The vision of the Boston Philharmonic is passionate music making without boundaries. We appreciate the generous support of our community. Our education programs include teaching partnerships, community concerts, educational curriculum and events that connect music experience with hundreds of students in the Boston area. Our team of teaching fellows includes performers and educators from top music institutions.

To learn more about BPO's education programs, visit bostonphil.org/education

Or contact William Hume, Education Coordinator, at whume@bostonphil.org
(617) 236-0999

Beginner's Guide
Boston Philharmonic Orchestra
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The Boston Philharmonic
Founded by Benjamin Zander in 1979, BPO features professional, student and amateur musicians.

Welcome to the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra!

Get ready to explore a world of classical music through the power of listening. Whether you are new to the concert hall or just want to learn more, this guide will serve to complement your concert experience and further ignite your curiosity!

Now, let our conductor and the over 100 members of the Boston Philharmonic take you on an impactful musical journey!

Upcoming Concerts:

November 12 8:00 PM
Dvořák Cello Concerto
Brahms Symphony No. 2

November 20 3:00 PM
Strauss Ein Heldenleben
Beethoven Symphony No. 5

February 24, 2023 8:00 PM
Beethoven Symphony No. 9

Clarinet players use treble clef to read music, just like violin, flute, oboe, horn and trumpet players! Can you draw a treble clef below?
Clarinet

A woodwind instrument with many keys! Usually made of wood or hard plastic. The sound is produced by the vibration of a single reed!

Listen for the clarinet solo in the 3rd movement of Rachmaninoff’s symphony!

Today’s Program

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Piano Concerto No. 4, Op. 58 in G Major

I. Allegro moderato
II. Andante con moto
III. Rondo: Vivace

Featured Pianist
Jonathan Biss
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was a German composer and pianist. His music is some of the most performed of all time. His compositions span the late Classical period and early Romantic era. When he was around 30 years old, he started to lose his hearing. By age 46, he was completely deaf. But this didn’t keep him from composing! In his life, Beethoven composed 722 works. 9 of these were symphonies and 5 were piano concertos like the piece on this concert!

**What is a Symphony?**

A symphony is a large work for orchestra that originated in the mid-1700s during the Classical era. “Symphony” comes from the Greek word “symphonia” which means an agreement of sound.

Early Classical symphonies had 3 movements, but the form grew to 4 movements by the Romantic era, often built like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mvmt</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fast tempo, usually in sonata form (listen for a returning theme)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Slow tempo, no typical form, but at times theme and variation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Often a minuet and trio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fast tempo, rondo or sonata form (listen for a repeating theme)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A symphony includes instruments in the string, woodwind, brass and percussion families. Sometimes, they also include singers!
Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
Symphony No. 2 in E minor

I. Largo - Allegro moderato
II. Allegro molto
III. Adagio
IV. Allegro vivace

I. The 1st movement has a slow, dark intro. Here, the theme of the symphony is introduced and developed.

II. The 2nd movement is a scherzo. A scherzo is quick! Listen for the opening string ostinato. An ostinato is a repeating passage of music. In this movement, Rachmaninoff quotes the “Dies irae,” a chant associated with Judgment Day.

III. The 3rd movement features a clarinet solo. The development of this movement recalls the “Dies irae” theme of the 2nd movement.

IV. The final movement is lively, with a fanfare-like theme!

What is a Concerto?

A concerto is a composition for a solo instrument, accompanied by orchestra. They became popular in the Baroque period (early 1700s). Concertos feature virtuosic music to show off the talent of the soloist. There is often a theme in the beginning that gets developed.

This concerto features the piano! Listen for the cadenza in the first movement, when the orchestra stops and the pianist plays a dazzling solo.

Beethoven’s fourth piano concerto is in G Major and was completed in 1806. This piece is a favorite of pianists everywhere!

The second movement is associated with Orpheus, the ancient Greek musician, pictured below.

Listen for the English horn solo in the 1st mvmt! The English horn is a double reed instrument belonging to the oboe family.

Orpheus played the lyre, a small stringed instrument.
Imagery in Music

Composers often draw inspiration from non-musical sources: people, places, objects, history and feelings!

Map of the Orchestra!

Draw what you hear at the concert below!