

THE CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS by CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

The Carnival of the Animals is a musical composition by French composer *Camille Saint-Saëns*. It is one of the best-known pieces of classical music for children.



The Carnival of the Animals was first performed at a small gathering of friends. Saint-Saëns did not want the general public to hear it, because he did not want to be thought of as someone who wrote jokey pieces. He wanted to be thought of as a serious composer. Just one movement was published during his lifetime: the famous Swan movement for solo cello. The rest of the work was not performed until a year after Saint-Saëns' death.



Saint-Saëns moved to a small Austrian village, where he composed *The Carnival of the Animals* in February 1894. It is scored for two pianos, two violins, viola, cello, double bass, bass clarinet, saxophone, snare drum, flute (and piccolo), clarinet, glass harmonica, and xylophone. Today it is often performed with a full orchestra of strings, and with a glockenspiel instead of a glass harmonica, which is an unusual instrument.