

## About the Work

The "Waltz of the Animals" is a children's piece that was written to educate and entertain. The work explores the concept of music as a language introducing the listener to the basic elements of music: melody, counterpoint, and harmony. The components of the orchestra, i.e. strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion, are also demonstrated. The composition presents these concepts to the audience in a fantasy about a little girl and her animal friends in the forest who decide to write a song for their good friend Frederick J. Frog on his birthday. The work captivates the young listener while it exposes the audience to a basic theme performed in many different styles including Classical, Impressionistic, Contemporary, Avant Garde, and Jazz.

The work was written with a woman narrator in mind, although it can be performed with a male narrator. There are many different characters in the script, and it would be advantageous to have the narrator be someone who is good at speaking different accents. Wolfgang Amadeus Owl should be in the voice of a very astute and intelligent male. Maurice Z. Monarch should speak with a French accent, and Ludwig von Blackbird should have a squawkiness portrayed in the reading of this character. Aaron the Antelope should be macho, and Miles D. Muskrat should speak in a hippy style. The references to these great composers in the narration is intentional and are stylistically reflected in the piece.

"Waltz of the Animals" is constructed in such a way that the narrator does not have to follow a score. All readings are obvious from the script with the help of cues from the conductor. Strategic vamps have been included in the work to allow extra freedom in the reading of the script, and all narrator cues are clearly marked in the score. I personally feel the narrator should be placed close to the conductor for ease in cueing the reader. The use of stand lights or some type of lighting effects could be used to highlight the various sections of the orchestra as they play. This, of course, is optional.