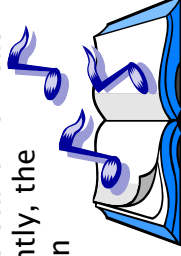


What is a Conductor?

The conductor of an orchestra is the leader. They must know a great deal about music, the great composers, and their works. Also, conductors must have the personality and skill to direct many players at once and to turn them into a team. Often conductors hold a *baton* that they use to mark the beats of the music for the orchestra to follow. Conductors may sometimes play more than one instrument, but they do not need to play every instrument. Instead, they understand how each instrument works and the special qualities of each instrument. Most importantly, the conductor learns each piece of music well enough to guide all the players in an exciting performance.



baton - A wooden stick, approximately 1 ft. in length, that the conductor uses to communicate with the orchestra. The baton helps the musicians see the conductor's motions so that they can play better together.

James Fellenbaum

James Fellenbaum was born in Alexandria, Virginia. His father and mother could play piano a little bit, but weren't very musical. James started to play the guitar and piano at an early age, but did not continue with them. When he was in fourth grade, he decided he wanted to learn to play the cello. He originally wanted to play the double bass, but the string teacher told him he was too short! (The famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma also wanted to play the double bass when he started, but he was too short too!!) In middle school and high school, James played soccer, wrote interesting English papers, enjoyed learning about psychology, and kept practicing the cello. He liked the cello so much that he went to college to study music.

He got a degree in Cello Performance, but meanwhile he discovered that he liked conducting. He began to study conducting, and went to Northwestern University in Evanston, IL to earn a Masters Degree in Conducting. While in Evanston he continued to play the cello, conduct an orchestra at a Chicago University and was Music Director of a Youth Symphony for high school and middle school orchestra players. After living in Evanston for many years (and in Texas for a few years), he moved to Knoxville in 2003.

James is the Resident Conductor with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, where he assists the Music Director and conducts community concerts, Young People's Concerts, and has conducted on the annual Fourth of July concert. He is also the Music Director of the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra and Director of Orchestras at the University of Tennessee, here in Knoxville. He enjoys working with performers of all ages, and conducting the students in the Youth Orchestra and at UT allows him to work with young musicians. James conducts the UT Symphony Orchestra, UT Chamber Orchestra, as well as UT Opera performances, which he really enjoys.

Besides the KSO and UT, James has conducted in many places around the world. Some places are close by like Johnson City, TN and Kingsport, TN. Other places in the U.S.A. include Waukegan, IL and Fort Wayne, IN. And, he has also conducted overseas in Russia, Bulgaria and Satu-Mare, Romania.

James likes watching sports and sports programs on TV and visiting interesting websites on his computer. He really likes science-fiction movies, like *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Matrix* and the *Star Wars* movies. He also owns three bunny rabbits, named Tigger, Roo and Rabbit. If you've ever read Winnie-the-Pooh stories, you'll recognize that James' rabbits are named after characters in those stories.



What is an Orchestra?

Today's symphony orchestra varies in size from city to city, but usually has about 100 players. Orchestras are different from bands because they include string instruments. The string section is the largest section of players in the orchestra, with about 60 people. The woodwind section is made up of approximately 12 or more players, and the brass section typically has ten players. Finally, the percussion section ranges in numbers, depending on the amount of percussion parts used in a piece.

The anatomy of a symphony sheet included in your teacher's guide shows how you will see the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra seated when you come to the Young People's Concert. The players are seated in a semicircle facing the conductor, with the strings right in front. The woodwinds are usually behind the strings, and behind them are the brass. The percussion is normally seated at the back of the orchestra on the right and left corners of the semicircle.

Meet the KSO

ELLEN CONNORS, BASSOON

- Has played with the KSO for two years
- Originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Has studied folk music in Europe and Asia
- Received her Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music
- Has performed in Korea and China
- Has attended summer festival programs at Tanglewood,



- Aspen, Sarasota, and Chautauqua Institute
- Enjoys traveling, singing, and foreign languages

KATY GAWNE, VIOLA



- Has played with the KSO for nine years
- Won her first orchestra job with the KSO at the age of 22
- Moved to Knoxville from Chicago
- Teaches both violin and viola
- Likes sewing and designing children's clothing
- Katy made the cape that Maestro Fellenbaum wore in last year's concert as superman
- Also enjoys exploring the park behind her house with her husband and daughter
- Katy writes a blog about her life as a KSO musician—you can find it on the KSO website www.knoxvillesymphony.com

JENNIFER CRAKE, FRENCH HORN

- Has played with the KSO for five years
- Has also played with Tallahassee Symphony, Rapides Symphony and Lake Charles Symphony, and the American Wind Symphony
- Was born in West Virginia and grew up in Texas
- Received her Master's Degree in Horn Performance from Florida State University
- Currently works as a realtor and in the fall will begin Law School at the University of Tennessee



Concert Behavior

The musicians who are performing for you would like to have your help in making this a wonderful concert. It is important to remember that the orchestra is in the same room with you, not in a movie or on TV. If you talk or make other noises, they can hear you. If you get up and leave in the middle of the performance, they can see you. These things could make the musicians take their minds off of their music and they may not be able to perform at their best. These things can also be distracting to those around you.

Job Description - Audience

Please help make this a good performance by showing how to be a good audience.

Be quiet as the lights dim and the concert begins.

Clap when the concertmaster enters at the beginning of the concert.

Clap when the conductor enters at the beginning of the concert.

Clap to welcome any soloists during the concert.

During the performance watch the conductor. When the conductor puts his hands down and turns to face the audience the piece is completed.

At the end of a piece, clap to let the musicians know you like what you hear.

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