

Mondavi Center

Arts Education

17-18 CUE Sheet for Teachers

Circa

Carnival of the Animals

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018

11AM | Jackson Hall

Recommended for grades K-12

Common Core

Common Core broadens the definition of a “text,” viewing performance as a form of text, so students are experiencing and interacting with a text when they attend a performance. Seeing live performance provides rich opportunities to write reflections, narratives, arguments, etc.

K-12 RL.3, K-12 RL.6; K-12 RL.7 K-12 W.2; K-12 SL.2



LEARN MORE:

[Circa website](#)

[Circa Carnival of the Animals video](#)

[Downloadable Carnival of the Animals coloring book](#)



About Circa

From Brisbane, Australia, comes a bold new vision of contemporary circus. Created by Yaron Lifschitz with the Circa Ensemble, *Carnival of the Animals* is inspired by composer Camille Saint-Saëns’ suite of the same name. A delightful frolic through the animal kingdom, the Circa acrobats—with a little help from whimsical projections—portray a wide array of creatures—elephants, kangaroos, swans and other creatures—while showing off their incredible circus skills. Colorful large-screen animations provide settings which complement the circus portrayals of various animals. The acrobats constantly somersault, cartwheel, tumble, juggle and dance, as well as occasionally sing and play instruments.



Since 2004, Circa has been at the frontier of new circus—creating powerful works of circus art that challenge, thrill and delight by pushing the boundary of the circus art form and blurring the lines between movement, dance, theatre and circus. Featuring an ensemble of multi-skilled circus artists under the direction of Yaron Lifschitz, Circa’s award-winning works have been seen in 33 countries across six continents. Circa also runs a training center in Brisbane, Australia, and conducts workshops for children, young people and adults.



About Composer Camille Saint-Saëns

Born in Paris in 1835, Camille Saint-Saëns was a French composer, organist, conductor and pianist from the Romantic Period. He was a child prodigy with total recall of anything he had ever read. At 2 he could pick out tunes on the piano; at the age of 3 he composed his first piece; and by 7 he was giving public concerts as a pianist and organist. His best-known works are several concertos, an organ symphony and *Carnival of the Animals*, which he composed in 1886.

Think About It

Dear Students,

- 1 What do you think of when you hear the word "circus"?
- 2 What animals did you see in the performance? What were your favorite animals and why?
- 3 What did the music add to the performance?
- 4 Were there any additional aspects of the show that stood out to you (e.g. stage, lighting, costumes, music)?



MC Fun Facts:



- The outside walls of the Mondavi Center are made from sandstone from India that is 1.8 billion years old.
- What look like fossils in the sandstone tiles, are really iron and manganese crystal dendrites.
- The building sits on 200 pillars to keep the sounds and vibrations of the freeway and trains from being heard or felt inside the theater.
- The ceiling curtains in Jackson Hall weigh 2,200 pounds each.

What is expected of student audiences at the matinee:

- To facilitate starting the performance on time, get a drink of water and use the restroom before entering the seating area
- Enter the auditorium quietly and take your seats immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating)
- Show courtesy to the artists and other guests at all times
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artists' work by applauding
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance. Food is not allowed in the theater
- Use information learned from the pre-matinee discussion to enhance the performance experience
- Please do not photograph or record the artists



What your students can expect of their experience at the Mondavi Center:

A theater is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theaters are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience: whispering, speaking and moving about, can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these disrupt everyone's concentration and can spoil a performance.



The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. By watching attentively the audience shows respect for the performers. Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. For instance, while the audience at a dance performance may sit quietly, other types of performances may invite audience participation.

Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful.

Mondavi Center Arts Education

Arts Education provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2017-18 School Matinee Series. They are intended to help teachers prepare their students for the school matinee that they will attend at Mondavi Center, UC Davis.

Support provided by

