

## Books About Composers and Classical Music

*Getting to Know the World's Greatest Composers* by Mike Venezia is a series of introductory books about the major composers aimed at elementary age children. Some composers covered are Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, Bach, and Tchaikovsky.



*Carnival of the Animals: Classical Music for Kids* is a good introduction to classical music for preschool and early elementary age children. It is based on composer Camille Saint-Saëns' 14 work musical composition for children. The book includes information on how to listen for the animal sounds made by the instruments.

*Story of the Orchestra: Listen While You Learn About the Instruments, the Music and the Composers Who Wrote the Music!* This book by Robert Levine and CD provides snippets of famous classical works. It also teaches about the instruments that make up an orchestra.

*Peter and the Wolf* by Sergei Prokofiev is a fun way to introduce kids to classical music. This is a musical story about a boy who outsmarts a wolf. The various characters are played by different instruments.



*Do Re Mi: If You Can Read Music, Thank Guido d'Arezzo*, written by Susan Roth is an excellent book to introduce to young children (and the young at heart) to the story of how printed music actually began.

*Meet the Orchestra* by Ann Hayes, is a lyrical romp of the orchestra beginning with animal musicians who slowly gather for an evening performance. Poetic descriptions suggest the sounds of the instruments, and lively watercolor illustrations capture the playful essence of each musician and musical instrument.

