



PETER AND THE WOLF

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026 @ 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

A timeless tale of courage and adventure comes to life through the power of music!

Sergei Prokofiev's beloved symphonic story, *Peter and the Wolf*, is an enchanting introduction to the orchestra, where each instrument represents a different character—from the spirited strings as Peter to the mischievous clarinet as the Cat. As this captivating musical fable unfolds, audiences will follow young Peter as he embarks on a daring journey to outsmart the cunning Wolf. With vivid narration, this performance is an ideal first symphonic experience for children, blending storytelling, humor, and orchestral magic into one unforgettable adventure!

Lobby Activities: Enjoy special activities for kids in the concert hall lobbies related to the theme of the concert, such as crafts, games, an instrument petting zoo, and more. Activities take place from 9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. for 10 a.m. concertgoers, and from 12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m. for 11:30 a.m. concertgoers.



PETER AND THE WOLF

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Presents Pacific Symphony Family Musical Mornings

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026 @ 10 a.m.
Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026 @ 11:30 a.m.

Pola Benke, conductor
Annika Kedhar, narrator
Pacific Symphony



Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

PROGRAM

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
(1756-1791)

Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, K.492

GEORGES BIZET
(1838-1875)

Petite Suite, from *Jeux d'enfants*, Op.22

Trompette et Tambour

La Poupée

La Toupie

Petit Mari, Petite Femme!

Le Bal

SERGEI PROKOFIEV
(1891-1953)

Peter and the Wolf, Op.67



WELCOME TO *PETER AND THE WOLF*

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Family Morning Mornings!

This series is very close to my heart. Sharing live orchestral music is some of the most meaningful work we do—these concerts spark curiosity, create joyful first experiences, and begin lifelong connections to music. We are especially grateful to Farmers & Merchants Bank, presenting sponsor of Pacific Symphony's Family Musical Mornings, whose generous support helps make these experiences possible for families throughout our community.

Today we celebrate composers who truly understood young listeners. Bizet's *Jeux d'enfants* transforms everyday childhood games into colorful musical scenes, and Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* brings the orchestra to life, with each instrument becoming a character in a vivid story. These pieces are imaginative, beautifully crafted, and full of personality.

We are thrilled to see so many familiar faces who have joined us for the Family Musical Mornings subscription concert series, and we warmly welcome those attending for the first time. Thank you for being here and for sharing these experiences with us. Your energy and enthusiasm make these concerts special.

We look forward to many more adventures together in the world of the orchestra.

With gratitude,



Pola Benke
Assistant Conductor



MEET THE CONDUCTOR

Pola Benke

Assistant Conductor for Pacific Symphony

Music Director for Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra

Mary E. Moore Family Assistant Conductor Chair



Pola Benke is Assistant Conductor of Pacific Symphony and Music Director of the Santa Monica Symphony, where she is quickly establishing herself as one of Southern California's most versatile and dynamic conductors. Her work is distinguished by a precise and expressive podium style, a deep sense of narrative in programming, and an ability to draw vibrant, cohesive performances from orchestras of all levels.

She has previously held assistant conductor posts with the Long Beach Symphony and the Riverside Philharmonic, and her artistic growth has been shaped by mentorships with Neeme Järvi, Sian Edwards, and Paavo Järvi. Internationally, she has appeared at the Järvi Academy in Estonia, Dartington Music Festival in England, and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in California, earning recognition for her curiosity, discipline, and musical insight.

Born in Poland, Benke holds Master's degrees in both cello performance and orchestral conducting—a dual path that informs her holistic approach to music-making. With the combined perspective of performer and conductor, she approaches each score with both analytical clarity and a performer's sensitivity.

A firm believer in the orchestra's role as a modern cultural voice, Benke is committed to programming that embraces tradition while welcoming new and diverse perspectives. Whether she is leading a cornerstone symphony or championing a contemporary work, Pola aims to shape performances that are both artistically rigorous and deeply engaging for audiences.

MEET THE ARTIST

Annika Kedhar (Narrator)



Annika is thrilled to be a part of this production of *Peter and the Wolf*. A 6th-grade student, Annika enjoys acting, singing, and performing. Recent credits include Brigitta in *The Sound of Music* (Westminster Community Playhouse), and Vocal Soloist in *Lagunatots* (NoSquare Theatre). She is very happy to be here and hopes everyone enjoys the show.



ABOUT PROKOFIEV

Sergei Prokofiev was a Russian composer, born in 1891. From a very young age, Prokofiev was taught music by his mother, a talented pianist. He wrote his first piece for piano when he was only five years old! By age 13, he began studying at the Saint Petersburg Conservatory. A **music conservatory** is a school that is dedicated to music studies and performance.

Prokofiev became famous as both a great **pianist** and **composer**. He composed many musical works throughout his life including seven **operas**, seven **symphonies**, and eight **ballets**. He also wrote several **piano concertos**—pieces of music written for piano and orchestra—and often performed them himself! His music is still performed all over the world today.



