

The Giant's Violin

The *Teddy Bear Series* video, *The Giant's Violin*, by Victoria Griswold, is the story of a boy who believes a giant and his violin are living in the attic above him. Young children are invited to move along to music, listen to a story, and watch five musicians from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra perform. *The Giant's Violin* video introduces the violin, viola, cello, and bass. The story highlights these four string instruments, which are the heart of the symphony orchestra. Musical selections from Camille Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* are performed.

Instrument Introductions

The instruments you'll meet in the video are all members of the *string* family.

Violin (*vai-uh-lin*), **Viola** (*vee-oh-luh*), and **Cello** (*ch eh-low*) are all made of wood, have 4 strings, and use a bow (*rhymes with go*) to draw out the sound.



Violin

The violin is the smallest and sounds like a little sister's voice. It is played by holding it under the chin.



Viola

The viola is bigger with a sound like a mother's voice and it is also held under the chin.



Cello

The cello is much bigger. It sounds like a big brother's voice, and is played sitting down and holding the instrument between the knees.



Help Us Tell the Story!

We like to move to the music! Help us tell the story of *The Giant's Violin* by learning the movements used throughout the video.

Kangaroo | Curve hands into paws and hop. Listen carefully to the music to know when to wait and when to hop.

Scamper | Make quick soft steps with your feet.

Lions | Roar like a lion. Be sure to listen carefully to know when to roar and when to wait.

Elephant | Make big heavy steps with your feet. Clasp your hands together and use your arms to make an elephant trunk. Sway your elephant trunk back and forth.

Chickens | Bring fingers and thumb together to make a beak. Use your beak to peck on your arms.



A surprise instrument, the **bass** arrives near the end of our story. The bass has a lot of names such as upright bass, string bass, double bass, contrabass, bass fiddle, acoustic bass, doghouse bass, bass viol, and standup bass. At over 6 feet long, the double bass is the biggest member of the string family and the largest instrument in a symphony orchestra!

High quality string instruments are made by hand by a *luthier* and require a great deal of skill. Learn about the skills that go into making a violin [here](#).



What Was Your Favorite?

Discussion Topics for the Classroom

1. Which instrument did you like best? Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass? Why?
2. What was your favorite music from the video? Attic Noises, Kangaroo, Scamper, Lions, Elephant, Chickens, Bass Solo, or Finale?
3. Which instrument roared like a lion? (Cello) Why did Scamper sound fast? (Because the notes were played fast) Which instrument sounded most like a chicken? (Violin) Did the music from the video make you think of animals or something else?
4. Do you go places or see things in your mind when you listen to music? What kind of places and things?



Did You Know? There is an instrument called the octobass. They are extremely large instruments that look like a gigantic double bass and they are very rare. The first one was built around 1850 in Paris by the French luthier, Vuillaume. Currently, there are only seven known octobasses in the world and most are kept in museums. Since no one can reach the neck of the instrument to push down the strings, a system of levers is used, and they are operated by the hands and feet of the player.

