

# Danse Macabre The Carnival of the Animals

by Beatrice Wilder

# Contents

Sheet 1	Information about Saint-Saëns
Sheet 2	Information about 'Danse Macabre'
Sheet 3	Information about 'Carnival of the Animals'
Sheet 4	Saint-Saëns - the Composer (quiz)
Sheet 5	Carnival of the Animals Quiz
Sheet 6	Carnival of the Animals Wordsearch
Sheet 7	The Carnival of the Animals Match Up
Sheet 8	Easy Carnival of the Animals Match Up
Sheet 9	Danse Macabre Quiz
Sheet 10	Danse Macabre Wordsearch
Sheet 11	Carnival of the Animals Crossword and Mini Wordsearch
Sheet 12	Answers

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### Sheet 1 - Information about Saint-Saëns

- Saint-Saëns was born in 1835 in Paris, France, eight years after Ludwig van Beethoven died. His birthday was October 9th.
- He was christened Charles-Camille. His father was very ill with tuberculosis when he was born. When the baby Charles-Camille was three months old, his father died.
- After his father died, his great-aunt Charlotte came to live with him and his mother, Clémence. His great-aunt started teaching him to play the piano and soon discovered that he was a very clever little boy indeed. He had 'perfect pitch' which meant that he could sing in tune and reproduce musical sounds perfectly.
- By the age of two he was learning to play the piano. By the time he was three years old he was able to read and write as well.
- He was interested in many subjects like astronomy, history, painting and animal welfare and was very good at maths.
- His made his first public concert appearance when he was five years old. He accompanied a Beethoven violin sonata.
- By the time he was ten years old he could play all of Beethoven's piano sonatas by heart, and there were 32 of them.
- He made friends with and won the respect and admiration of well known composers of his time such as Schumann, Berlioz, Rossini, Gounod, and others.
- He became organist at some well known and prominent churches like the 'Church of Saint-Merry' in 1853 and 'La Madeleine' in 1857 where he stayed for nearly twenty years. It was a very prestigious position and won him a lot of recognition. He was thought by many at the time to be the greatest organist in the world.
- In 1874 he wrote 'Danse Macabre' and four years later, in 1878, he wrote Samson et Dalila.
- The next year, when he was 39 years old, he married 19-year-old Marie-Laure Truffot. They had two sons but sadly both of them died within a few weeks of each other, one from an illness and the other in a terrible accident. The little boy fell out of a 4th floor window. Saint-Saëns blamed his wife for not preventing this and they were no longer able to get along. He left her in 1881.
- He got closer to his mother, who had never much liked Marie-Laure, and after separating from her he also developed a stronger friendship with Gabriel Fauré and his family, especially enjoying the company of the Fauré children. They had a lot in common as Gabriel Fauré was also a French pianist, organist and composer.
- A few years later in 1886, while they were on holidays, Saint-Saëns wrote 'The Carnival of the Animals' to amuse his family and friends.
- Saint-Saens had a very close relationship with his mother and when she died in 1888, he became very depressed even to the point of thinking about ending his own life. He decided that he needed to completely change his life and get away from everything that reminded him of his sorrows.
- He left France and travelled around the world. He seemed to have had a great fondness for the African continent and wrote a colourful piece of music which he called 'Africa' as well as his Piano Concerto No. 5, the "Egyptian."
- He died of pneumonia on 16 December 1921 at the Hôtel de l'Oasis in Algiers. His body was sent back to France and a state funeral was held for him at 'La Madeleine' where he was organist many years earlier. He was 86 years old and had spent some 80 years of his life creating a great variety of musical compositions.



