

Curriculum Guide

The Fratello Marionettes

Carnival of the Animals

Teacher Guide

K-8

About the Artist

The Fratello Marionettes began entertaining audiences in 1989 by bringing the ancient art of marionettes to audiences throughout the world. We have toured extensively throughout the United States and internationally.

The Fratello Marionettes produce high quality marionette shows using the “cabaret style” of manipulation. In this truly American style the puppet and puppeteer perform in full view of the audience. Our shows present intricately handcrafted marionettes that range in size from one foot to three feet tall. Our shows are geared for children of all ages, and some of our work is performed without dialog. These music-based programs are designed to surmount the language barrier.

About the Program

Carnival of the Animals was written by the French composer Camille Saint-Saens in 1886 but was not performed publicly until after his death in 1921. Since then, this score has been used the world over to introduce children to classical music. The Fratello Marionettes use this fanciful score as the backdrop for three classic fables, “The Three Little Pigs,” “The Tortoise and the Hare,” and “The Ugly Duckling.” These stories have been interwoven to present a unique theatrical experience. The music inspires the movement of the puppets, as the puppets reinforce the music. These stories are told without dialog to allow the children to fully experience Camille Saint-Saens’ music in a way they will remember for years to come.

Learning Objectives

- To introduce children to the art of Puppetry
- To open children’s imagination to the theater
- To learn as does The Hare, that hard work is as important as confidence
- To learn as does The Tortoise, to focus on one’s goals, which will lead to success
- To learn as does The Pigs, never to underestimate the power of teamwork
- To learn as does The Cygnet, that we never have to change to fit in with others
- To increase emotional development
- To show how to follow one’s dreams (Both puppeteers started in puppetry at a young age)

Teacher Preparation for the Program

Discussing the History of Puppetry

- What is a puppet?
- What is a marionette?
- How many types of puppets are there?
- How can I make a simple puppet?
- When did the art of puppetry begin?

Carnival of the Animals

- What is the story of “The Three Little Pigs?”
- What is the story of “The Tortoise and the Hare?”
- What is the story of “The Ugly Duckling?”
- What is a fable?
- What are the moral lessons in these stories?
- What is the difference between a composer and a musician?
- What other classical music can you think of? (ie. from cartoons...)

Follow-Up Ideas and Activities

How to Create a Puppet Show

- Think of a clever story to tell.
- Writing the script.
- Develop what characters are involved.
- Decide what type of puppets to use to tell the story.
- Determine how and when to use sound effects or music.
- Decide who is going to play which characters.
- Rehearse the show.
- Put on a performance.
- Have fun!

Vocabulary and Key Concepts

Fairy tale: a story, usually for children, about elves, hobgoblins, dragons, fairies, or other magical creatures.

Fable: a short tale to teach a moral lesson, often with animals or inanimate objects as characters

Classical Music: Music of European descent utilizing a symphony orchestra playing in a “classical” form and style.

Cygnets: a baby swan

Puppetry: the art of making puppets and presenting puppet shows

Marionette: mar-i-o-nette ; a puppet manipulated from above by strings attached to its jointed limbs.

English-Language Arts Content Standards

This puppetry program meets the VAPA and ELAC standards:

- 1.1 Artistic Perception: puppets, story, classical music, conflict
- 2.1 Creative Expression: Students connect emotional bonds with the characters portrayed in the puppet show presentation
- 3.2 Historical and Cultural Context: Students are enlightened on one of the earliest forms of performance art. They are also encouraged to ask questions following the performance.

Resources

Sergei Prokofiev, Eugene Ormandy, David Bowie, Philadelphia Orchestra, Peter & the Wolf, RCA label, 1994

Walt Disney, “Three Little Pigs,” Golden Books, 2004

Janet Stevens, “The Tortoise & the Hare,” Holiday House, 1985

Hans Christian Anderson, “The Ugly Duckling,” Harper Collins, 1999

Luman Coad, Marionette Sourcebook, Charlamagne Press, 2007

Mabel and Les Beaton, The Complete Book of Marionettes, Dover Publications, 2005

David Currell, Making and Manipulating Marionettes, Crowood Press, 2005

Mark Mazarella, Stories of the American Puppet, DVD, 2007