

Peter and the Wolf



WALT DISNEY
CONCERT HALL

LA Phil
GUSTAVO DUDAMEL
MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

About the Composer



SERGEI PROKOFIEV

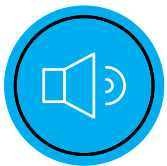
Born 1891, Sontsovka, Russia

Died 1953, Moscow, Russia

Sergei Prokofiev was a Russian composer, pianist, and conductor. He was born in 1891 in Sontsovka, a remote rural estate in the Russian Empire (an area that is now Ukraine). At a very early age, it was clear that Sergei had musical talent. His mother, who was an accomplished pianist, encouraged him and taught him to play the piano. His first composition, written at age five with the help of his mother, was called *Indian Gallop*. By the age of nine, he had written his first opera, *The Giant*. When he was thirteen, Sergei enrolled at the St. Petersburg Conservatory to study music. He made his performance debut four years later, and soon after Prokofiev was well-known nationwide.

World War I and the Russian Revolution made living and working in Russia very difficult, so Prokofiev left the country in 1918, first for America and then for France. He returned to Moscow in 1936, spending the last 17 years of his life in his home country. During this time, he produced some of his finest works, including *Peter and the Wolf* and the score for his ballet *Romeo and Juliet*. Sergei Prokofiev died on March 5, 1953, as one of the most admired composers of the twentieth century.

FUN FACTS



"Sergei" is pronounced "Sir-gay."
"Prokofiev" is pronounced "Pro-cough-ee-eff."



Prokofiev was a child prodigy. He composed his first piano piece at age five and his first opera at age nine!

