilous journey when he is washed overboard with a crate full of bathtub toys during a storm. Based on a true story.

Crews, Nina. Below. Jack has adventures and rescues with his action-figure, Guy.

Day, Eileen. I'm Good at Building. Photos and a simple text tell the story of children learning and creating through play.

De Seve, Randall. Toy Boat. A toy boat gets separated from its owner and has an adventure on the high seas.

Newman, Leslea. A Fire Engine for Ruthie. Ruthie's Nana suggests playing tea party and fashion show during their visit, but Ruthie is much more interested in the vehicles that a neighbor boy is playing with as they pass his house each day.



Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. Elizabethi's Doll. When a young Tazmanian girl gets a new baby brother, she finds a rock, which she names Eva, and makes it her baby doll.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. The Strange Adventures of Blue Dog. Billy's love for his toy Blue Dog, who lives on a toy farm, transforms both their lives, making Blue Dog's world seem real and inspiring Billy to get a real dog.

On DVD at the Library

The Best of All About: Fires Engines, Trucks, Airplanes and Fast Trains. SGC Kids. 2008.

I Love Toy Trains. TM Video. 2000.

Lots to Learn: Buster Loves Music. Lots to Learn, LLC. 2008.

Real Wheels Travel Adventures. Warner. 2003.

Selected List of Sound Recordings (with library call numbers)

Bach, Johann Sebastian. Brandenberg Concerto No. 3. EMI. 1995. CDC B118bcVOE

Beethoven, Ludwig van. Symphony no. 4 in B flat major, op. 60 ; Symphony no. 5 in C minor, op. 67. EMI 1989. CDC B415sy4N

Copland, Aaron. *John Henry*. Lincoln and Other Portraits. Telarc. 1987. CD C784LK

Debussy, Claude. Prelude a l'apres-midi d'un faune. Decca. 1991. CDC D289pAs

Denver, John. *I've Been Working on the Railroad*. All Aboard. Sony. 1997. JCD D416a

I've Been Working on the Railroad. Most Amazing Truck, Train, and Plane Songs. Rhino. 2004. JCD M915

Stravinsky, Igor. *Suite No. 2 for Small Orchestra*. Miniature Masterpieces. Sony. 1991. CDC ST912orC



Websites About Music and Orchestras

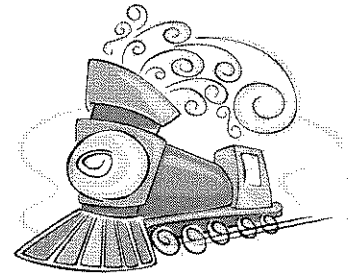
Make sure to get your parents' approval and help with these fun and interactive websites!

<http://www.nyphilkids.org>

This site sponsored by the New York Philharmonic has activities that include walking through an interactive instrument storage room, creating your own music, making your own instrument from everyday household items, and playing an instrument matching game! This is the New York Philharmonic Kids website.

<http://www.dsokids.com>

Learn about composers, musical instruments, and music theory through fun, online games at the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's website.



<http://www.sfskids.org>

Visit the San Francisco Symphony's kids section to hear clips of each instrument in the orchestra. You can also create your own music in The Music Lab.

www.bsomusic.org/bsokids

Go to this website from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra to make your own music and to print out coloring pages!

www.songsforteaching.com/trainongs

This website helps with a list of music that has to do with trains.

GET ON BOARD...
COLOR THE SYMPHONY EXPRESS!

MAY 3-13, 2011

CONCERTS FOR KIDS

SYMPHONY EXPRESS

