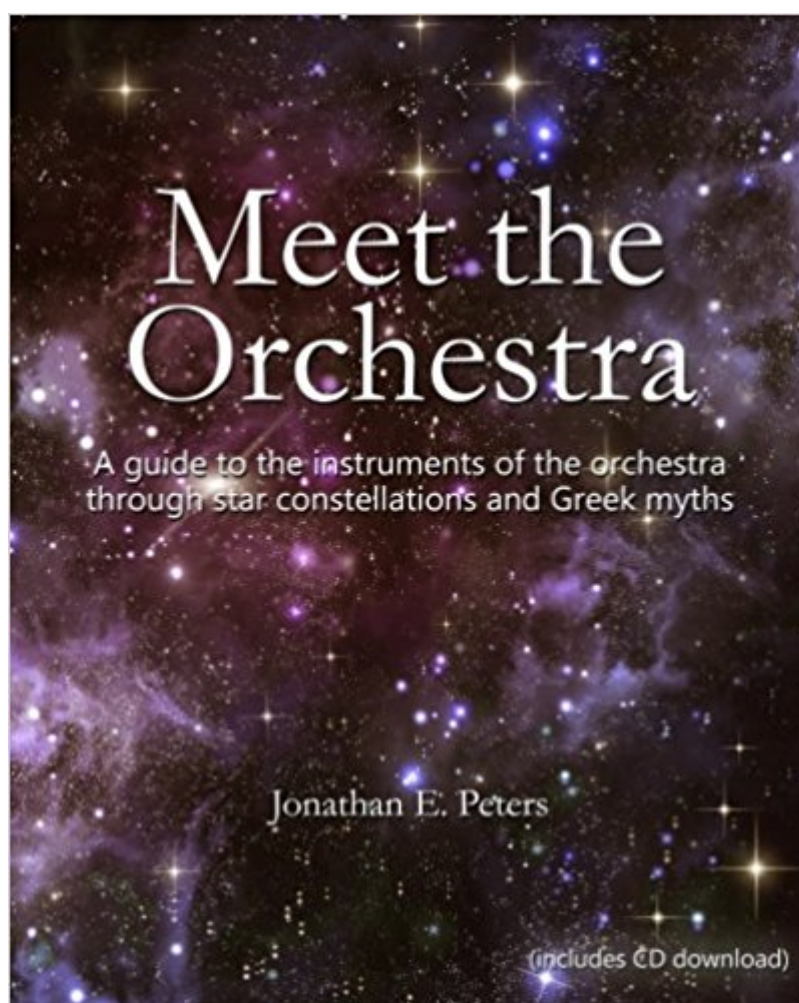


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# Meet The Orchestra: A Guide To The Instruments Of The Orchestra Through Star Constellations And Greek Myths



## Synopsis

Includes a FREE music CD download (a \$14.99 value). Discover the instruments of the orchestra, star constellations, and Greek myths in this unique book by award-winning composer Jonathan Peters. Included is a downloadable music CD which received a starred review from School Library Journal, and a downloadable teacher's guide for optional classroom use. Children will enjoy hearing each instrument of the orchestra musically portray the Greek myths from many different star constellations, culminating in the finale "the night sky" performed by the entire orchestra. Read along or listen to the Greek myths as they are narrated on the downloadable CD. Following each myth are pages containing information on the instruments used to tell the story, and interesting facts about the constellations. Delight in over 70 full color images including: photographs of each instrument, illustrations of mythological characters, diagrams of star constellation with star names, and gorgeous pictures of outer space. Truly a beautiful book, appropriate for all ages!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jonathan Peters is an award-winning composer currently residing in the beautiful state of Colorado. Since 1990 he has worked as composer, director, arranger, recording artist, educator and author. Mr. Peters holds a B.A. in liberal arts from Thomas Aquinas College and continued his graduate work at California State University Northridge where he studied advanced composition, theory, orchestration, and film scoring. Mr. Peters' music has been performed both internationally

and by orchestras across the U.S., having won many awards and recognitions including 1st place in the 1996 Composers Today Contest. He has completed nearly 50 works including 2 full length operas, a symphony, orchestral works, chamber music, choral pieces, and works for solo piano. Mr. Peters's music can be heard on the radio, and his many albums sell in stores world-wide. He is also the author of the Scholastic Music Series, a collection of educational CD's that use music as a tool to teach various academic subjects. The series has received starred reviews from School Library Journal and is carried in libraries throughout the country.

