

The logo for 'esyo' is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The 'y' has a unique design with a curved top that loops back to the left, resembling a musical note or a stylized 'y'.

esyo



**YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT**  
*Educators Guide*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023 | PROCTORS | 10:30 AM**



**PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL**

# **Young People's Concert**

**ETIENNE ABELIN, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR**

**Featuring**


**Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, From the New World  
performed by the ESYO Symphony Orchestra**

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## CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Students will learn many things by attending an Empire State Youth Orchestra concert. Learning and displaying proper concert etiquette encourages personal responsibility and develops important social and cultural skills. Please review the following guidelines thoroughly with your students. Knowledge of the expectations in a formal concert environment will only increase their comfort—and enjoyment!

 **CLAP** when the Concertmaster walks out on stage and bows to the audience. The Concertmaster then turns to the orchestra and asks them to tune their instruments to the note, A, given by the oboe.

 **CLAP** once again when the conductor walks out on stage and bows.

 **LISTEN** quietly when the orchestra plays.

 **CLAP** when the piece is over. Watch the conductor – she will drop her arms to her sides when the music is completely done.



Dear Music Educators,

I am delighted to extend an invitation for you to join the **Empire State Youth Orchestra** and me on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, for a captivating musical journey. We will be embarking on a unique exploration featuring Antonin Dvořák's 9th Symphony, "From the New World." Our guide for this enchanting adventure will be none other than Bartholomew, the guardian of the mystical forests in our world.

Bartholomew's quest revolves around discovering a melody that will lead him back to the Heart Tree, from which he was banished by the malevolent sorcerer Grindel. The orchestra will play a pivotal role in helping Bartholomew unravel this mysterious melody. Along the way, we will all gain insights into the orchestra's diverse instruments and their versatile capabilities. We'll even have the opportunity to collectively craft music using the unique language of Soundpainting.

By the culmination of our journey, we will have uncovered the enchanting "Goin' Home" melody, which serves as the thematic heart of Dvořák's Symphony's second movement. And this turns out to be the melody that allows Bartholomew to return to the Heart Tree!

This program is specifically tailored for elementary and early-middle school students, and we've provided a helpful guide to assist you in preparing your students for this concert experience.

I sincerely look forward to welcoming you and your students to Proctors in Schenectady. It promises to be an extraordinary musical adventure!

**Etienne Abelin**

Music Director and Conductor of the Youth Orchestra

# ABOUT EMPIRE STATE YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Empire State Youth Orchestra (ESYO) was founded in 1979. Back then, it was only one orchestra with 81 players. Today, ESYO consists of twelve performing groups: the Youth Orchestra that you will hear at the Young People's Concert; Repertory Orchestra; Wind and String Orchestras; Concertino Winds, Strings and Percussion; two Jazz Ensembles; and three Percussion Ensembles! ESYO also includes CHIME, a program that provides free, intensive music training to students in urban areas. ESYO is proud of its programming and its tradition of performing a variety of music, including contemporary music by living composers. ESYO has received prestigious, national awards from the American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers (ASCAP); in 2008, ESYO received the award for American Programming on Foreign Tours and the 1st place Youth Orchestra Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music.

## AND ITS FLAGSHIP: ESYO YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Hundreds of talented young musicians from schools across the Capital Region, Massachusetts and Vermont audition each spring for coveted seats in ESYO Youth Orchestra. They gather weekly for 3-hour rehearsals in order to prepare for the numerous performances they give throughout the season. In addition to concerts like the one you will hear on November 1, the Youth Orchestra performs each December in four concerts for Melodies of Christmas, CBS 6's annual benefit that has raised \$7 million for the Pediatric Oncology Program at Albany Medical Center. The Youth Orchestra has had five international tours; four to Europe, one to Asia and in the summer of 2016 they traveled to Portugal.