Meet the Musicians



Jennifer Farquhar,
violin



Derek Reeves, violin



Amy Kniffen, viola



Nick Donatelle, cello



Brian Smith, bass

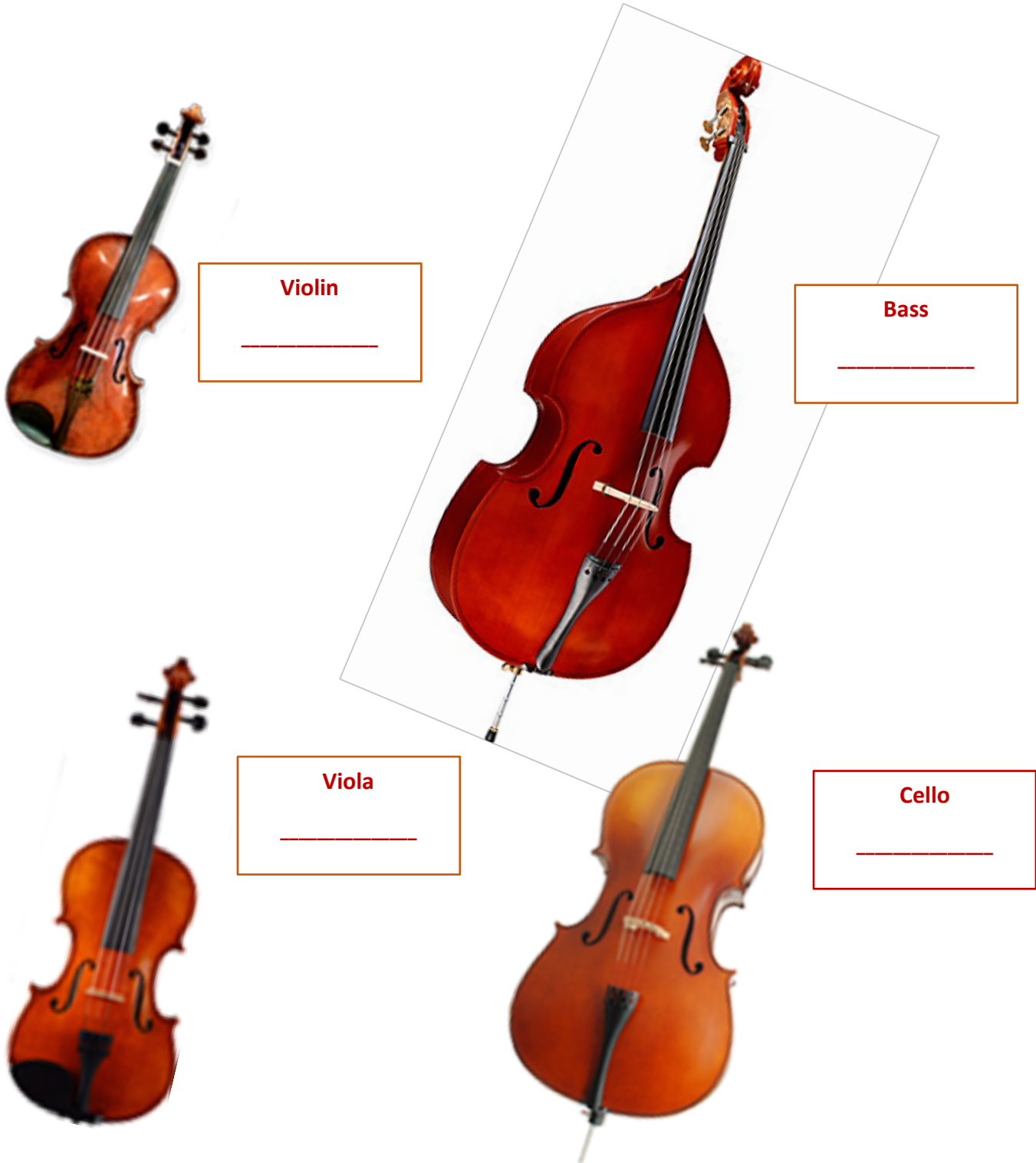
The musicians featured in *The Giant's Violin* are members of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. These musicians are available for live Zoom Q&A sessions for an additional fee. They would love to meet your class and answer questions about their instruments and how they came to be professional musicians.

To schedule your Zoom Q&A or for additional questions, please email concertadventuresindy@gmail.com.

Activity Sheet #1

Step 1) Circle your favorite instrument from *The Giant's Violin*.

Step 2) Write a 1 on the line next to the smallest instrument, a 2 next to the next biggest, and so on until each instrument has a number.



The image displays four string instruments arranged in a circle. A large, faint watermark of a violin is visible in the background. Each instrument is accompanied by a label box containing the instrument's name and a blank line for a number.

- Violin**:
- Bass**:
- Viola**:
- Cello**:

Activity Sheet #2

Can you name each of these instruments from *The Giants Violin*? Write their names in the boxes.



Activity Sheet #3

Color this illustration of a violinist performing.



Activity Sheet #4

Cut out the instruments from *The Giant's Violin* and create your own artwork for the story by putting them in a scene!



Complete Musical Works from the Video:

Carnival of the Animals

by Camille Saint-Saëns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9P1LOBepcY>

