

ANIMALS IN MUSIC

Many **composers**, or people who write music, have imitated different animals in their music! Some do this by using **different combinations of instruments**, writing **fast** or **slow** music, or using **high** or **low** pitches. Can you think of any music that sounds like animals you've seen?

LISTEN TO THIS AT HOME!

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov - "Flight of the Bumblebee"

This piece of music is very famous, and has been performed on many different instruments including **violin**, **flute**, **clarinet**, **piano**, and even **trombone**! The **tempo**, or **speed**, of the music is very fast to match a **busy bumblebee** flying quickly. The **melody** goes up and down all the time to match the **dizzying path** of **bumblebees**, who don't fly straight!



Camille Saint-Saëns - *Carnival of the Animals*

The Carnival of the Animals is a musical suite, or collection of short musical pieces. Each movement, or part, of the piece conveys a **different animal**. First comes the **Lion**, the King of the Animals, who gets a **Royal March**. Next come the **Hens and Roosters**. If you listen closely, you can hear the **pianos and strings** "pecking" like birds do! The other movements include music representing **tortoises**, **kangaroos**, **elephants**, an **aquarium**, an **aviary**, a **swan**, and much more!

DO ANIMALS MAKE THEIR OWN MUSIC?



Many animals make **special sounds** when they **communicate** with each other, and some animal sounds are more **complex** than others. For example, scientists have found that **humpback whales** not only **sing real songs**—they even **compose songs together!** Humpback whales sing over **1,000 different songs** that **change over time** as they add new parts to their music!

Lots of other animals you might not expect also sing complicated music. You have probably heard of **birdsong**, but did you know that **bats, mice, squirrels,** and even **frogs** sing too? These animals use their songs for anything from **marking their territory** to **attracting mates** and even **singing about the weather!**



DO PETS LIKE OUR MUSIC?

Have you seen dogs dancing to pop music, or cats relaxing to classical music, and wondered if they like the same music you do? Scientists think that animals like music **resembling the sounds they make**, with a **similar tempo** to their **heartbeat** and **pitch that is not too high or too low for their speech patterns**. Some human music fits these requirements for cats and dogs! Scientists and musicians have even tried to create **special music for cats, dogs, and other animals** that matches their preferences!