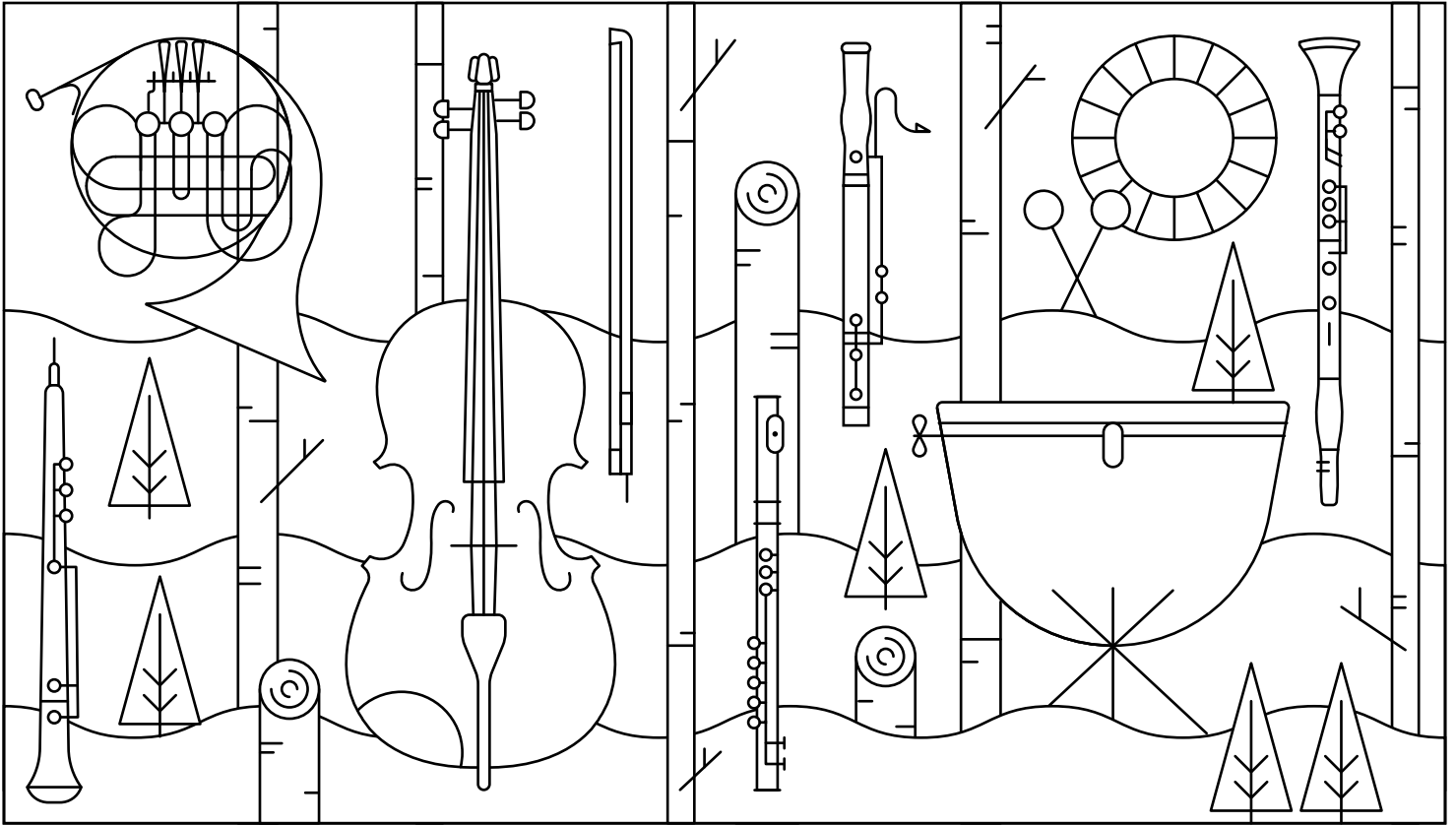


He was an accomplished chess player. In 1914, Prokofiev was one of the very few players to beat José Raúl Capablanca, who would later go on to be world champion.



He died the same day as Joseph Stalin, the General Secretary of the Communist Party in Russia (then known as the Soviet Union).

About *Peter and the Wolf*



Combining the imaginative spirit of storytelling with the instruments of the orchestra, *Peter and the Wolf* has captivated generations of children and parents alike.

Sergei Prokofiev, the clever composer behind this classic piece, wrote the musical adventure of Peter and his animal friends for the Moscow Children's Theater in 1936. Surrounded by political turmoil in Stalin's Russia and the approaching World War II, the music brought a glimmer of joy to the children in Moscow and has been enchanting young audiences ever since.

Peter and the Wolf has grown into a cherished work and been performed by nearly every major orchestra and conductor. It has been recorded more than 400 times in 12 different languages! The piece has also attracted a number of celebrity narrators, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Leonard Bernstein, David Bowie, Patrick Stewart, and Bill Clinton. Each narrator, orchestra, and adaptation, like Walt Disney's cheerful cartoon version or the modern, Oscar-winning stop-animation short, has charmed parents and their children across generations and around the world.

As you listen today in Walt Disney Concert Hall, whether for the first time or the fiftieth, trigger your imagination and join Peter, the wolf, and the rest of the crew along a timeless journey about taking risks and having courage.

Meet the Characters

Matching Game

1. 

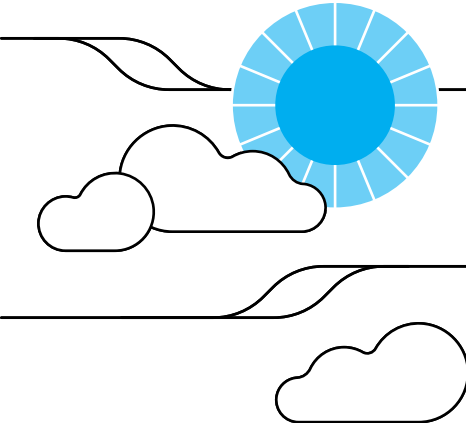



PETER

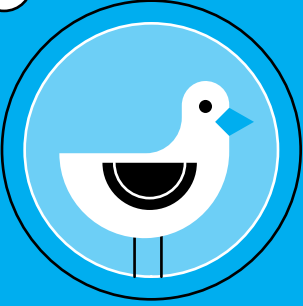
2. 




WOLF

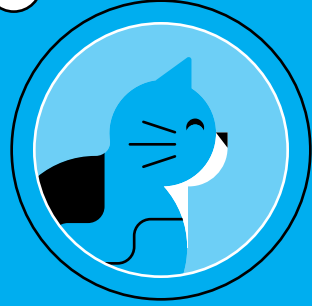


3. 




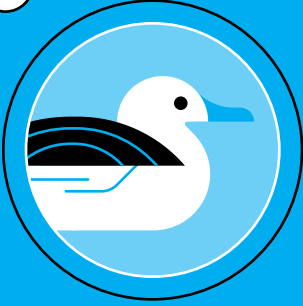
BIRD

4. 