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### Sheet 2 - Information about 'Danse Macabre'

- Danse macabre, Op 40, is a symphonic poem composed by Saint-Saëns in 1874. He first wrote it as a song. The words were written by Henri Cazalis.
- First 12 notes, all 'D,' are played on the harp. This is the clock striking midnight.
- Immediately after the clock strikes 12, death tunes his violin. One string, the 'E' string, is tuned flat to provide a more ghostly sound. Death is summoning the dead to come out of their graves and to dance the 'Dance of Death' for him.
- The flute introduces the theme which is followed by a solo violin. The skeleton dance begins.
- As the dance continues you can hear the bones of the skeletons rattling as the xylophone plays. We can imagine ghosts, skeletons and witches dancing together through the night as death continues his sad solo on the violin, at times accompanied by the harp.
- The woodwind section is made up of the piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets and 2 bassoons.
- \* The brass section consists of : horns, trumpets, trombones and tuba.
- In the string section look for: a harp, violins, violas, cellos and double basses.
- In the percussion section you will find: timpani, xylophone, bass drum, cymbals and triangle.
- The dance becomes wilder. You can hear the strings, the trombone and the xylophones making the skeletons bones rattle wildly. Listen for the witches flying when you hear the strings, listen too for death tuning his violin again and for the wind to howl.
- The oboe announces the end of the night. The cock crows and morning is approaching.
- The dead very quickly and suddenly slip back into their graves.
- The day dawns and the violin plays a new theme. The picture completely changes and everything is back to normal.
- An English translation of the words of Henri Cazalis:

Zig, zig, zig, Death in a cadence,

Striking with his heel a tomb,

Death at midnight plays a dance-tune,

Zig, zig, zig, on his violin.

The winter wind blows and the night is dark;

Moans are heard in the linden trees.

Through the gloom, white skeletons pass,

Running and leaping in their shrouds.

Zig, zig, zig, each one is frisking,

The bones of the dancers are heard to crack—

But hist! of a sudden they guit the round,

They push forward, they fly; the cock has crowed.

The opening bars of Death's Dance - listen for it and sing it to yourself.



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### Sheet 3 - Information about 'The Carnival of the Animals'

- The Carnival of the Animals is a musical suite of 14 movements, written in 1886 for the amusement of his companions while Saint-Saëns was on holiday.
- The first movement is the lion. The two pianos play scales moving in opposite directions to sound like the roaring of the lions while the strings provide a melody. The march theme reminds us of the stately, regal nature of the king of beasts.
- Next are the hens and roosters. The piano and the strings (violins and violas, no cellos or double basses) sound like chickens pecking at the grain. Listen also for the 'cock-a-doodle-doo' on the piano.
- Wild asses are fast moving as shown by the frantic pace of the scales being played by the two pianos without any orchestral accompaniment.
- The slow moving tortoises are portrayed by the deep sounding strings accompanied by the piano.
- A pompous but lumbering waltz played by the double bass and piano introduces the elephants.
- \* Kangaroos are shy creatures. The two pianos also show their natural grace and elegance.
- The aquarium. Strings, piano and flute and glass harmonica give the sensation of a light watery environment. A celeste or glockenspiel are often used instead of the glass harmonica. It is interesting to note that the 'glass harmonica' is not really a harmonica as most of us imagine. It is a series of glass vessels of varying sizes. Friction is used to produce sound. Among other variations of the glass harmonica, wine glasses tuned with different volumes of water have been used. This is often referred to as a 'glass harp.'
- The 'personages with the long ears' are unmistakably donkeys. The braying of the donkeys is produced by the violins. This is the shortest of the movements.
- Next comes the cuckoo in the forest. The clarinet produces the 'cuckoo' sound, gradually becoming softer as the sound is produced from deeper within the forest, to the accompaniment of the pianos.
- The trills and scales on the pianos paint a picture of the birds in the aviary. The light but busy sounds produced by piano, flute and strings give the feeling of an industrious flock of little birds.
- Pianists practicing their scales but are they beastlike? Well, that can be open to debate and left to the imaginations of the listeners. That they are practicing must surely be commendable.
- Fossils in a museum is possibly where Saint-Saëns felt that some well known nursery rhymes and other well known and loved tunes should be placed. Strings, pianos, clarinet, and xylophone give the feeling of bones clacking together and displays of things old and decayed.
- The swan is the best known of the movements. The cello provides the grace and elegance of the swan gliding over the water as the piano provides the soft ripples in the water.
- In the finale, a carnival atmosphere with all of the instruments busy has us imagining all of the animals together with the donkey at the end having the last laugh.



