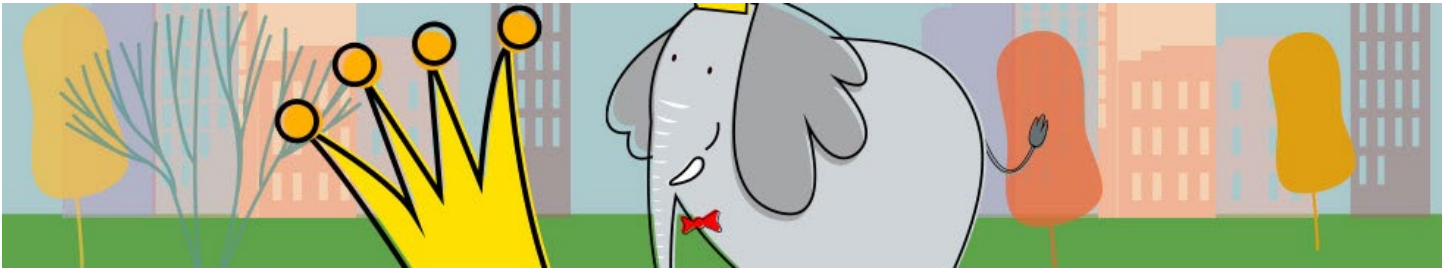


# Study Guide for *The Story of Babar the Elephant*



Thank you for spending your Sunday afternoon with Orchestra Miami! Today's program introduces us to animals and how they can be depicted by music! We have a performance by the Chamber Ensemble of Orchestra Miami, conducted by Orchestra Miami's Artistic Director Elaine Rinaldi.

Here are the pieces you will enjoy today!

## Selections from *Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saëns

### **MEET THE CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS**



**Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns** (Oct. 9, 1835 – Dec. 16, 1921) was a French composer, organist, conductor & pianist of the Romantic Era. *Carnival of the Animals* is one of his best-known works.

Saint-Saëns was a musical prodigy; he made his concert debut at the age of ten! After studying at the Paris Conservatory he followed a conventional career as a church organist. After leaving the post twenty years later, he was a successful freelance pianist and composer, in demand in Europe and the Americas.

Saint-Saëns held only one teaching post, at the *École de Musique Classique et Religieuse* in Paris, & was there for less than five years. Despite his brief tenure, he was nevertheless important in the development of French music: his students included Gabriel Fauré, among whose own later pupils was Maurice Ravel. Both of them were

strongly influenced by Saint-Saëns, whom they revered as a genius.

## About *Carnival of the Animals*

*The Carnival of the Animals* (*Le Carnaval des animaux*) is a humorous musical suite of fourteen movements by the French composer **Camille Saint-Saëns**. The work, about 25 minutes in duration, was written for private performance by two pianos and chamber ensemble; Saint-Saëns prohibited public performance of the work during his lifetime, feeling that its frivolity would damage his standing as a serious composer. The suite was published in 1922, the year after his death. A public performance in the same year was greeted with enthusiasm, and the work has remained among his most popular. In addition to the original version for chamber ensemble, the suite is frequently performed with a full orchestral complement of strings.

## MEET FRANCIS POULENC



**Francis Jean Marcel Poulenc** (Jan. 7, 1899 – Jan. 30, 1963) was a French composer and pianist. His compositions include *chanson* (songs), solo piano works, chamber music, choral pieces, operas, ballets, and orchestral concert music.

As the only son of a prosperous manufacturer, Poulenc was expected to follow his father into the family firm, and he was not allowed to enroll at a music college. He studied with the pianist Ricardo Viñes, who became his mentor after the composer's parents died. Poulenc also made the acquaintance of Erik Satie, under whose tutelage he became one of a group of young composers known collectively as *Les Six*\*. In his early works Poulenc became known for his high spirits and irreverence. During the 1930s a much more serious side to his nature emerged, particularly in the religious music he composed from 1936 onwards, which he alternated with his more light-hearted works.

In his later years, and for decades after his death, Poulenc had a reputation, particularly in his native country, as a humorous, lightweight composer, and his religious music was often overlooked. In the 21st century, more attention has been given to his serious works.