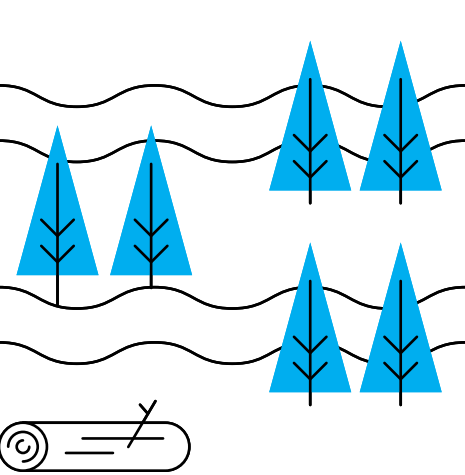


CAT


5. 



DUCK



6. 



GRANDFATHER

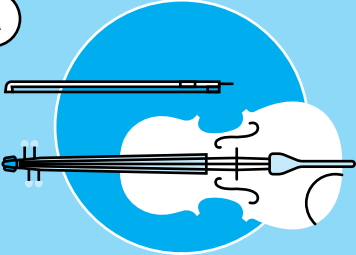
7. 



HUNTERS

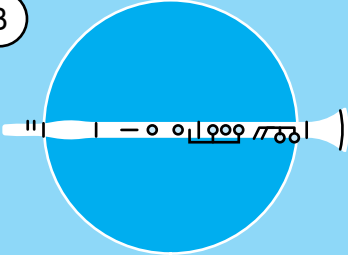
Peter and his animal friends are each represented by an instrument in the orchestra. Can you match each instrument to the character it represents?

A

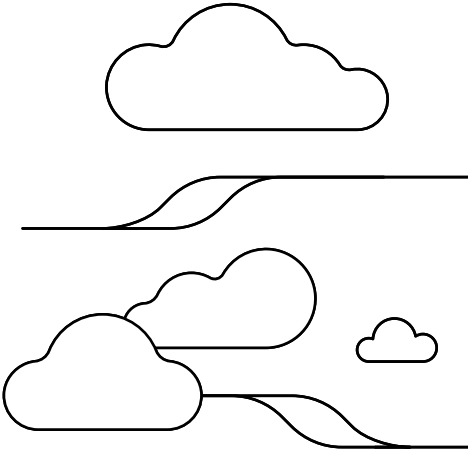


We have four strings and can be played with a bow or plucked. Our family includes the violin, viola, cello, and bass. We are the strings.

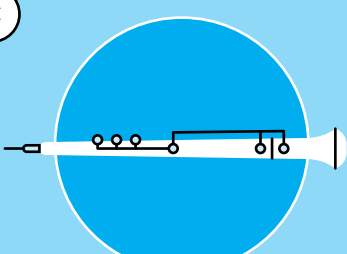
B



I am a single-reed instrument and a member of the woodwind family. My sound is rich and round. I am the clarinet.

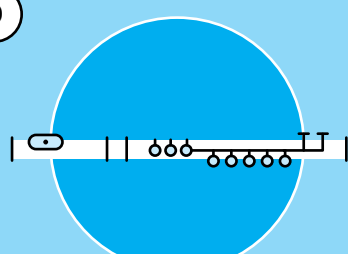


C



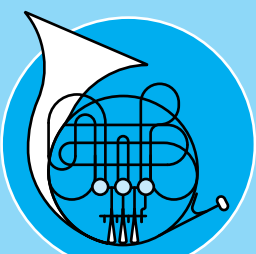
I am a double-reed instrument in the woodwind family. I make bright and biting sounds. I am the oboe.

D

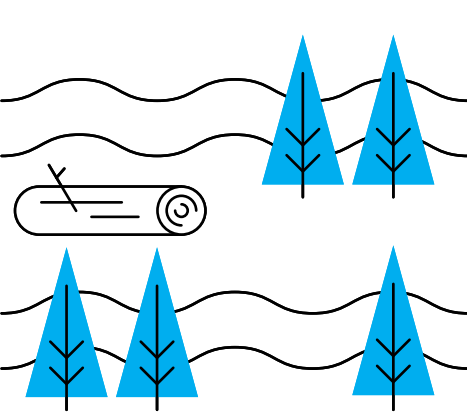


I am the one of the highest-pitched instruments in the woodwind family. I am the flute.

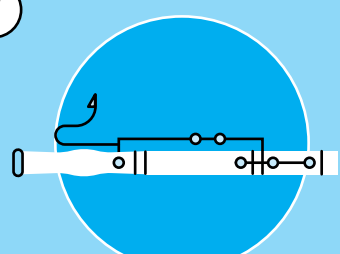
E



I belong to the brass family and my tone is warm and brilliant. I am the horn.

