

Sounds from the Big Top

Circuses, carnivals and fairs have provided thrilling entertainment for the masses for hundreds of years. Their people, animals, and exhibitions have encouraged countless composers to capture those spectacles in music. This program features a famous circus theme, music originally composed for a ballet about the circus, and a musical gallery of animals, all performed by a unique ensemble of winds and strings.

Instrumentation: quintet (violin, viola, bass, oboe, clarinet)

Program Length: 45-60 minutes

Target audiences: elementary, middle, and high school students, families

Musical concepts discussed: programmatic elements in music, timbre, instrumentation

Nations and cultures introduced: Russia, France, United States

New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards: Visual and Performing Arts (1.1, 1.5); Language Arts (3.3, 3.4, 3.5); Social Studies (6.3, 6.6)

Repertoire:

PROKOFIEV (1891-1953) Quintet, op. 39, based on the music to the ballet *Trapèze*

SAINT-SAËNS (1835-1921) Selections from *Carnival of Animals* (including a reading of Ogden Nash's poetic settings)

JULIS FUČÍK (1872-1916) *Entry of the Gladiators*

Musical genres: classical, romantic, march

All programs are subject to change.