This preparatory guide accompanies a virtual program inspired by *School’s Out!* by award-nominated children’s rocker Justin Roberts. In this playful program, Roberts joins musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to celebrate the end of an extraordinary school year and the beginning of summer.

The video can be found on the CSO’s [website](http://www.chicagosymphony.org).

**ENGAGE WITH THE VIRTUAL PROGRAM**

After listening to *School’s Out*, do one or more of the following activities:

- Write a thank-you note to someone who helped you get you through the year.
- Listen to the studio recording of *School’s Out*.
- Compare and contrast the studio recording to the orchestrated version of *School’s Out!* performed by the musicians of the CSO.
- Sing the song. Here are the lyrics to the chorus:
  
  And there’s no doubt  
  There’s no doubt  
  That school’s out  
  School’s out  
  And there’s no doubt  
  There’s no doubt  
  That school’s out  
  School’s out

**EXPLORE BEETHOVEN’S PASTORAL SYMPHONY**

Summertime opens up the opportunity for spending more time outside. Get ready to explore the great outdoors by listening to the musicians of the CSO perform an excerpt from Beethoven’s Symphony No. 6 (*Pastoral*). The movement heard in the video is titled *Awakening of Cheerful Feelings on Arrival in the Countryside*.
Tell your children that this piece is called the Pastoral Symphony.

Ask your children if they know what “pastoral” means? Discuss.

Ask them what other words come to mind when thinking of the word “pastoral”? Words shared may be: peaceful, countryside, farms, nature, green, grass, hills, beautiful, peasants, shepherds, sheep, cattle, brooks.

Google "pastoral landscapes" to find numerous examples of pastoral paintings and photographs to show children.

Have children describe the images and ask what they all have in common.

Ask your children what they smell, hear, taste, feel and see when they look at the images.

Ask your children what feelings they have when they look at the pictures.

Listen to the performance in the video of Awakening of Cheerful Feelings on Arrival in the Countryside.

Ask children to think about what Beethoven might have seen as he walked through the countryside.

Tell your children to be like Beethoven and walk around their homes or their neighborhoods and write down or record what they hear. The result is their very own music composition.

DID YOU KNOW?

Beethoven typically spent his mornings and evenings composing music, and his afternoons walking in the country.

He gave his Sixth Symphony the title of “The Pastoral Symphony, or Recollections of Country Life.”

Symphony No. 6 was first performed in 1808 as the opening piece of a four-hour concert!

It has five movements rather than the typical four; Beethoven wrote that his intent was more to express the feelings of being in nature than painting a picture.

Learn more about Justin Roberts, including his tour schedule, by visiting his website. You can discover how to pay “super extra special attention” by reading Justin’s book, The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade. Visit the book section of Justin’s website.