# Sheet 4 - Saint-Saëns - the Composer Quiz

1.	Saint-Saëns was born in:	A. $\square$ Rome	B. Paris
		C. L Berlin	D. Madrid
2.	His first instrument was the:	A. D Piano	B. 🗌 Violin
		C. Organ	D.   Flute
3.	His first public appearance, when he was	A. Singer	B. Uviolinist
	five years old was to accompany a:	C. Cellist	D. 🗆 Flautist
4.	By the time he was ten years old he could play	A. Wagner's Operas	B.   Schubert's Lieder
	from memory all of:	C.   Beethoven's Sonatas	D.   Handel's Messiah
5.	He did not get to know or make friends with:	A.  Rossini	B. Liszt
		C.   Berlioz	D. Durcell
6.	For nearly twenty years he was the organist at	A.   St Paul's	B.   Saint-Merry
	the Church of:	C.   La Madeleine	D. St Peter's
7.	At midnight the clock strikes 12 in:	A.   Danse Macabre	B.   Samson et Dalila
		C.   Egyptian	D. Africa
8.	In 'Carnival of the Animals' there is no:	A. Donkey	B.   Kangaroo
		C. $\square$ Fish	D. Giraffe
9.	Saint-Saëns built a reputation for being one of	A.  Organists	B. Music Teachers
	the worlds greatest:	C.   Mathematicians	D. Composers
10.	After the death of his mother, Saint-Saëns:	A.   Wrote Danse Macabre	e B.   Moved to Berlin
		C. Travelled	D. Got married
11.	Saint-Saëns developed a special fondness for:	A. $\square$ Solitude	B. Comedy
		C.   Teaching	D.  Africa
12.	Saint-Saëns died in 1921 in:	A.   London	B. $\square$ Algiers
		C.   Paris	D.   New York



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# Sheet 5 - The Carnival of the Animals Quiz

1.	The first animal in the suite is the:	A. ☐ Tortoise C. ☐ Lion	B. Swan D. Kangaroo			
2.	There are some familiar sounding nursery rhymes in with the:	A. ☐ Pianists C. ☐ Fast moving Asses	B.  Aquarium D.  Fossils			
3.	The roaring of the lions is produced by the :	A. Strings C. Clarinet	B. $\square$ Pianos D. $\square$ Xylophone			
4.	The shortest movement of all is the one featuring the:	A. ☐ Donkey C. ☐ Hens and Roosters	B.  Wild Asses D.  Tortoise			
5.	Sound is produced on a glass harmonica by means of:	A. ☐ Blowing C. ☐ Striking keys	B.  Plucking  D.  Friction			
6.	The cello is used along with the pianos to portray the graceful moves of the:	A. ☐ Fish in aquarium C. ☐ Swans	B.   Little birds  D.   Elephants			
7.	The sound of the cuckoo in the forest is produced by the:	A. $\square$ Clarinet C. $\square$ Piano	B.   Flute  D.   Cello			
8.	A clear 'cock-a-doodle-doo' sound in the 'Hens and Roosters' movement is made by the:	A. Uiolin C. Clarinet	B. $\square$ Piano D. $\square$ Flute			
9.	The kangaroos graceful but shy movements are portrayed by:	A. ☐ Piano and flute C. ☐ Two pianos	B. Two violins D. Piano and cello			
10.	The 'personages with the long ears' would be the:	A. □ Donkeys C. □ Elephants	B.   Kangaroos  D.   Wild asses			
11.	The sound of the donkeys braying is made by the:	A. □ Clarinet C. □ Pianos	B. $\square$ Cello D. $\square$ Violins			
12.	The last laugh in the finale is had by the:	A. $\square$ Cuckoos  C. $\square$ Elephants	B. $\square$ Donkeys D. $\square$ Roosters			



Name		
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Sheet 6 - The Carnival of the Animals Wordsearch

The clues to the words you need to find are given below. Find the answers inside the word search.