\* "**Les Six**" (pronounced [[le sis](#)]) is a name given to a group of six composers, five of them French and one Swiss, who lived and worked in Montparnasse. Their music is often seen as a neoclassic reaction against both the musical style of Richard Wagner and the impressionistic music of Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel. The members were Georges Auric (1899–1983), Louis Durey (1888–1979), Arthur Honegger (1892–1955), Darius Milhaud (1892–1974), Francis Poulenc (1899–1963), and Germaine Tailleferre (1892–1983).

## About The Story of Babar the Elephant

One day during World War II, while Francis Poulenc was visiting some relatives in Bordeaux, his four-year-old niece expressed displeasure with what the composer was playing on the piano. With the certainty of youth, she removed Poulenc's hands from the keyboard and said "Oh, that is so ugly. Play this," placing one of Jean de Brunhoff's *Babar* books on the music stand. Poulenc improvised an accompaniment as he read the story. Word must have spread through the neighborhood, for the composer soon found himself surrounded by neighborhood children; their names, in fact, appear in the dedication to the work inspired by the occasion, *L'histoire de Babar, le petit éléphant*.

Poulenc's work is a melodrama which combines de Brunhoff's narrative with evocative musical interludes. The story follows the life of the anthropomorphic elephant Babar from his birth and youth in the jungle to his life in Paris (where he learns to drive a car) to his marriage to Celeste, his childhood sweetheart. In lending a musical element to the story, Poulenc relies on a number of pictorial devices as well as the kind of stylized forms in which he excelled: a nocturne, a grand march, a lullaby, a waltz, a schottische. Today, you will hear an arrangement of this piece for chamber orchestra by British composer David Matthews.

## Instruments performing today

Can you name these instruments?









Answers: French Horn, Bassoon, Flute & Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, English Horn, Percussion

Violin- Viola- Cello- Double Bass- **but they all look the same?!**

**What makes them different?** The smaller the instrument the higher the sound or pitches that they can play.  
Can you guess which instrument plays the highest notes? The lowest?

- A note about this story: Jean de Brunhoff wrote this story in 1931. The world was a very different place then, with lots of hardships. While Babar's story ends happily, it starts off with a tragedy, when a hunter shoots his mother in the forest. Unfortunately, elephant poaching is still a problem in our world. Jump to after the story to read more about this issue.

## Text to The Story of Babar the Elephant

### The Story of Babar

#### *The little elephant*

In the great forest a little elephant was born. His name was Babar.

*En la gran selva ha nacido un elefantito. Se llama Babar.*

His mother loved him dearly and used to rock him to sleep with her trunk, singing to him softly the while.

*Su mamá le quiere mucho. Para dormirle, le acuna con la trompa mientras le canta dulcemente.*

*Babar ha crecido. Ahora está jugando con los otros elefantitos. Es uno de la más guapos: el que cava en la arena con una concha.*

Babar grew fast. Soon he was playing with the other baby elephants. He was one of the nicest of them. Look at him digging in the sand with a shell.

One day Babar was having a lovely ride on his mother's back;

*Un día Babar tenía un paseo encantador en la espalda de su madre*

*De repente, un cruel cazador, escondido detrás de un arbusto, les dispararon*

Suddenly a cruel hunter, hiding behind a bush, shot at them.

The hunter killed Babar's mother. The monkey hid himself, the birds flew away. The hunter ran up to catch poor Babar. Babar was very frightened and ran away from the hunter.

*El cazador ha matado a la mamá'. El mono se escondió, los pájaros volaron. El cazador corrió a coger el pobre Babar.*

*Babar tiene miedo que escapa de allí y corre y corre sin parar..*

After some days, tired and footsore, he came to a town. He was amazed, for it was the first time he had ever seen so many houses. What strange things he saw! Beautiful avenues! Motor cars and motor busses!

*Después de algunos días, cansados y de pies doloridos, llegó a una ciudad.*

*Se queda asombrado porque es la primera vez que ve tantas casas. Qué cosas extrañas que vio! Hermosas avenidas! Automóviles y buses de motor!*

But what interested Babar the most of all was two gentlemen he met in the street. He thought to himself:

"What lovely clothes they have got! I wish I could have some too! But how can I get them?"

