KIDSBOOK

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CSO SCHOOL CONCERTS
November 21, 2014, 10:15 and 12:00

CSO FAMILY MATINEE SERIES
November 22, 2014, 11:00 and 12:45

The CSO Family Matinee series is sponsored by:

[The Warranty Group logo]
Welcome to Kidsbook, your guide to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s School and Family Matinee concerts! We hope the content in this guide will help your child/students learn about the themes of the Downtown Sounds concert.

What does your neighborhood or town sound like? Many composers have written music about their favorite places, using melodies and rhythms to portray city streets and bustling neighborhoods. Be transported around Chicago without leaving Orchestra Hall with the help of Members of the CSO, conductor Scott Speck and special guest “tour guide” Geoffrey Baer from WTTW!

DOWNTOWN SOUNDS

CSO SCHOOL CONCERTS
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PERFORMERS:
Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Scott Speck conductor
Geoffrey Baer co-host

ON THE PROGRAM:
Richard Strauss Sunrise from Also sprach Zarathustra
George Gershwin Excerpt from An American in Paris
Jacques Ibert Le Métro from Suite symphonique (Paris)
Bedřich Smetana The Moldau from Má vlast
Traditional/Arr. Nie Dance of the Golden Snake
Arturo Márquez Danzón No. 2
Ottorino Respighi Triton Fountain in Early Morning and
The Fountain of Trevi at Midday from Fountains of Rome
John Carpenter Lake from Adventures in a Perambulator
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky 1812 Overture

ABOUT THE PROGRAM: Although the music for this concert was not written about Chicago, each piece will help us tell the story of our great City!

As you head into the city, you see the majestic Chicago skyline rising up from the horizon. Welcome to the City of Big Shoulders! The music that opens our concert is from Also sprach Zarathustra by Richard Strauss. It starts quietly but grows louder as the skyline appears. When we finally arrive downtown, the opening fanfare has been repeated three times, conveying the City’s possibility and power!

Turn the page to continue our exciting musical journey through Chicago.
On the streets of Chicago, it’s busy, busy, busy, from people on the sidewalks to traffic in the street. George Gershwin wrote *An American in Paris* to sound like a busy street scene. Listen carefully to the music. Can you hear the car horns honking as the pedestrians hurriedly walk down the sidewalk?

“Doors closing.” Let’s hop on board the CTA and take a ride on the “L.” Le Métro by Jacques Ibert represents our subway ride. It starts with the bell dinging as the train leaves the station. As we pick up speed and head down the tracks, the strings and piano chug away.

Next up, we’ll take a ride in a water taxi down the Chicago River. The music for our ride starts off smooth but becomes turbulent from the traffic of all the other boats on the river. Our water taxi music is from a piece called *The Moldau* by Bedřich Smetana.

Now it’s time to explore some of Chicago’s exciting neighborhoods. First we’ll visit Chinatown and then Pilsen, where we can eat tamales. Yum! As we eat our tasty treats, we dance in the streets to the music that plays on the radio. Arturo Márquez wrote Danzón No. 2, a perfect piece of dance music.

Our day in the city is almost done, but not before we make one last stop: Navy Pier! It’s dark out now and almost time for the fireworks to begin! In Tchaikovsky’s *1812 Overture*, the music builds and builds, until finally it erupts and the fireworks explode as the percussion crashes and booms to the crowd’s delight!

“The lights atop the buildings twinkle goodnight as we leave to go home. The city is still awake, but it’s time to go to sleep. Sweet dreams, *SWEET HOME CHICAGO!*”

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After such a long day in the city, we head to the lake and dip our toes in the water. In John Alden Carpenter’s *Lake*, we can imagine the deep dark blue of Lake Michigan, the sun shining on the water like glitter, and a gentle breeze cooling our skin.

The lights atop the buildings twinkle goodnight as we leave to go home. The city is still awake, but it’s time to go to sleep. Sweet dreams, “SWEET HOME CHICAGO!”

Yay, Millennium Park! We run between the two fountains waiting for the water to rush down on us. Next, we head to Buckingham Fountain, where the water erupts towards the sky. Ottorino Respighi’s *Triton Fountain* and *Trevi Fountain* from *Fountains of Rome* musically represent these famous Chicago fountains.
SCOTT SPECK

- Scott Speck was born in Boston, Massachusetts and graduated from Yale University.
- He is music director of the Joffrey Ballet and artistic director of the Chicago Philharmonic.
- Scott has made many appearances at the White House as music director of the Washington Ballet.
- In addition to being fluent in English, German and French, Scott has a diploma in Italian, speaks Spanish, and has a reading knowledge of Russian.
- Scott is the co-author of three of the world’s best-selling books on classical music for a popular audience: *Classical Music for Dummies*, *Opera for Dummies* and *Ballet for Dummies*.

GEOFFREY BAER

- Multiple Emmy Award-winning public television writer, producer and program host Geoffrey Baer is known for his masterful storytelling, conversational style and contagious enthusiasm.
- Geoffrey is most familiar to Chicago audiences for his popular feature-length TV specials about Chicago architecture and history, including Chicago’s Loop: A New Walking Tour, Chicago’s Lakefront, Chicago by Boat: the New River Tour and Chicago by ‘L’: Touring the Neighborhoods, as well as six programs covering virtually all of Chicago’s suburban areas.
- He has been a docent for the Chicago Architecture Foundation since 1987, a board member of the Art Institute of Chicago’s Architecture and Design Society and is an emeritus board member of Lookingglass Theatre Company.
- Geoffrey has a master’s degree in theater from Northwestern University and a B.S. in Radio/TV/Film from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.
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