Y	Н	S	I	Ν		С	Ν	G	S	0	N	Α	1	Р
Τ	S	Ε	R	Ο	F	J	Α	S	S	Ε	S	V	0	ı
Ν	ı	L	O	I	V	Н	Α	R	M	O	Ν	I	C	Α
	F	Α	1	L	0	В	O	Q	Ν	Н	Ε	Α	0	Ν
Υ	L	C	C	S	Ε	Ο	Т	L	U		Н	R	W	
Ε	M	S	S	L	S	Ν	K	O	ı	Α	V	Υ	Т	S
K	Q	U	В	Т	Α	Ο	O	C	R	D	R	Α	C	Т
Ν	Т	U	Ε	Н	R	R	F	Н	U	Т	Α		L	S
0	O	R	Р	S	Α	I		L	Р	C	O	Υ	U	S
D	S	Ε	C	G	U	V	Ν	Ν	U	O	L		R	M
R	L	ı	Ν	U	R	M	X	G	Ε	Т	L	Α	S	M
Ε	C	Α	M	I	L	L	Ε	S	S	Т	Ε	Υ	R	Ε
Р	K	Z	Т	L	A	W	L	Н	Α	В	C	J	X	E

Lion's roar is made by pianos playing	Second movement is Roosters and	
The cuckoo is in the	Shy, graceful, bouncy animal	
The fish are in the	Elephants are piano and	
An instrument in 'fossils'	Animals in the aquarium	
Double bass and piano introduces	String instrument in the swan	
Very slow movement is the	Bird in the forest	
Pecking the grain; piano and	Cock-a-doodle-doo is made by a	
Shortest movement	Cuckoo sound is made by	
Elephants dance to a	Animal in first movement	
Rippling water sound in 'swan'	Practicing scales are the	
Birds sounds are piano, strings and	The fossils are in a	
The cello well portrays the	Featured in the 2nd movement	
First name of the composer	Personages with long	
Instrument in aquarium is a glass	Written while Saint-Saëns was on	
Number of pianos used	A quality of the kangaroo	
Donkey sound comes from a	The conclusion sounds like a	



Name .....

Sheet 7 - The Carnival of the Animals Match Up

Draw lines between the animals and the order in which they are heard. Also, draw lines between the animals and the instruments that portray them. (most animals will have more than one instrument)

Which instrument is used the most? .....

1st

**Piano** 

2nd



Flute

3rd



Violin

4th





**Clarinet** 

6th

5th



Cello

7th



**Double bass** 

8th



Glass harmonica

9th

Cuckoo



Name .....

Sheet 8 - Easy Carnival of the Animals Match Up

Draw lines between the animals and the order in which they are heard. Also, draw lines between the animals and their special instruments.