# MEET ETIENNE ABELIN, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR



**BIRTHPLACE:** Bern, Switzerland

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Swiss Cheese Fondue, it's so yummy

**MUSICIANS I ADMIRE:** John Williams (the composer of the Star Wars film soundtrack!), Taylor Swift, Antonin Dvorak

**STUDIED MUSIC AT :** Musik-Akademie Basel, Oberlin College, University of Rochester

**LANGUAGES SPONKEN:** English, German, French, a bit of Italian and Dutch

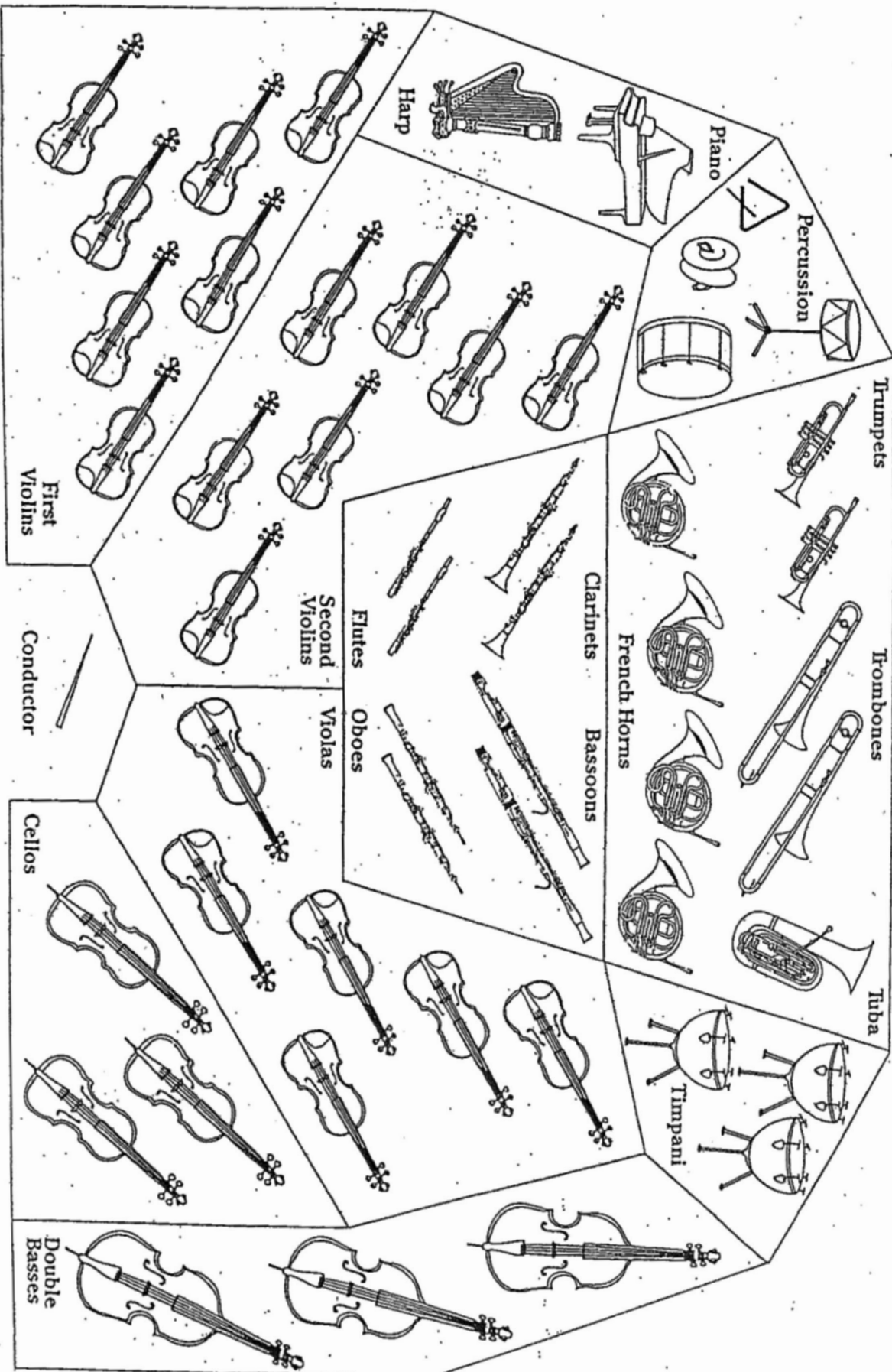
**FAVORITE COUNTRIES I HAVE VISITED:** Japan, Brazil, South Africa and of course the US!

**FAVORITE ICE CREAM IN THE CAPITOL REGION:** Emack & Bolio's Ice Cream in Albany, and Dairy House in Saratoga Springs. They're the best. Try Banana Foster at Emack & Bolio's, and Choc o Lot at the Dairy House!