*Pero lo que interesa Babar el la mayoría de todos los dos caballeros se reunió en la calle. Él pensó: " ¿Qué con la ropa que tiene! Me gustaría poder tener algunos demasiado! Pero, ¿cómo puedo conseguir?"*

*Por fortuna, una vieja señora que quería mucho a los elefantitos comprende que desea un traje bonito. Como le gusta complacer a los demas, le da su monadero. Babar dice: Gracias, señora.*

Luckily, he was seen by a very rich lady who understood little elephants, and knew at once that he was longing for a smart suit. She loved making others happy, so she gave him her purse. "Thank you, Madam", said Babar.

**Babar vive ahora en casa de la vieja señora. Por las mañanas hace gimnasia con ella, y luego se baña.**

Now Babar made his home in the old lady's house. Every morning they did their exercises together, and then Babar had his bath.

Every day he drove out in the car that the old lady had bought him. She gave him everything that he wanted.  
**Todos los días se pasea en automóvil. Se lo ha comprado la vieja señora. Le da todo lo que quiere.**

And yet Babar was not altogether happy; he could no longer play about in the Great Forest with his little cousins and his friends the monkeys.

**Y sin embargo, Babar no es feliz del todo: ya no puede jugar con sus primos ni con sus amigos los monos.**

He often gazed out of the window, dreaming of his childhood. And when he thought of his dear mother... he used to cry.

**A menudo miró por la ventana.....pensando en su infancia..... y cuando pensó en su querida madre.. él lloró.**

Two years passed by. **Han pasado dos años.**

One day he was out for a walk when he met two little elephants with no clothes on. "Why, here are Arthur and Celeste, my two little cousins!" he cried in amazement to the old lady.

**Un día, durante su paseo, ve venir a su encuentro a dos elefantitos completamente desnudos. "Pero, si son Arturo y Celeste, mi primo y mi prima!" le dice estupefacto a la vieja señora.**

Babar hugged Arthur and Celeste and took them to buy some lovely clothes.

**Babar abraza a Arturo y Celeste y va a comprarles unas bonitas ropas.**

Next he took them to a tea shop, where they had some delicious cakes.

**Luego les lleva a la pastelería a comer deliciosos pasteles.**

Meanwhile, in the Great Forest all the elephants were searching for Arthur and Celeste and their mothers grew more anxious.

**Mientras tanto, en la gran selva todos los elefantes se busca por Arturo y Celeste y sus madres crecieron más ansiosas.**

Luckily, an old bird flying over the town had spied them and hurried back to tell the elephants.

**Por suerte, un viejo pájaro que volaba sobre la ciudad había espiado, y apresurada a contar los elefantes.**

The mothers went to the town to fetch Arthur and Celeste. They were very glad when they found them, but they scolded them all the same for having run away.

**Las mamás de Arturo y Celeste han venido a buscarles a la ciudad. Estaban muy contentos cuando lo encontraron, pero reprochando a todos ellos el mismo por haber huido.**

**Babar se decide a regresar él también a la gran selva con Arturo y Celeste y sus madres.**



Babar made up his mind to return to the Great Forest with Arthur and Celeste and their mothers.

Cuando todo estaba listo para el viaje Babar abraza a su amiga la vieja señora y le promete volver. Jamás la olvidará. La vieja señora quedó solo, tristemente pensando: ¿Cuándo veré mi pequeño Babar otra vez?"

When everything was ready for the journey Babar kissed his old friend goodbye. He promised to come back to her, and never to forget her. The old lady was left alone, sadly thinking: When shall I see my little Babar again?"

Off they went! There was no room for the mother elephants in the car! So they ran behind, lifting their trunks so as not to breathe in the dust.

Ya se han marchado... Las mamás no tienen sitio en el coche y corren detrás de él con la trompa levantada para no respirar el polvo.

Alas! That very day the King of the Elephants, during his walk, had eaten a bad mushroom.

¡ Ay! Ese mismo día el rey de los elefantes, durante su caminata, había comido una seta mala.

It had poisoned him. He had been very ill,

Le había envenenado. Había estado muy enfermo,

So ill that he had died. Tan enfermo que él había muerto.

