SCHOOLTIME
PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

This activity addresses PA Academic Standards 9.1.3.C, 9.1.5.A and National Core Arts Standards MU:Cr3.1.2a, MU:Cr2.1.2a, MU:Pr4.3.2a

Making Music Together

Orchestra musicians and the conductor work together as a team to create incredible music. Three ingredients that the team must agree on to make music together are:



Tempo
The speed of the music; how fast or slow the beat of the music is played.



Dynamics
The volume of the music, how loud or soft each part of the music is played.



Expression
The feeling of the music, what the music is trying to communicate.

Collaborate as a group to discover how musicians and conductors work together!

STEP 1: Choose a song, poem, or short reading passage to perform as a group.

STEP 2: Decide who will be the conductor. The rest of the group are performers.

STEP 3: Prepare for your performance.

- **The conductor** prepares for a performance by deciding what they will communicate. How will you show the performers the tempo, dynamics, and expression of your piece? Use the chart on page 2 to plan what you will communicate to the performer and when. Remember, during the performance you can only use body movements, no words!
- **The performers** prepare for a performance by learning their part inside and out. Practice your piece out loud and together. What is it about? Notice any words that are tricky. Practice saying them first very slowly, and then very fast.

Preparing for the Performance		
Tempo: How fast or slow? Will the speed change at any point?	**Dynamics:** How loud or soft? Does the volume change? When?	**Expression:** What feelings are you trying to communicate? How?

STEP 4: Work together to rehearse your performance. Rehearse is a fancy word for practice. During your rehearsal, the performers will read or sing the piece according to the conductor's directions. Use the plan you outlined above. Rehearse as much as you like until you are all comfortable.

STEP 5: Performance time! When you are ready, perform your piece from start to finish for your classmates. The conductor directs the performers. Remember, during a performance you keep going no matter what happens!

STEP 6: Reflect together on your performance.

- **Performers:** Was the conductor clear with their direction? Why or why not?
- **Conductor:** Did your teammates perform how you wanted? What would you change? What happens when someone else from the team is the conductor?