2





3





4







# Sheet 9 - Danse Macabre Quiz

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1.	Danse Macabre was written in the year:	A. 🗆 1835	В. 🗌 1840
		C. □ 1874	D. 🗌 1921
2.	The poet, Henri Cazalis wrote the words. Saint-Saëns first wrote it as:	A.  an opera	B. $\square$ a song
		C. a story	D. an oratorio
3.	Twelve chimes, signalling midnight, are played by the:	A. Harp	B. Uviolin
		C. Cello	D. Piano
4.	With the 'E' string tuned flat to make a ghostly sound, Death tunes his:	A. Uviolin	B. Cello
		C. Double bass	D. 🗆 Viola
5.	Following a solo violin we hear the:	A.   Ghostly wail	B. Witches scream
		C. Skeleton Dance	D.  Wolves howl
6.	The xylophone sounds like the:	A. Church bells	B.   Dawn breaking
		C. Wind blowing	D. Bones rattling
7.	The brass section does not include:	A.  Horns	B.   Trumpets
		C. Timpani	D.   Trombones
8.	The sound of the cock crowing is made by the:	A. $\square$ Oboe	B. Clarinet
		C. Uiolin	D.   Xylophone
9.	Just before the cock crows, towards the end of the dance you can hear the:	A. $\square$ Dead go into graves	B. Clock chiming
		C.   Bones rattling	D. Wind blowing
10.	Not long before the cock crows you can also hear Death:	A. Tune his violin again	B.   Dance
		C.   Make the clock chime	D.   Call out
11.	Immediately after the cock crows, the dead:	A.   Rattle their bones	B. 🗆 Laugh
		C. Go back to the graves	D.   Dance
12.	At the end, the violin plays a new theme and the picture changes because:	A.   The wind blows	B.   Lightning cracks
	Freeze comments and	C.   It starts raining	D.   The day dawns

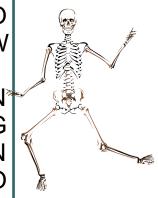


Name .....

Sheet 10 - Danse Macabre Wordsearch

The clues to the words you need to find are given below. Find the answers inside the word search.

P | R N E H Q Q X L S G U V C T M E O P E | Y S A E N S K R R H S S K E L E T O N A O J O O T O A E O Y G C L O C K M W M H P O P M T U N E B J K M I B G M H D N I W B A S S O O N O I O S E T I H W U I H M R G N N C E F D A N C E T R X N N E D E V L E W T S A A O T I O S I L A Z A C A E T O U H N S F M P R A H I D T B F D B G V T K A G C N I L O I V S B F Y T B M O T V E E I J S R D Y C





Deep voice woodwind (8 letters)	Henri Cazalis wrote this as a	
Skeletons are made of these	Sound that skeletons make	
The poet's last name	Composer's name: Saint	
12 of these sounds are heard	Saëns	
Thestrikes midnight	The dead are dressed in these	
Saint-Saëns is the	Made entirely of bones is a	
At dawn the cock is	This was performed first as a	
What the skeletons do	The dead are in a	
The dance of	Percussion instrument (6 letters)	
The dead come out of their	Deep voice brass instrument	
The first instrument you hear is the	Death plays aon his violin	
The poet's first name	The clock strikes times	
The time of night that the clock strikes	Instrument played by Death	
The time of day that dawn happens	Skeleton bones are this colour	
Instrument used for the cock crowing	Bones rattling are played on the	

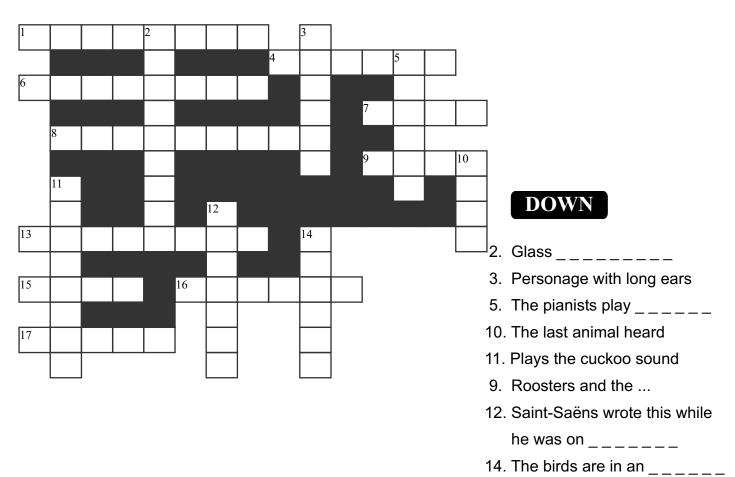
Hanri Cazalia wrata thia aa a



Name .....