It was a terrible misfortune. Fue una desgracia terrible.

After his funeral the oldest elephants met together to choose a new king.

Después de su funeral los elefantes más viejos se reunieron para elegir a un nuevo rey.

Just at that moment, they heard a noise and turned round. What a wonderful sight they saw! It was Babar arriving in his car, with all the elephants running and shouting; "Here they are! Here they are! They have come back! Hullo, Babar! Hullo, Arthur! Hullo, Celeste! What lovely clothes! What a beautiful car!"

Justo en ese momento, escuchó un ruido y se volvió redonda. Qué maravilloso espectáculo vio! Fue Babar llegando en su coche, con todos los elefantes corriendo y gritando; "Ya están aquí! Han vuelto! Buenos días, Babar! Buenos días, Arturo! Buenos días, Celeste! Qué trajes más bonitos! Qué hermoso coche!"

Luego el Viejo Cornelio se adelanta hacia Babar y dice con su voz temblorosa: "Mis queridos amigos, estamos buscando un Nuevo rey. Por qué no elegir a Babar?" Viene de la ciudad y ha aprendido muchas cosas entre los hombres. Démosle la corona."

Then Cornelius, the oldest elephant of all, said, in his quavering voice: "My dear friends, we must have a new king. Why not choose Babar? He has come back from the town, where he has lived among men and learnt much. Let us offer him the crown".

All the elephants thought that Cornelius had spoken wisely, and they listened eagerly to hear what Babar would say.

A todos los elefantes les parece que Cornelio ha hablado muy bien, y escuchaba con gran interés escuchar lo que Babar diría.

"I thank you all", said Babar: "but before accepting the crown I must tell you that on our journey in the car Celeste and I got engaged to be married. If I became your king, she will be your queen".

"Agradezco a todos ustedes", dijo Babar: "pero antes de aceptar la corona he de decirle que en nuestro viaje en el coche Celeste ya comprometimos para casarse. Si se convirtió en su rey, ella será la Reina".

"Long live Queen Celeste! Long live King Babar!" the elephants shouted with one voice.

Viva la reina Celeste! Viva el rey Babar! Gritan todos los elefantes sin vacilar. Y eso es cómo Babar se convirtió en rey .

And that is how Babar became.....King.

“Cornelius”, said Babar, “you have such good ideas that I shall make you a General, and when I get my crown I will give you my hat. In a week’s time I am going to marry Celeste. We will have a grand party to celebrate our marriage and our coronation.”

"Cornelio", dijo Babar, "tienes tantas buenas ideas que voy hacer una General, y cuando llego a mi corona te doy mi sombrero. En una semana voy a casarse con Celeste. Tendremos una gran fiesta para celebrar nuestro matrimonio y nuestra coronación." Y Babar pidió a los pájaros tomar invitaciones a todos los animales.

And Babar asked the birds to take invitations to all the animals.

The guests began to arrive. Los invitados comenzaron a llegar

The dromedary, who went to town to buy some fine wedding clothes brought them just in time for the ceremony.

El dromedario, que iban al pueblo a comprar algo de ropa fina de la boda, trajeron justo a tiempo para la ceremonia.

After the wedding and the coronation everyone danced merrily.

Después de la boda y la coronación todos bailaron alegremente.

The birds sang with the orchestra

Los pájaros cantaban con la orquesta

The party was over- La fiesta ha terminado.

Night fell, and the stars came out. Cayó la noche, y las estrellas salió

The hearts of King Barbar and Queen Celeste were filled with happy dreams. Then all the world slept. The guests went home, very pleased, but tired after dancing so much. For many a long day they will remember that wonderful hall

Los corazones de Rey Babar y Reina Celeste se llenaron de sueños felices. Entonces todo el mundo dormido. Los invitados han vuelto a sus casas, muy contentos.. Pero muy fatigados de haber bailado demasiado. Para Entonces todo el mundo dormido

The End- El fin.

**What is elephant poaching? Here are some links to read more about this problem and what you can do to help:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56510593>

<https://www.theelephantsociety.org/facts>

<https://www.iapf.org/news/elephants>