PETER AND THE WOLF

Peter and the Wolf is one of Prokofiev's most famous pieces of music. It has been recorded over 400 times since its premiere in 1936. The story is based on a **Russian folk tale** and brought to life by a collection of musical themes. *Peter and the Wolf* has been used to teach children all over the world about the instruments of the orchestra.

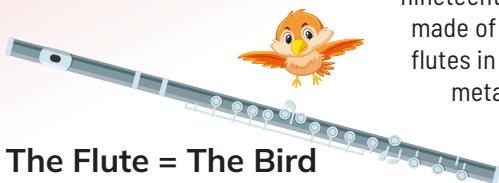
Peter and the Wolf is the story of a brave boy named Peter and his animal friends. Against his grandfather's wishes, Peter goes into a nearby meadow and befriends a bird, a duck, and a cat. When Peter's grandfather discovers him in the meadow, he sends him home just before a wolf appears and swallows the duck! Peter sees this and rushes back to the meadow. Peter captures the wolf with help from the bird and cat, saving the wolf from hunters. Together, they all parade to the zoo with Peter triumphantly in the lead.



MEET THE CHARACTERS

Throughout *Peter and the Wolf*, each character is represented by different instruments in the orchestra.

The **flute** is the **bird**. **Flutes** make a sound when the musician blows air over the hole at the top of the flute. Until the mid-nineteenth century, flutes were primarily made of wood, bone, or bamboo. Although flutes in today's orchestra are made of metal, they are still considered part of the **Woodwind Family**.



The Flute = The Bird

The other instruments in the **Woodwind Family** are **reed instruments**. Reed instruments make sound when the musician blows air into a mouthpiece so the reed or reeds can vibrate. **Reeds** are made from cane, a species of bamboo. The **clarinet**, representing the **cat**, is a **single reed instrument**. Single reeds have one thin piece of cane attached to a mouthpiece.

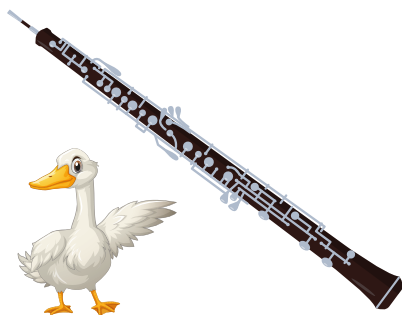


The Clarinet = The Cat

Double reed instruments, like **oboes** and **bassoons** have two reeds put together with a small opening at the top. When a musician blows air through the opening, the reeds vibrate against each other and produce a sound. In this story, the **oboe** is the **duck**, and the **bassoon** is Peter's **grandfather**.



Bassoon = The Grandfather



The Oboe = The Duck

MEET THE CHARACTERS

The **wolf** is played by three **French horns**. Instruments in the **Brass Family**, like **French horns**, are played by buzzing the lips while blowing air into a mouthpiece. Uniquely, the **bell** of the french horn—where the sound comes out—faces the back of the orchestra. The sound reflects off the back of the stage to the audience.



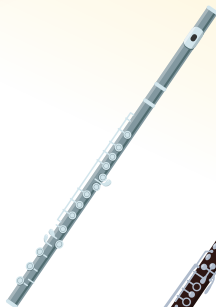
Three French Horns = The Wolf

Finally, **Peter** is represented by the whole string section. The **string instruments** in an orchestra include **violins**, **violas**, **cellos**, and **double basses**, which make up over half of all performers on stage! These string instruments can be played with a bow or by plucking the strings. See if you can hear all of these different instruments during the concert today!



Peter = The Strings

PETER AND THE WOLF MATCH THE INSTRUMENT



PETER AND THE WOLF COLORING PAGE



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PETER AND THE WOLF WORD SEARCH

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Bass
 Bassoon
 Bird
 Brass
 Cat
 Cellos
 Clarinet
 Composer
 Duck
 Flute

Folk Tale
 French Horn
 Grandfather
 Instrument
 Ivan
 Journey
 Oboe
 Peter
 Prokofiev
 Reed

Russian
 Sasha
 Sonia
 Storytelling
 Symphony
 Violas
 Violin
 Wolf
 Woodwind

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presents
Pacific Symphony Family Musical Mornings

Family Musical Mornings are 45-minute concerts perfect for families and designed to inspire a lifelong love of music. Enjoy an engaging multimedia experience featuring the Symphony, singers, actors, and dancers. Share the joy of music and create unforgettable memories. Scan the code to purchase tickets!



LEOPOLD & THE MAGIC FLUTE: OPERA FOR KIDS!

Saturday, May 30, 2026 @ 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Join Leopold, Pacific Symphony's furry puppet friend, for a whimsical journey into Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. This family-friendly adaptation features lively narration, colorful characters, and world-class music—an enchanting introduction to opera filled with laughter, adventure, and timeless melodies.

MATCH THE INSTRUMENT



ANSWER KEY