Astronomy, mythology, instrument history, music education, music appreciation, and just plain fun all in one! Jonathan Peters has created a beautiful and delightful resource that your whole family will enjoy. His original compositions powerfully evoke the emotion and drama of the mythological story represented by each constellation, and each instrument of the orchestra is introduced as it depicts the character from the myth. The musical pieces are stirring and thrilling, from triumphant Perseus (trumpet) to the hauntingly beautiful Andromeda (flute) and the sinister Cetus (double bass), to name just a few. Encore, encore, Maestro Peters!

A wonderful combination of music and astronomy. Bought as an introduction to the sounds of different musical instruments (some musical appreciation) but it's so much more. The astronomy and mythology "lessons" have piqued our interest in ancient cultures and star gazing. The real pictures of instruments (as opposed to drawings) are great and help the younger kids readily visually recognize each instrument. We find that the accompanying music brings each instrument beautifully to life!

This book is one of a kind. I read it to my four year old and she was interested through to the end. My ten year old has also read it and has especially enjoyed reading along with the music. But the first person to read it was me! I find the concept of the book fascinating, a marriage between the orchestra, mythology and astronomy. The music is wonderful, and it brings the book to life. It is an easy read, too, but is full of substance. I recommend it.

The illustrations are beautiful. Meet the Orchestra captures the interest of the musician and star gazer and provides a lesson in Greek mythology as well. The CD download brings the book to life and is an inspiration for young musicians. I recommend purchasing Meet The Orchestra for your own enjoyment. Thank you Jonathan Peters for taking the time to share your talents with others.

An absolutely unique approach to learning the instruments of the orchestra. Sights and Sounds of the music of the night sky bring to life the constellations and personify the instruments. Thoroughly enjoyed this book. My kids loved it too. One to read and listen to over and over. - Erin

Meet the Orchestra is a unique blend of astronomy and music, and will greatly enhance anyone's study of either subject. Peters has composed beautiful music to showcase each particular instrument, while at the same time bringing to life the Greek myths on which the constellations are based. It is also a very good value, since a download of the music, complete with oral narration, is included with your purchase of the book. I ran across the CD of The Constellations at the library over a year ago. My kindergarten and preschool-aged children and I loved both the music and the stories. After listening to the CD several times they began to identify some of the instruments by sound, even in other pieces of music. Now that they also have access to this amazing book, they can see a beautiful photograph of each instrument, as well as a starry picture of the characters from each mythological story. The text is such that it can be read either as a simple story to please the younger children, while also containing more depth of information for older students. For example, not only is each constellation presented, but the major stars within each constellation are also named, along with an explanation of their location within the constellation. Instead of introducing the instruments by sections, the book presents them following the layout of the constellations in the night sky. Because of this order, the book is not just a list of instruments, nor is it a list of constellations, but rather it follows several mythological stories, adding to its interest level. It reads as much like a storybook as like a work of non-fiction. At the end of the book, the reader discovers why the constellations of the night sky and the instruments of the orchestra form the perfect pairing.

Jonathan Peters's book Meet the Orchestra is a must-have for every elementary teacher. It not only addresses mythology and the Greek gods and goddesses, it also connects those stories to their related constellations, and further, to instruments in the orchestra. It is a wonderful blend of language arts, science, and music, all rolled into one. Meet the Orchestra directly addresses the California State Standards in language arts for grade 4. Students in 4th grade must be able to determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology, such as Hercules. The musical aspect of the book, which teaches students about the different instruments found in the orchestra, brings these mythological characters

to life, and fits in perfectly with the state standards for music. You can feel the strength of a character through the recording of the instrument. And the addition of the constellations and stars is in line with the 5th grade NGSS *Meet the Orchestra* is the Next Generation Science Standards for California public schools. Overall, the book combined with the recorded narration and the musical recordings would fit right into any elementary classroom's curriculum. It introduces some very new concepts to children in ways that will help them to remember each part. They will associate the instrument with the Greek god and the constellation, and that will help them remember the facts about all aspects of the lesson. Students will love reading and listening to *Meet the Orchestra* - and hopefully will want to explore further the many parts of these lessons *Meet the Orchestra* is a reading about Greek mythology, learning about stars and constellations, and understanding the varied instruments in an orchestra. I highly recommend *Meet the Orchestra*.

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