KIDSBOOK

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CSO SCHOOL CONCERTS
March 16, 2018, 10:15 & 12:00

CSO FAMILY MATINEE SERIES
March 17, 2018, 11:00 & 12:45

LET'S EXPLORE!

Presented in collaboration with The Field Museum

NEGAUNEE MUSIC INSTITUTE at the CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
312-294-3000 | CSO.ORG | 220 S. MICHIGAN AVE. | CHICAGO
PERFORMERS
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Edwin Outwater conductor
Emily Graslie co-host

PROGRAM INCLUDES SELECTIONS FROM
Frank
The Mestizo Waltz from Three Latin-American Dances

Beethoven
Symphony No. 5

Smetana
The Moldau from Má vlast

Bates
Desert Transport

LET’S EXPLORE

Scientists have explored the natural world for centuries. Today, there are still areas of our planet that are largely unknown to researchers. In 2014, The Field Museum worked with local experts in the Peruvian Amazon to learn about its complex environment and ecosystems as well as to discover new species and habitats. These local experts led scientists through the forest and down rivers to help them collect fish and plants and record bird calls.

When composers study what’s in the air, trees and water, they can paint a more complete picture of an environment, understand how these systems work together and help keep them healthy for the long term.

Composers sometimes work like scientists. They gather information from the world around them and use their imaginations to turn it into music. Composer Gabriela Lena Frank travels to unfamiliar places for inspiration and to record native melodies that she can use in her music. As you listen to The Mestizo Waltz, imagine Gabi Frank leading musical field research in Peru to find sounds to use in the orchestra.

When composers study what they hear in the cultural ecosystems of other places, they promote an appreciation of the world’s music and the people who make it.
After being overrun by invasive weeds, Langham Island in the Kankakee River had lost one of its most special residents—the Kankakee mallow. Because the island is the only place this flower is known to grow in the wild, nature-loving volunteers worked to remove the invasive species and restore the ecosystem. In 2015, their work paid off, as hundreds of new Kankakee mallow seedlings emerged from the ground, having lain dormant as seeds underneath the soil and weeds. Despite the problems humans can cause for our wild spaces, we have the power to create solutions when we work together.

Bedřich Smetana captured the likeness and journey of a river in The Moldau from Má vlast. This music is meant to reflect all the ways the water ebbs and flows (calm, running and turbulent) and all that appears along the shore. As you listen to this piece, notice how the music sounds like a moving river, and wonder about the journey taken by the Kankakee mallow.

“Unique environments can be found everywhere, including places that may not seem very ‘natural’—like the farm fields of Illinois.”

EMILY GRASLIE
CHIEF CURIOSITY CORRESPONDENT
THE FIELD MUSEUM

Nature is all around you: on your city streets and in your alleyways and backyards. All you have to do is look down at the sidewalk or up toward the skyscrapers to notice it. Curiosity about nature led composer Mason Bates to write Desert Transport. This piece is about a journey he took through the air to see the world in a different way. The music captures the dynamic Arizona landscape from the high-flying viewpoint of a helicopter. Through his window, Mason Bates could see the constantly changing desert colors, saguaro cacti and looming red rocks, which seemed like giants among the red-orange landscape.

Even if you don’t have a helicopter, take a moment to look inquisitively at the world around you. As you explore, ask questions, and if someone responds with “I don’t know,” let that be the starting point for a new and exciting discovery!
EDWIN OUTWATER

Edwin is the Director of Summer Concerts at the San Francisco Symphony.

He has conducted the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic and Seattle Symphony, among many others.

Edwin conducted the world premiere of “The Composer Is Dead” by Nathaniel Stookey and Lemony Snicket while he was Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony from 2001–2006.

Edwin Outwater was born in Santa Monica, California. Edwin conducted the world premiere of “The Composer Is Dead” by Nathaniel Stookey and Lemony Snicket while he was Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony from 2001–2006.

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Edwin Outwater was born in Santa Monica, California. He loves to read and earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard University in English literature.

EMILY GRASLIE

Emily Graslie is Chief Curiosity Correspondent for The Field Museum, and the creator, host and writer for its educational YouTube® series, The Brain Scoop.

Launched in January 2013, The Brain Scoop aims to share the research and collections work of natural history museums with a broad audience. To date, Emily and her team have created around 30 videos, which have been viewed more than 22 million times by passionate learners from all over the world.

Emily's work has received numerous awards, and she is a 2018 member of the Forbes “30 Under 30” list in Education.

In addition to her love for science, Emily is also involved in the arts and has been playing the violin since she was eight.

Her favorite piece to perform has been *Mars* from The Planets by Holst with the Symphony Orchestra at the University of Montana.
INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA

THE STRING FAMILY includes violin, viola, cello, bass and harp. These instruments are made of wood and strings and are played by vibrating the strings using a bow or plucking or striking the strings with the fingers.

THE WOODWIND FAMILY includes flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and saxophone. These instruments all have the same basic shape: a long tube with a mouthpiece at one end. The flute is played by blowing across a mouthpiece to create a vibration. Oboe, clarinet, bassoon and saxophone are all played by blowing air into a single or double reed attached to the mouthpiece, creating a vibration that results in sound.

THE BRASS FAMILY includes horn, trumpet, trombone, euphonium and tuba. Brass instruments make a sound when the players vibrate their lips inside a mouthpiece, which is fitted into the instrument. The players can change pitch on a trumpet, horn or tuba by pressing on valves. Trombone players change pitch by moving the slide back and forth.

THE PERCUSSION FAMILY includes snare drum, bass drum, gong, triangle, xylophone, timpani and piano, among many others. Percussion instruments are struck, scraped or shaken.

RESOURCES:
The Parent’s Guide for this concert can be found at csosoundsandstories.org/LEParentsGuide.
The Teacher’s Guide for this concert can be found at csosoundsandstories.org/LETeachersGuide.
Content for Kidsbook was created by Katy Clusen with graphic design by Shawn Sheehy.