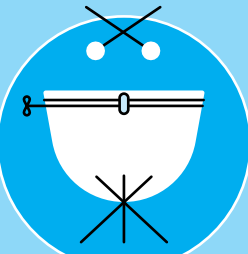


F



I am the lowest-pitched instrument in the woodwind family. I am the bassoon.

G



I am in the percussion family. The pitch of my drums can be adjusted with a foot pedal. I am the timpani.

Answer Key: 1. A; 2. E; 3. D; 4. B; 5. C; 6. F; 7. G.

Create Your Own Story

PART 1: CREATE YOUR CHARACTER

Do you want to compose like Prokofiev? Follow the steps in the next activities to create a character, learn musical terms, and compose music for your own story.

STEP 1

Choose any animal to be your character and write or draw it in the space provided.

STEP 2

Circle the words that describe your character. For example, words that describe the character of the bird might be: tiny, soft, feathery, sweet, energetic.

SIZE	TEXTURE	MOVEMENT		VOICE	PERSONALITY
tiny	furry	hop	swim	gruff	kind
small	soft	prance	scurry	sweet	lazy
gigantic	rough	sprint	waddle	soft	sleepy
as big as me	scaly	gallop	slither	loud	alert
as big as my parent	slimy	glide	fly	scary	energetic
other: _____	feathery	other: _____		other: _____	other: _____
	prickly				
	other: _____				

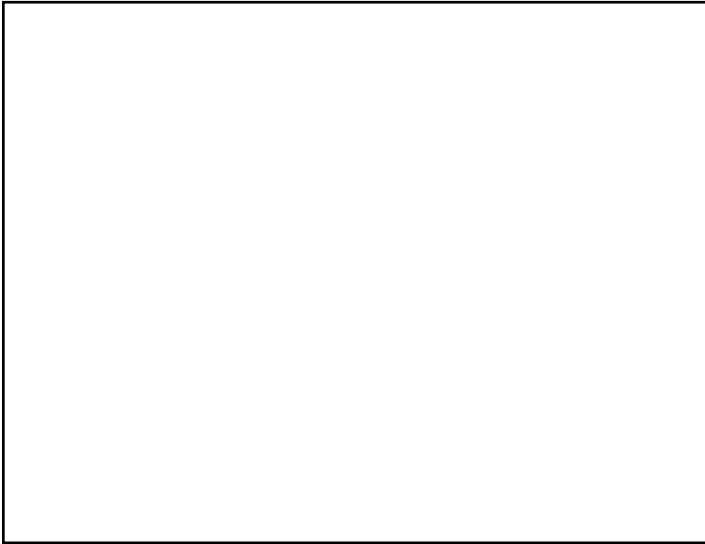
STEP 3

Based on the words you circled in step 2, which instrument best fits your character’s voice? Choose from one of the instruments featured in *Peter and the Wolf* or another instrument from the orchestra.

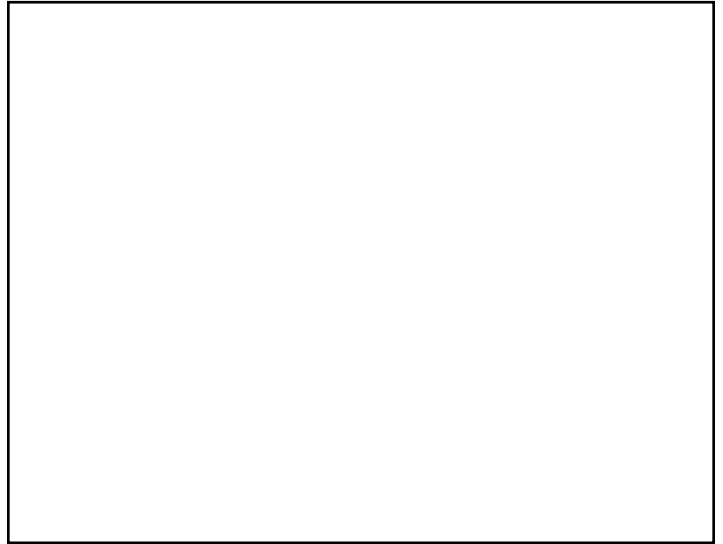
INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA					
Violin	Flute	Clarinet	Trumpet	Tuba	Harp
Viola	Piccolo	Bass Clarinet	Trombone	Timpani	Organ
Cello	Oboe	Bassoon	Bass Trombone	Percussion	
Bass	English Horn	Contrabassoon	Horn	Piano	