# Sheet 11 - Carnival of the Animals Crossword and Mini Wordsearch

### The Crossword .....



# **ACROSS**

- 1. The biggest animal
- 4. The cuckoo lives in this
- 6. The fishes are in an \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Personage with the long \_ \_ \_ \_
- 0 0====
- 8. Plays the rattling of the bones
- 9. Roosters and the \_ \_ \_ \_
- 13. Australian animal
- 15. The king of beasts
- 16. Produces the braying sound
- 17. Used to portray the swan

# .... The Mini Wordsearch

A E M V N S T S C P O
Q S L I O N N L O I O
U I D O O R A G N A K
A O O L F R H F A N C
R T N I I E P L I I U
I R K N S T E U P S C
U O E A H S L T R T E
M T Y W P O E E A S L
S L I S S O F S O M L
H E N S D R I B R Z O

aquariumbir fossils piano fish ds roar flute cello rooster hens clarinet swan cuckoo kangaroo tortoise lion violin donkey pianists elephant

# Camille Saint-Saëns The Answers

Name .....

#### Sheet 4 - Saint-Saëns Quiz

- 1. B. Paris
- 2. A. Piano
- 3. B. Violinist
- 4. C. Beethoven's Sonatas
- 5. D. Purcell
- 6. C. La Madeleine
- 7. A. Danse Macabre
- 8. D. Giraffe
- 9. A. Organists
- 10. C. Travelled
- 11. D. Africa
- 12. B. Algiers

#### Sheet 5 - Carnival of the Animals Quiz

- 1. C. Lions
- 2. D. Fossils
- 3. B. Pianos
- 4. A. Donkey
- 5. D. Friction
- 6. C. Swans
- 7. A. Clarinet
- 8. B. Piano
- 9. C. Two pianos
- 10. A. Donkeys
- 11. D. Violins
- 12. B. Donkeys

#### Sheet 6 - Carnival of the Animals Wordsearch

Y H S I N I C N G S O N A I P T S E R O F J A S S E S V O I N I L O I V H A R M O N I C A I F A I L O B O Q N H E A O N Y L C C S E O T L U I H R W I E M S S L S N K O I A V Y T S K Q U B T A O O C R D R A C T N T U E H R R F H U T A I L S O O R P S A I I L P C O Y U S D S E C G U V N N U O L I R M R L I N U R M X G E T L A S M E C A M I L L E S S T E Y R E P K Z T L A W L H A B C J X E

#### Sheet 7 - Carnival of the animals match up

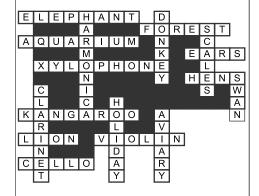
- 1. Lion piano
- 2. Hens & roosters, piano & violin clarinet
- 3. Tortoises piano, low strings,
- 4. Elephant double bass, piano
- 5. Kangaroos piano
- 6. Aquarium strings, piano, flute glass harmonica
- 7. Donkeys violins
- 8. Cuckoo clarinet, piano
- 9. Swan cello, piano

#### Sheet 9 - Danse Macabre Quiz

- 1. C. 1874
- 2. B. A song
- 3. A. Harp
- 4. A. Violin
- 5. C. Skeleton Dance
- 6. D. Bones rattling
- 7. C. Timpani
- 8. A. Oboe
- 9. D. Wind blowing
- 10. A. Tune his violin again
- 11. C. Go back to the graves
- 12. D. The day dawns

#### **Sheet 10 - Danse Macabre Wordsearch**

#### Sheet 11 - Crossword



### Sheet 11 - Mini Wordsearch

AEMVNSTSCP SLIONNLOI DOORAGNA RH Ε Р Т Ε U P NS EAHS T TYWPOEE SLISSOFS OML HENSDRIBRZO