SCHOOLTIME
PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

This activity addresses PA Academic Standards 9.1.3.C, 9.1.5.A, 9.1.3.G and National Core Arts Standards MU:Cr3.1.2a, MU:Pr5.1.3b

Learn to Be a Conductor!

Step 1: Warm-Up

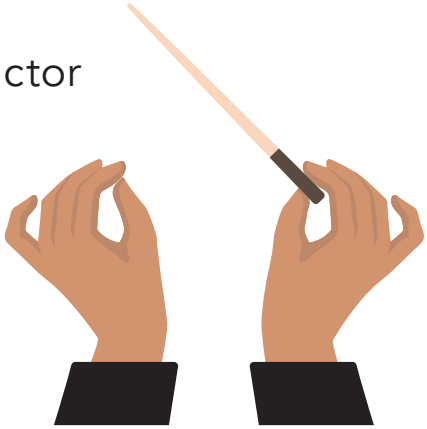


Listen to many different types of music. As you listen, begin moving to the music. Try tapping your foot, patting your leg, walking, and clapping the beat while listening to the music.

When you find a steady beat, see if there is a beat that feels "heavier" or "stronger" than the others. You might want to step harder or clap bigger when you hear this beat. This is your strong beat and is sometimes called the downbeat.

Step 2: Get Inspired

Watch the following video for an introduction to the basics of conducting. You will meet Yip Wing-Sie, music director of Hong Kong Sinfonietta as she walks us through the world of an orchestra conductor. What does a conductor do? How do they work with other musicians?

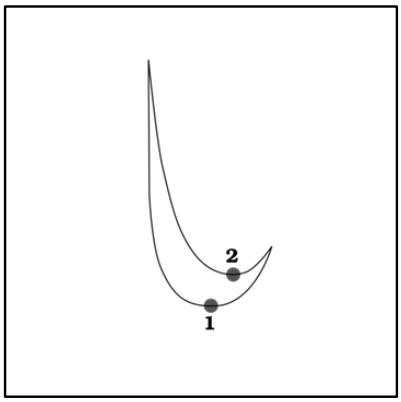


How Do You Conduct an Orchestra? ▶

Credit: South China Morning Post

Step 3: Now It's Your Turn!

Conductors often conduct in patterns of two, three, and four. Trace each of the following patterns with your finger or a pencil. Next, practice using your arm to trace each pattern in the air. Now add music! How does it feel to conduct each piece of suggested music?

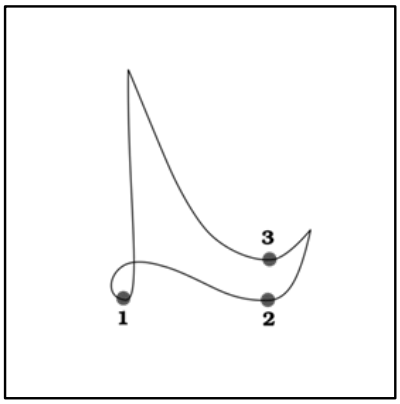


2/4 TIME SIGNATURE

Suggested music:

Florence Price,

III. Juba Dance from Symphony No. 1 in E Minor

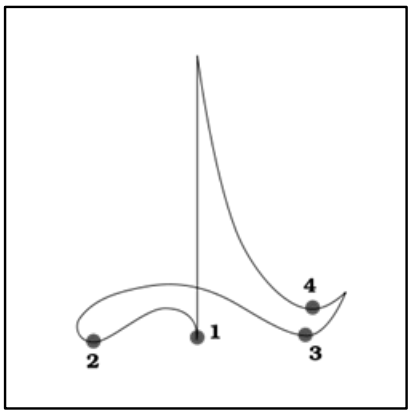


3/4 TIME SIGNATURE

Suggested music:

Johann Sebastian Bach,

Minuet in G Major



4/4 TIME SIGNATURE

Suggested music:

Edvard Greig

"In the Hall of the Mountain King" from Peer Gynt