PART 2: CREATE A STORYBOARD

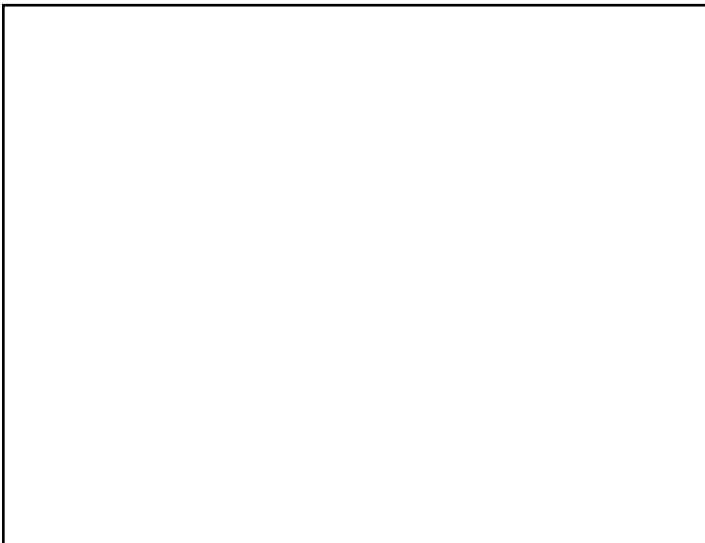
Now, create a story with your character and draw it in the boxes! Who else does your character meet? What are they doing? Is the story happy, suspenseful, frustrating, or something else?



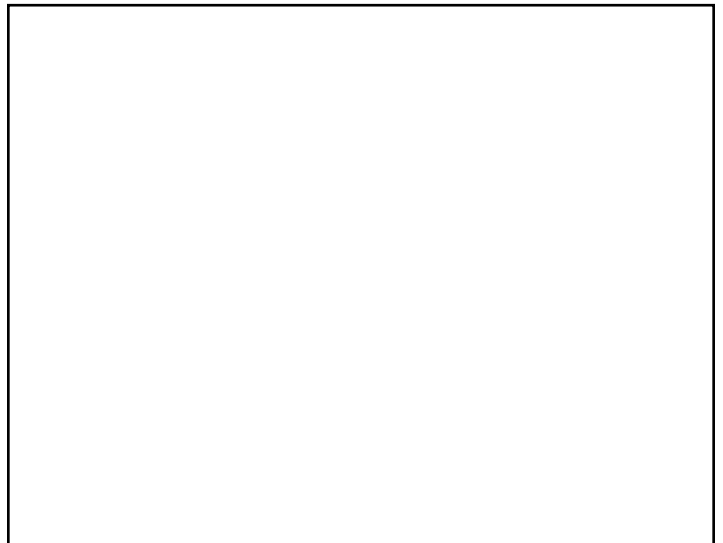
SCENE 1



SCENE 2



SCENE 3



SCENE 4

PART 3: ACTION-PACKED MUSIC

Prokofiev composed a special theme for each character. Each theme sounds like the actions of the different characters. Composers use a tool box of symbols and words to tell the musicians how to play a piece of music.

This is what Peter’s theme looks like as written music:



Peter’s theme sounds youthful and playful, like his personality. The dots above some of the notes tell the musician to play “staccato.” Staccato means the notes will be short and separated. This sound helps us imagine Peter happily skipping through the meadow. See if you can come up with an action that describes each musical term below. Use words from the word bank if you need ideas.

		TERM	DEFINITION	ACTION
ARTICULATION How the note is played		staccato	short and separated	Example: skip
		legato	smooth and connected	
		accent	loud and punched	
DYNAMICS The volume of the music		piano	soft	
		forte	loud	
TEMPO The speed at which to play the music		largo	very slow	
		andante	walking speed	
		presto	very quick	

ACTION WORD BANK							
tiptoe	slurp	whisper	shout	yell	splash	skip	slide
swim	sprint	march	stomp	explode	sleep	squish	frighten

Think about the actions your character is doing in your storyboard. Which articulation, dynamics, and tempo terms best fit these actions?

PART 4: COMPOSE YOUR STORY

Put all the steps together and compose a song for your story. Think about the forms of articulation, dynamics, and tempo you might use to describe the action. Draw your melody on the musical staff below or simply record it while singing or playing.



