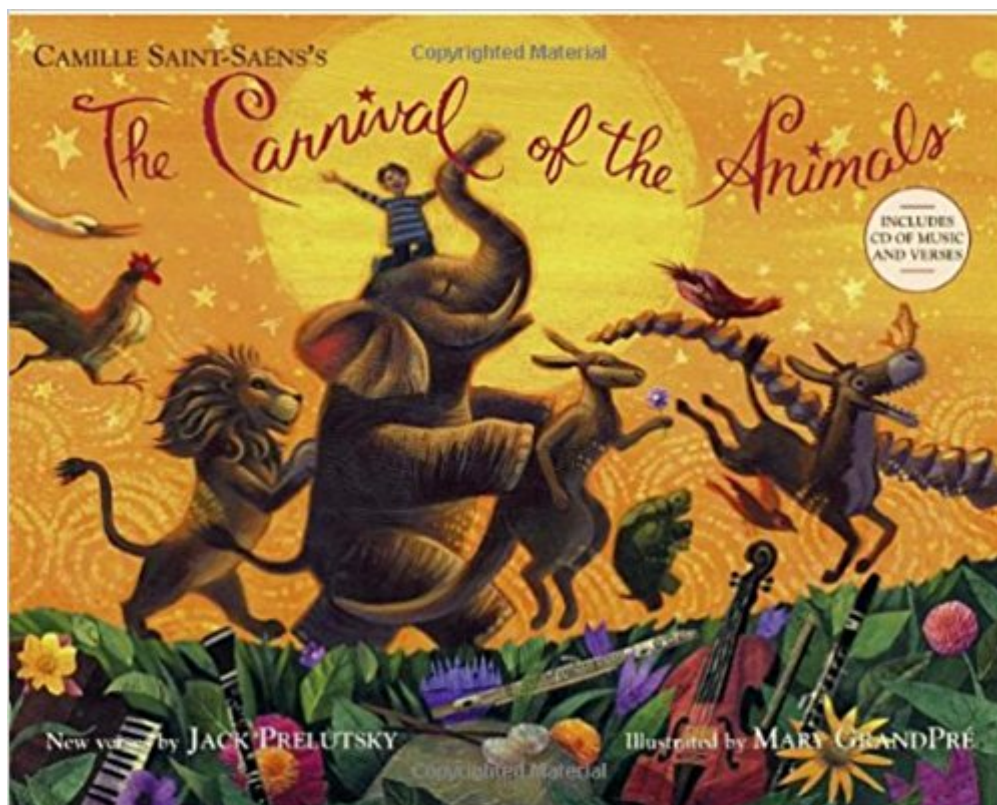


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# The Carnival Of The Animals (Book & CD)



## Synopsis

A great way to introduce children to classical music. America's first Children's Poet Laureate has written all-new verses to accompany the composer Camille Saint-Saëns's *The Carnival of the Animals*, and the illustrator of the Harry Potter books has turned these rollicking rhymes into a picture-book fun fest. Included is a CD of the music and of Jack Prelutsky reading the verses. A note to parents and teachers by Judith Bachleitner, head of the music department at the prestigious Rudolf Steiner School in New York City, suggests ways preschoolers can act out the music—tromp like an elephant, hop like a kangaroo, glide like a swan—or, for older children, be creatively inspired by this joyful work.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (August 24, 2010)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.4 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 78 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #18,490 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts #90 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > United States #176 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1-7 Prelutsky has created a group of poems that match the animals that Saint-Saëns portrayed in his famous classical work, composed in 1886. Read alone or in tandem with the accompanying CD, the sounds of the animals come through in the poetic form with Prelutsky's use of repetition, alliteration, and carefully placed line breaks. Listen to "Roosters and Hens" and the "peck peck peck" and "cluck cluck cluck" bring these skittery creatures to mind. The CD allows readers to listen for the same animal through Saint-Saëns's music, which brings the chickens alive in a very different

way. In “Birds” children can hear the “flitter” that Prelutsky describes come alive in the tones of the flute. Having children tune in to the sounds, whether poetic or orchestral, creates a sensitivity to music in all its forms. A third dimension is added with GrandPré’s vibrant art, which suggests movement through the use of collage and luminous acrylics. This is a carnival, after all, and the rich colors bring to mind the otherworldliness a carnival provides. While music teachers will want this book to complement their introduction of the sounds of the orchestra, it is also a collection children will enjoy on their own. Teachers will enjoy sharing Prelutsky’s use of “just the right words” when describing each animal. It is onomatopoeia at its best. ©Joan Kindig, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Jack Prelutsky, America’s first Children’s Poet Laureate, is the king of funny verse. Two of his recent books are *The Swamps of Sleethe: Poems from Beyond the Solar System* and *Good Sports: Rhymes about Running, Jumping, Throwing, and More*. Mary GrandPré is best known as the illustrator of the Harry Potter books. She has also illustrated *The Blue Shoe* by Roderick Townley and the picture book *Chin Yu Min and the Ginger Cat* by Jennifer Armstrong.

I hadn’t realized that *Carnival of the Animals* wasn’t originally supplied with a narration, until I had to narrate it myself! I knew about the Ogden Nash poems, but assumed they were amusing substitutes for original French texts. Not so-- they were just the \*first\* (as far as I can tell). They’re definitely hilarious, but not necessarily so for kids, and kids are a definite audience for most organizations putting on the whole *Carnival*. I started looking around for other texts-- first tried John Lithgow’s, which are wonderful, but again (in my opinion) much funnier for adults than kids. Prelutsky is the jackpot for anyone wanting to perform *Carnival* for kids! He’s a beloved kids’ poet, and really gets what’s funny for THEM. The performance we did with these was a big success with the under-12 set. I only wish they could all have seen the fantastic illustrations by Mary GrandPré, too. For home use, there’s a CD of the music, including Prelutsky reading the poems himself.

This is all perfect, however, it was on the Book & CD page and there is no CD, which is why I chose this item. If the CD is missing, it should be listed on a Book only page. It’s either there, or not and it wasn’t there. I was specifically looking for great stories with the CD included. Oops.

Wonderful new poem by Jack Prelutsky. Whimsical. Check out this version versus Ogen Nash's'. This wins hands down. Fabulous illustrations by the artist who drew the pictures for the Harry Potter series. An excellent work for children and those young of heart. Includes a CD.

As a music teacher, I'm always looking for new ways to present classical music to my students. The verses that go with each piece of music in Saint-Saens' Carnival of the Animals add so much to the listening of the music. I not only bought this to use at school with my first graders, but bought two copies for my two granddaughters. We read and listened our way through the zoo until the CD began to skip and then refused to work! This is a wonderful resource, but check to see that the CD is in good working order when it arrives. Somehow one of them slipped through quality control! Jack Prelutsky is a favorite children's writer and has done a great job of describing the various animals in a humorous way, while at the same time giving the student something to listen for in the music.

Our child loves listening to the CD before bed; or on long drives. Although the early run through the CD was a bit scary (the Lion was a bit tough to get through) most of the other tracks were gentle and entertaining. Once the initial fear (again, of the Lion) was overcome, it is now part of our collection and frequently listened to.

The songs on the CDs were not listed in the proper order. It made what should have been a simple lesson much more complicated.

This edition of the book is fantastic, and so are the CDs it comes with! I highly recommend this!!!

The pictures hooked little one. Exposed kiddo to rhymes and classical music.

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