## WHAT DOES A CONDUCTOR DO?

- 🎵 Works with over 100 musicians at once to achieve her interpretation of the composer's vision of the music
- 🎵 Studies the score which contains the music played by all of the instruments
- 🎵 Teaches (rehearses) the orchestra about the dynamics, tempo, and phrasing of the music so they understand the music better and play as one
- 🎵 Listens to the sounds produced and balances each section of the orchestra, guiding each player through the music
- 🎵 Educates the orchestra about the history and style of each piece
- 🎵 Inspires musicians to communicate the emotions of the music to the audience

# COLORING PAGE: WHAT INSTRUMENTS MAKE UP THE ORCHESTRA?



# PREPARING FOR THE CONCERT: DVOŘÁK (FOR TEACHERS)

Antonin Dvořák was born on September 8, 1841 in a small village in Bohemia, which is now part of the Czech Republic. He was one of seven children. Antonin's parents recognized his musical talent, and at the age of six he began his musical training. He studied music in Prague and graduated as an accomplished violin and viola player before he was 20 years old. As a young adult Antonin played viola in the Bohemian Provisional Theater Orchestra. When it became necessary to supplement his income with a teaching job, he left the orchestra to allow himself time to compose. Recognized and promoted by Johannes Brahms, his music was soon being played all over Europe.

In 1892 Mrs. Jeannette Thurber, a music lover and wealthy philanthropist, persuaded Dvořák to leave his native Bohemia and come to New York City. Hating to live anywhere but in his beloved homeland he was tempted by Mrs. Thurber's offer to appoint him director of her New York National Conservatory of Music. This academy was open to all ethnic groups and provided free tuition to those students unable to pay. Dvořák was attracted by the prospect of joining New York's brilliant musical life, but he was especially sympathetic to the academy's goal of fostering an American school of composition. To this aim he declared that the future of American concert music must be founded on its native folk melodies. "These beautiful and varied themes," he said, "are the product of the soil and you composers must turn to them." When he was not composing or teaching Dvořák's hobbies included watching the pigeons in Central Park and the trains arriving and departing in Grand Central Station.

Mrs. Thurber had hoped to persuade Dvořák to compose an opera based on Longfellow's epic, "The Song Of Hiawatha." What she, and we, got instead was a tuneful symphony that combined a musical tribute to his new home with longing for his old one. First performed at Carnegie Hall on the sixteenth of December, 1893, it was an instant hit and soon became known as "Symphony From The New World." And the subject of Hiawatha was not forgotten! The composer claimed that themes and rhythms used in the second and third movements of the symphony had Native American connotations. As well, a subsidiary melody in the first movement, played first on the flute, resembles the African American spiritual "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." Overall the first movement is dramatic and stormy. The second movement begins with a solemn brass chorale followed by a beautiful and memorable theme played by the English horn. Achieving fame after the premiere it inspired W. S. Fisher, one of Dvořák's pupils, to set an accompanying lyric: "Goin' Home." Some listeners have been struck by the haunting music that follows the English horn solo and some think it describes Minnehaha's forest funeral from the Longfellow poem. The fast, energetic music of the third movement is said to have been inspired by Longfellow's description of a tribal dance in "The Song of Hiawatha." In the fourth and final movement Dvorak gave way to nostalgia for his homeland. After a majestic opening we hear first a furiant (a rapid Bohemian style dance), then a melancholy clarinet melody, and then a polka. Prominent, too, are the first six notes of "Three Blind Mice." A purposeful quote? Don't miss it! Restatement of the principal material is combined with a recall of tunes from the preceding movements followed by a triumphant burst of energy bringing the symphony to a close. -Thomas L. Read



# MEET DVOŘÁK (FOR STUDENTS)

## **ANTONIN DVOŘÁK'S** (1841-1904)

### *Czech Romantic Era Composer*

Antonin Dvořák was born in a village just north of Prague. He was the oldest of nine children. His father was a butcher who wanted Antonin to become a butcher, too. But, when he saw how musical Antonin was, he made sure he got a good music education, including violin and organ lessons.



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Dvořák got a job as a church organist, but what he really wanted to do was compose. So, he entered his compositions in a government-sponsored contest and won! The prize money allowed Dvořák to quit his church job, and made him well known as a composer.