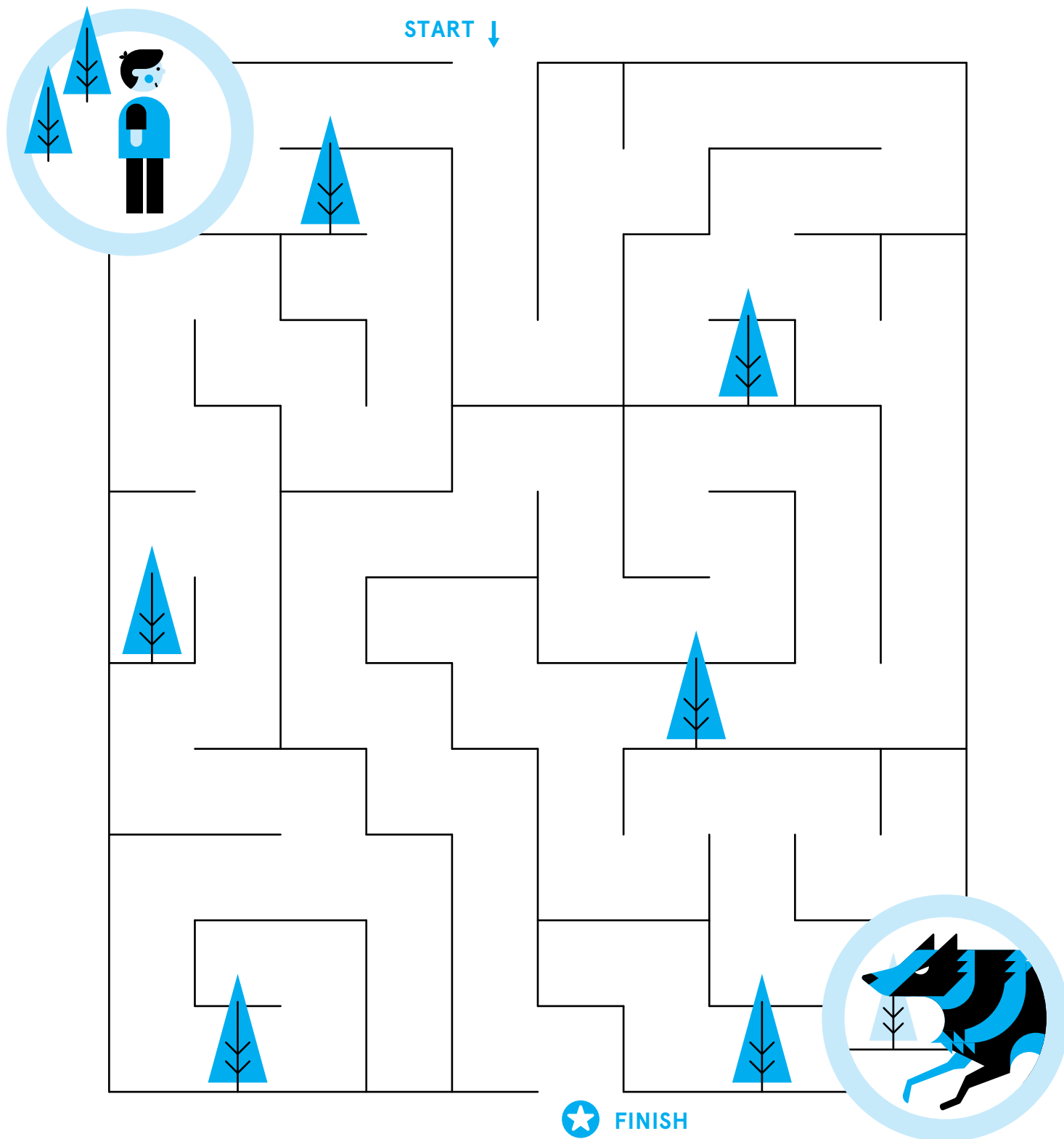
BONUS: SHARE YOUR STORY!

Share your story with us! With the help of an adult, email your story, drawings, and a recording of your song to us at learning@laphil.org or tag us on Instagram @laphil.



Help Peter Catch the Wolf

Find a path through the maze to help Peter catch the wolf.



Word Search

PETER
WOLF
BIRD
HUNTERS
GRANDFATHER

CAT
DUCK
BASSOON
HORN
FLUTE

CLARINET
TIMPANI
STRINGS
OBOE

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