

STORY

The Carnival of the Animals by: Camille Saint-Saëns

The Carnival of the Animals is a 14 movement symphony produced by the famous French composer, Camille Saint-Saëns in 1885. It was a fun and whimsical piece that was not intended for public performance and Saint-Saëns, ever concerned for his reputation, forbade the piece to go public until after his death. This symphony has become his most known work and depicts the emotions of a menagerie of animals, and is many times performed in tandem with the well known poem of the same name written by Ogden Nash.

This production deviates from this traditional format and instead relies on the introduction of 2 new characters, Mouse and Cat whom reside in Mr. Saint-Saëns' estate.

The introduction begins just as Camille has completed composing the symphony, and although he is pleased with the work he is also concerned that such a light hearted piece could damage his reputation. It is with these disturbing thoughts floating around in his mind that he beings to doze off in front of the fireplace. Just then, up pops Mouse from behind the clock on the mantel and he scampers down to warm himself in front of the fire. Of course Cat takes notice and so starts the game of Cat chasing Mouse. This Mouse and Cat game is the cue for the guests to follow the two main characters from scene to scene. The guests look for these characters to come alive through the use of their smart phones.



Introduction - Parlor Scene