In spite of the fact that he never took composition lessons, Dvořák taught composition at the Prague Conservatory. And he also taught in New York City for a couple of years. The last of Dvořák's nine symphonies was written in the United States, and is nicknamed for the fact that it hails "From the New World."

## ACTIVITY: POETIC INSPIRATION

Composers find inspiration for their music in many things: nature, people, art, literature. Dvořák was inspired by poetry in the creation of his 9th symphony, and he created powerful rhythmical themes in his piece to illustrate the emotions many poems evoke in readers.

1. Choose one of your favorite poems, or ask your teacher to provide you with one.
2. Read your poem three times:
  - (A) First, read your poem silently, enjoying the general story that the poem is relating
  - (B) Now, read your poem aloud, and listen to the rhythm of the words, and listen to the emphasis you find yourself placing on each syllable.
  - (C) Read the poem once more, and this time, see if you can hear the "music" your words are making.
3. Can you create a simple rhythm that is inspired by your selected poem? Use your voice to hum and your hands to clap out your rhythm. Share with a classmate.

# ACTIVITY: DYNAMIC MELODIES

In music, **dynamics** means how loud or how soft the music is. Here is a list of dynamics:

Dynamic Sign	Italian	English
<i>ppp</i>	<i>pianississimo</i>	Very, very soft.
<i>pp</i>	<i>pianissimo</i>	Very soft.
<i>p</i>	<i>piano</i>	Soft.
<i>mp</i>	<i>mezzo piano</i>	Moderately soft.
<i>mf</i>	<i>mezzo forte</i>	Moderately loud.
<i>f</i>	<i>forte</i>	Loud.
<i>ff</i>	<i>fortissimo</i>	Very loud.
<i>fff</i>	<i>fortississimo</i>	Very, very loud.

1. As you listen to the introduction of the first movement of Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, make a note on a piece of paper each time you hear a change in dynamics using one of the symbols listed above to describe whether the orchestra is now louder or softer than before.
2. Share your results with a classmate, and discuss how these changes in dynamics created a certain feeling or mood in the listener.
3. Choose a common story such as the Three Little Bears, or Little Red Riding Hood, and create a musical theme for the story. Use your voice to hum, and your hands to clap rhythms, and be sure to change the dynamics often in order to illustrate the mood of the full work. Share your overture with your classmates.

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## Check out the BBC film and lesson on Dvořák's 9th Symphony!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/KS2-antonin-dvorak-symphony-no-9-in-e-minor-from-the-new-world-largo/z7qmhbkc>

## RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

New York Philharmonic Kidszone: <http://www.nyphilkids.org/>

Carnegie Hall Online Resource Center: <http://www.carnegiehall.org/orc/>

Dallas Symphony Orchestra Kids: <http://www.dsokids.com/>

San Francisco Kids: <http://www.sfskids.org/>

Making Music Fun: <http://www.makingmusicfun.net/>

Classics for Kids: <http://www.classicsforkids.com/>

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Apel, Willi. *Harvard Dictionary of Music*. Harvard University Press, 1967

Barber, Nicola. *The World of Music*. Silver Burdett Press, 1995

Blackwood, Alan. *The Orchestra; An Introduction to the World of Classical Music*. Millwood Press, 1993

Hayes, Ann. *Meet the Orchestra*. Gulliver Books, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991

Helsby, Genevieve. *Those Amazing Musical Instruments!*

Hoffer, Charles. *Concise Introduction to Music Listening*. Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1984

Hoffer Charles. *The Understanding of Music*. Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1981

Koscielniak, Bruce. *The Story of the Orchestra*. Houghton Mifflin Co., 2000

Kruckenberg, Sven. *The Symphony Orchestra and its Instruments*. Crescent Books, 1993

Levine, Robert. *The Story of the Orchestra*. 2001. General, child-friendly guide to the orchestra, instruments, and composers. (Audio CD included.)

Moss, Lloyd. *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin*. Simon & Schuster, 1995

Nye, Robert & Bergethon, B. *Basic Music*. Prentice Hall, Inc., 1983

Snicket, Lemony. *The Composer is Dead*. Harper Collins, 2009

Tripp, Paul. *Tubby the Tuba*. Dutton Juvenile, 2006

Van der Meer & Berkeley, Michael. *The Music Pack*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1994

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EMPIRE STATE  
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