



Aquarium

SAINT-SAËNS Aquarium from *Carnival of the Animals*

CLASS ACTIVITY: How Does a Fish Move?

OVERVIEW

This activity is geared towards younger learners (K-2nd grade). It draws students into the spirit of the music through dance and imaginative play. Children will imitate both the movement of the fish in an aquarium, and the movement of the pianist's hands that reflect that same movement in the tank.

SPACE CONSIDERATIONS: This can be done from their seats if space is limited, but is more engaging and allows for greater creativity if students are allowed to "swim" throughout the room.

MATERIALS: : A ribbon dancer (can be made in class for an additional craft activity) and/or scarves.

HOW TO PLAY

Have the students watch the Cliburn Kids' "Aquarium" video. Then, cue the video to 2:58. Play through each example, one at a time, of how a pianist moves their hands to imitate the way a fish swims. Stop in between each and ask the class to mimic the motion. Ask what kind of fish they think swim that way; then allow them to explore their ideas with their ribbons or scarves. Repeat for each piano demonstration.

Afterward, divide the class into "schools" of their favorite fish. Examples can be clown fish, krill, octopi, jellyfish, or even sharks. Play Saint-Saëns' Aquarium as they swim around the classroom.