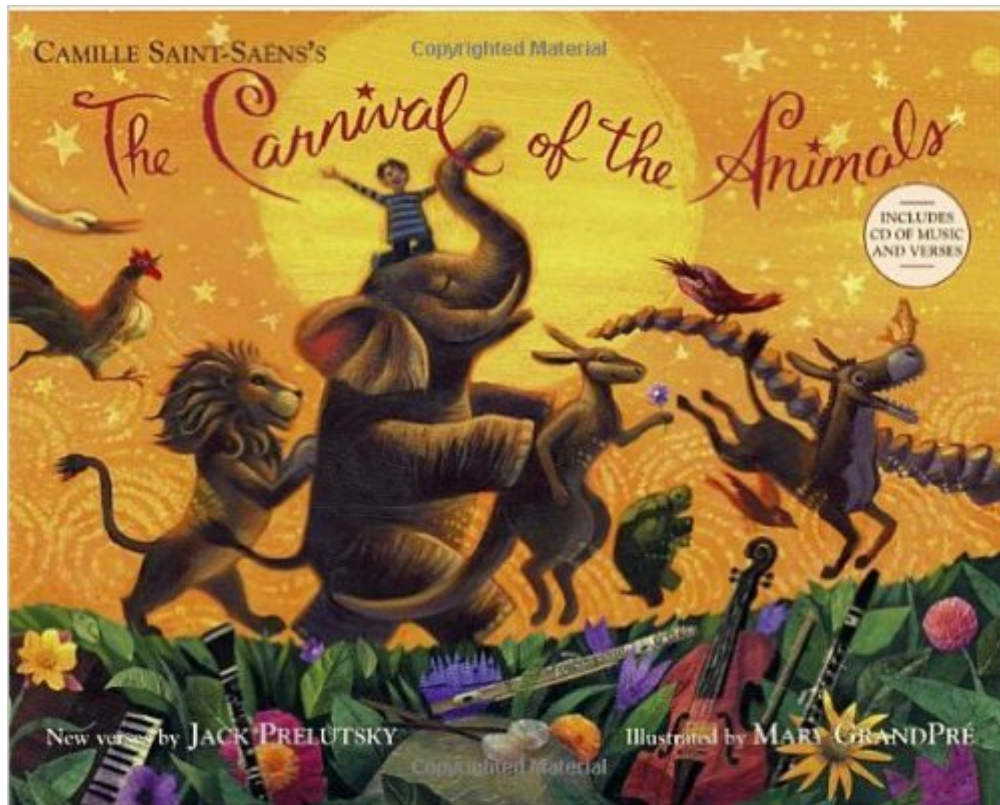


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# The Carnival Of The Animals (Book & CD)



## Synopsis

A great way to introduce children to classical music. America's first Children's Poet Laureate has written all-new verses to accompany the composer Camille Saint-Saëns's The Carnival of the Animals, and the illustrator of the Harry Potter books has turned these rollicking rhymes into a picture-book fun fest. Included is a CD of the music and of Jack Prelutsky reading the verses. A note to parents and teachers by Judith Bachleitner, head of the music department at the prestigious Rudolf Steiner School in New York City, suggests ways preschoolers can act out the music's "tromp like an elephant, hop like a kangaroo, glide like a swan" or, for older children, be creatively inspired by this joyful work.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (August 24, 2010)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.4 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (66 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #17,640 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts #67 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > United States #174 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

The magical combination of Jack Prelutsky's verse, Camille Saint-Saëns's captivating music, and Mary GrandPré's stunning artwork infuse the pages of this book with excitement. All fourteen movements of Camille Saint-Saëns's Le Carnaval des Animaux (The Carnival of the Animals) are included on the CD. The movements are prefaced by Prelutsky's recitation of his poem. The last track on the CD is an uninterrupted, fully orchestrated performance of the piece performed by the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra. On each two-page spread is a stunning interpretation of the animals in the Carnival. Mary GrandPré is best known for her illustrations of the American Harry

Potter books. The illustrations are vibrant and capture the essence of Saint-Saëns' work perfectly. In the back of the book is a note to parents and educators discussing this work. The Carnival has been long noted as a perfect introductory classical piece for young children. Judith Bachleitner, head of the Rudolf Steiner School music department, notes that "Kindergarten-age children will move with the rhythm of the music, imitating the animals. They'll walk like an elephant, swim like a fish, march like a lion, hop like a kangaroo, and so on." This amazing book would be a perfect addition to any homeschool or classroom shelves!

A beautiful and fun book that covers various segments of Camille Saint-Saëns' *The Carnival of the Animals*, with catchy rhymes by Prelutsky, and energetic illustrations by GrandPre. There are 15 sections, including an intro and finale, and the CD begins with Prelutsky's dramatic reading, followed by the relevant section of Camille Saint-Saëns' music. The concept behind this book and CD is that Prelutsky wrote a set of lyrics to accompany Camille Saint-Saëns' *The Carnival of the Animals*, composed in 1886. It's a perfect introduction to classical music for children of all ages as it consists of a set of orchestral character pieces, with each depicting a particular animal. Think of it as like *Peter and the Wolf*, where each character was represented by an instrument that complimented its nature and personality. Prelutsky has put together a great set of lyrics that captures the essence of the movements and has a great knack for words and rhythm. And I think that GrandPre's work really shines here, compared to in *Harry Potter*, as she uses vibrant colors and stylized set-ups to convey big movements and sounds in the lion, rooster, and donkey pages, but also beautifully captures the quiet stillness of the turtle and the swan. The book alone is wonderful, but it's the CD that really seals the deal here. Enjoy this by reading the book, listening to the CD, or doing both, and you can do it all at once or in chunks. This can be as interactive or lazy of a read as you want it to be. I bought this for my niece and nephew last holiday season for the concentrated all-day family events when I knew we would all be too busy and too tired to read books all day. It was perfect and they still love *The Carnival of the Animals* to this day.

We bought this book/CD set for our grandchildren (boy 5 & girl 6) and although they do not hear classical music often at home it was a joy to listen to the 6 year old read the book (with help), listen to the music related to each animal and admire the beautifully illustrated pictures of each while discussing it with them. What pleased me also was overhearing them afterwards, while playing & apparently still listening to track 16 (22 minutes of the original strictly music composition at the end of the CD), I could hear them call out 'that's the tortoise' or that's 'the fossils', even 'that's the

Personages with long ears'. There is also a note to parents & teachers at the back of the book. I like to think our grandchildren will remember someday, enjoying that time with Grandma as I so often enjoy the memories of my older sister playing quality recordings for my brothers & me.

I used these poems in conjunction with the symphony pieces, and put on a summer school production of "Carnival of the Animals" with over 100 students, grades K-8. The performance received a standing ovation. The school community is Rural, Native American, Free and Reduced Lunch. Ballet. Poetry. STANDING OVATION, PEOPLE! Really Good Poetry!!!! The kids loved the illustrations, too.

The poems are read apart from the music. The poet's reading reminded me of Anthony Perkins' performance as the villain in "Ffolkes": well enunciated but chilling. The music is one long track, not segmented so that a teacher or parent can easily select the musical movement to play while a particular poem is read. The musical performance was very good. I did like the poems, even though they were not like lyrics a la "Beethoven's Wig". I loved the illustrations. This was purchased as part of a K - 2 general class curriculum. My students would not be able to sit and take in 22 minutes straight of classical music. I will be using a different recording to play as I read a poem per day to the students.

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