The Big Note

The *Teddy Bear Series* video, *The Big Note*, by Victoria Griswold, is the story of a young boy’s search through a symphony orchestra to find a big note he hears at a concert. This video introduces the flute, violin, viola, and bassoon plus a surprise instrument at the end. Familiar works of Grieg, Saint-Saens, Beethoven, Bizet, and Sousa are performed as children are invited to move along with the music by making train wheels with their fists, butterflies with their fingers, and swaying back and forth like trees as they watch musicians perform.

Instrument Introductions

The instruments you’ll meet first in the video are all members of the string and woodwind families.

**Flute (floot)**
The flute is a woodwind instrument. Flutes have been made out of wood in the past, though most of the flutes used today are made out of metal. Alistair’s flute is made out of gold and silver!

**Violin (vai-uh-LIN)**
The violin is the smallest string instrument in the orchestra. It is played by holding it under the chin and a bow (rhymes with go) is used to draw out the sound.

**Viola (vee-OH-luh)**
The viola, like the violin, is a member of the string family. It is bigger than a violin and has a deeper sound. It is also held under the chin.

**Bassoon (buh-SOON)**
The bassoon is a woodwind instrument like the flute. It is 4 feet long and if the tube inside were straightened, it would be 8 feet!
Help Us Tell the Story!

We like to move to the music! Help us tell the story of *The Big Note* by learning the movements used throughout the video.

**Bumble Bee** | Bend your elbows to make wings. Tuck your hands underneath your arms and flap your wings quickly to be a bumble bee.

**Tip Toes** | Move your feet and tiptoe in place as softly as you can.

**Trees Swaying** | Stand tall and straight. Bring hands overhead and wiggle fingers to make leaves. Sway back and forth, as if there is a calm breeze.

**Butterflies** | Quickly flap your thumb against your fingers to make wings. Fly your butterflies up and down.

**Train** | With arms at your side, bend your elbows and make a fist. Rotate fists at your sides to make train wheels. Try speeding up slowly.
What Was Your Favorite?

Discussion Topics for the Classroom

1. Which instrument did you like best? Flute, Violin, Viola, Bassoon, or Tuba? Why?
2. What was your favorite music from the video? Bumble Bee, Tip Toes, Trees, Butterflies, Train, Tuba Solo, or Finale?
3. Did the music sound like bumble bees, tip-toeing, trees swaying, butterflies, and trains to you? Or did the music remind you of something else?
4. Did you see things in your mind when you listened and moved to music?

A surprise instrument, the **tuba** arrived near the end of our story. The tuba is the biggest instrument in the brass family. Being a tuba player is special. There’s usually only one in an orchestra! You don’t just blow air to play tuba. Tuba players push their lips together and blow hard to make their lips buzz into the tuba mouthpiece. Can you make your lips buzz?

**Did You Know?** Tubas weigh around 28 pounds. That’s the same as an average two year old child! They’re so heavy that a special one had to be made for marching and it wraps around the waist. It’s called a sousaphone.
The Baton

Different types of batons

Baton means “stick” in French!

One kind of baton can be twirled in a parade.

Another kind of baton is passed during a running race called a relay.

The conductor’s baton is used to help an orchestra play together and to show how fast or slow the music should be played.
Activity Sheet #1

Step 1) Circle your favorite instrument from *The Big Note.*
Step 2) Write a 1 on the line next to your favorite instrument, a 2 next to your next favorite, and so on until each instrument has a number.

Violin

Bassoon

Flute

Viola

Tuba
Activity Sheet #2

Can you name each of these instruments from *The Big Note*? Write their names in the boxes.
Activity Sheet #3

Color these illustrations from The Big Note. Can you draw a stage with musicians?
Activity Sheet #4

Cut out the instruments from *The Big Note* and create your own artwork for the story by putting them in a scene. You can also cut out the audience drawing in Activity Sheet #3 for your project!
Meet the Musicians LIVE!

The musicians featured in *The Big Note* are members of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. These musicians are available for live Zoom Q&A sessions for a small additional fee. They would love to meet your class and answer questions about their instrument and how they came to be professional musicians.

To schedule your Zoom Q&A or for additional questions, please email concertadventuresindy@gmail.com
Complete Musical Works from the Video

**Intro**
“Introduction and Lion’s Royal March” by Saint-Saëns (:47)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9P1LOBepcY

**Bumblebee**
“The Flight of the Bumblebee“ by Rimsky-Korsakov
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X14kC-sEH0I

**Conducting in 2**
“Farandole” by Bizet (:34)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3th27-9Tig&list=PLxSZDJkLkPvhDHFEXa1hNJ_SR9koX4&index=22

**Marching Bears**
“Washington Post March” by Sousa (:42)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peidgSY8A50

**Tip Toes**
“William Tell Overture“ by Rossini
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9EEXp8I33U

**Thunderous Music**
“Toreador” by Bizet
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3oK-WdInCo

**Swaying Trees**
“Morning Mood” by Grieg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyPkJFiGr-sw

**Butterflies**
“Aviary” by Saint-Saëns
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMcLiErpAPc

**Train**
“In the Hall of the Mountain King” by Grieg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98g2IGBspIc

**Ode to Joy**
“Ninth Symphony” by Beethoven
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEfsITinasA