

FIKA

Concerts - Coffee - Cookies - Conversation

MUSIC SERIES

Carnival of the Animals

*Stories of various animals told through
narration and music.*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
10AM**



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

SKA VI FIKA?

(SHOULD WE FIKA?)

In Sweden, the tradition of fika (pronounced “fee-ka”) is as common as breakfast; something almost everyone does at least once a day. It is the moment that you take a break, often with a cup of coffee or tea, and a baked good to pair with it. At its core, fika means “to drink coffee,” but it represents an entire culture and carries as much meaning for Swedish social engagements as it does for food customs. To truly fika requires a commitment to making time for a break in your day, to socialize, and to slow down.

We are excited to offer the third season of the Fika Music Series at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church! The concerts feature Mount Olivet School of Music and the Arts teachers as well as other Mount Olivet music staff and friends performing works from the classical and popular repertoire. Join us in the Sanctuary for concerts lasting 30–40 minutes and performed from the front of the space so you can enjoy the best view and experience the music up close. This year, we’ve tailored start times and days to fit each musical offering. Bring a friend, enjoy the music, and come “fika” with us after the concert!

Jordan Buchholtz, Coordinator of Fika Music Series

FIKA MUSIC SERIES CONCERTS

2025-2026

Sunday, October 12, 2025, 2pm, Mpls Campus
Uncle Kenny’s Bluegrass Band

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 10am, Mpls Campus
Family Fika: Carnival of the Animals

Sunday, January 25, 2026, 2pm, Mpls Campus
Minnesota Percussion Trio

Saturday, February 21, 2026, 10am, Mpls Campus
Family Fika: Mozart’s Magic Flute for Kids

PROGRAM ORDER

Le Carnaval des animaux (Carnival of the Animals) (1886)

Camille Saint-Saëns

Narration written by Jack Prelutsky

Introduction and Royal March of the Lion

Hens and Roosters

Wild Donkeys—Swift Animals

Tortoises

The Elephant

Kangaroos

Aquarium

Characters with Long Ears

Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods

Aviary

Pianists

Fossils

The Swan

Finale

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a variety of fun creative activities for kids, conversations with performers, and some sweet sugar-sprinkled animal cookies!

Musicians

Riley McNutt, narrator

Leah Siltberg & Jordan Buchholtz, piano

Bethany Summersgill, flute

Jake Meyer, clarinet

Claire Loudon & Renata Steve, violin

Marissa Frye, viola

Diane Loudon, cello

Julian Malaby, bass

Bob Adney, percussion

PROGRAM NOTES

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921) was a French composer, pianist, organist, and conductor whose prolific output and refined craftsmanship made him a towering figure of the Romantic era. A child prodigy, he gave his first public concert at the age of ten and went on to become one of the most versatile and respected musicians of his time. Saint-Saëns had a gift for melodic elegance and orchestral color. Despite his reputation as a serious composer, he also had a playful and witty side, best exemplified by his charming suite *Carnival of the Animals*, which he originally wrote for private performance among friends. Scored for a small chamber ensemble, the piece playfully depicts a whimsical parade of animals—from the majestic lion and the graceful swan to clucking hens, hopping kangaroos, and even a few fossils. Although Saint-Saëns feared the suite might undermine his reputation as a serious composer and restricted its public performance during his lifetime (with the exception of “*The Swan*”), it has since become one of his most beloved and widely performed works, especially when paired with witty narration.

INTRODUCTION AND ROYAL MARCH OF THE LION



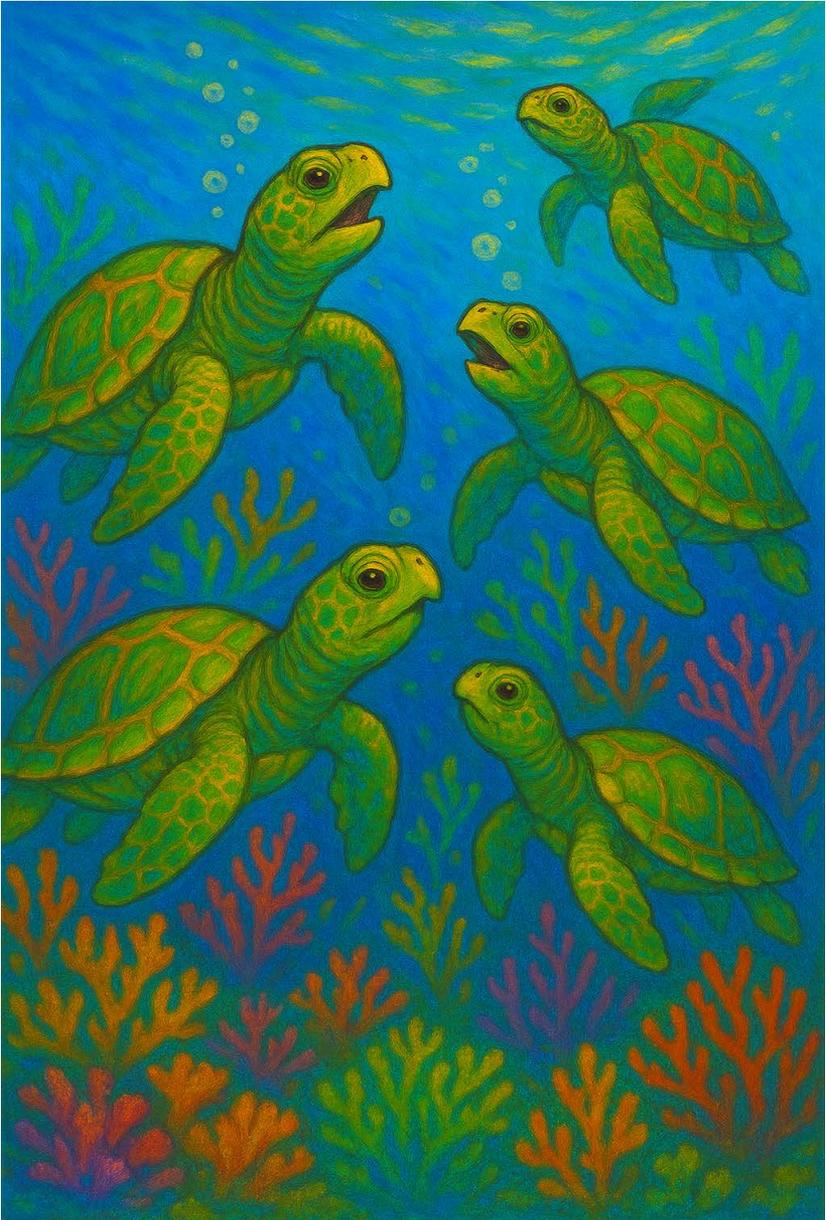
HENS AND ROOSTERS



WILD DONKEYS: SWIFT ANIMALS



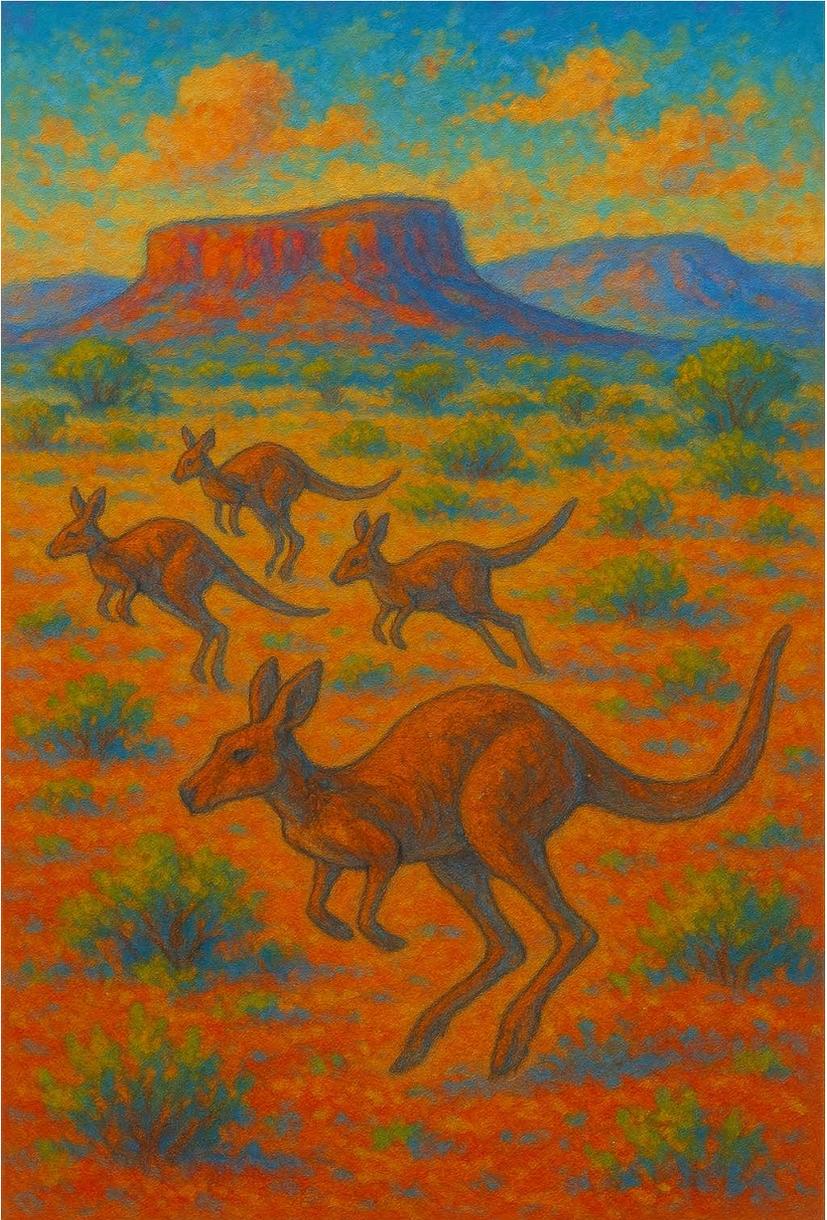
TORTOISES



THE ELEPHANT



KANGAROOS



AQUARIUM



CHARACTERS WITH LONG EARS



CUCKOO IN THE DEPTHS OF THE WOODS



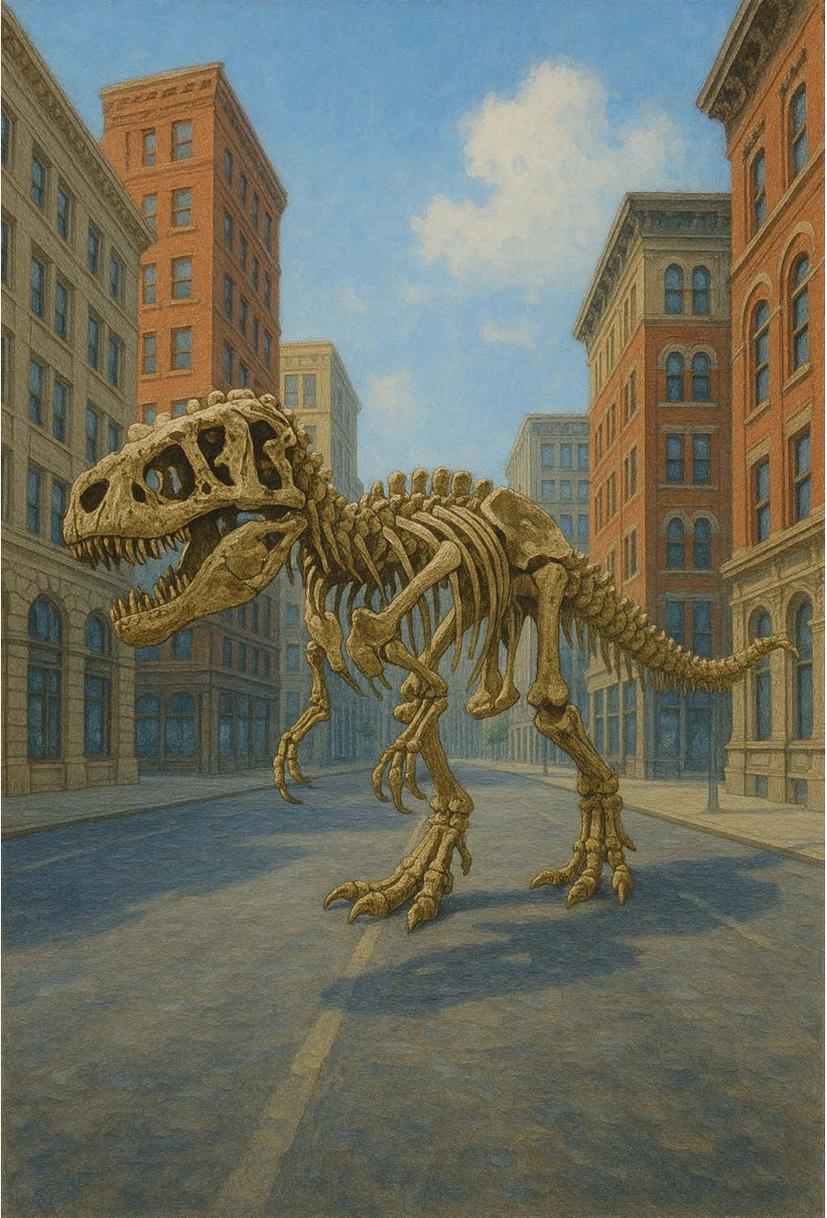
AVIARY



PIANISTS



FOSSILS



THE SWAN



FINALE



MUSICIAN INFORMATION

Pianist **Dr. Leah Siltberg** is an active and sought-after performer in several contexts. She has performed in the Minnesota Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra as well as for Minnesota Public Radio, the American Composers Forum, the James Sewell Ballet, and the Schubert Club. Siltberg most often concertizes as a collaborative pianist, and has performed both solo and collaborative recitals in the United States, Canada, Central and South America, Spain, and New Zealand.

Siltberg graduated from Toronto's Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music with a Performance Diploma, Bachelor of Music, and Artist Diploma. She received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in collaborative piano from the University of Minnesota. While not playing the piano, Siltberg homeschools her four children and makes the most of all the outdoor time she can.

As an active pianist and organist, **Dr. Jordan Buchholtz** regularly collaborates with vocalists and instrumentalists, as well as local chamber ensembles and opera companies, in and around the Twin Cities in Minnesota. She has collaborated on various shows and projects with the Lyric Opera of the North, St. Croix Valley Opera, Skylark Opera, An Opera Theatre, the Oratorio Society of Minnesota, the Bach Society, and the Opera Reading Project. Jordan serves as the Principal Organist and Pianist as well as the Handbell Choir Director at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis. She is also the founder and coordinator of the Fika Music Series. Jordan holds degrees from the University of Minnesota (DMA), University of Missouri-Kansas City (Artist Certificate & MM), and Luther College (BA).

Dr. Bethany Summersgill (previously Gonella) is a flutist and piccoloist based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She performs regularly in a variety of settings, including as associate principal flutist of the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra and as a frequent substitute musician with the Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Opera Orchestra, and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Bethany maintains an active teaching studio both privately and at the University of St. Thomas and enjoys working with students of all ages and levels. She holds bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in flute performance from the University of Southern California, Northwestern University, and the University of Minnesota, respectively. In her spare time, she loves to garden (especially fruits and vegetables), spend time outside (walking, biking, hiking, running, kayaking), or curl up with a book (if it's too cold for the previous activities). Learn more at BethanySummersgill.com.

Jake Meyer is the principal clarinetist of the Ocala Symphony Orchestra and is an active freelancer and teacher in the Twin Cities. Recently, he has performed with the Round Top Festival Orchestra and served as principal clarinetist of the Florida State University Symphony Orchestra and Wind Orchestra. He has also appeared as a soloist with the St. Olaf Orchestra on six occasions. As a private instructor, Jake has worked with students of all ages and abilities, teaching private lessons to undergraduate music majors at FSU, coaching chamber music, and instructing the clarinet methods course. Jake holds a Bachelor of Music from St. Olaf College and a Master of Music from Florida State University. He is a clarinet teacher for Mount Olivet School of Music and the Arts.

Claire Loudon (B.M. violin performance, Cleveland Institute of Music; M.M., Int'l Artist Diploma, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, UK) is a substitute violinist with MN Orchestra and a violinist with the MN Sinfonia. Claire has performed extensively throughout Europe and North America. An avid music educator, Ms. Loudon serves as a faculty member in violin and viola at Mount Olivet School of Music and the Arts.

Renata C Steve is a violinist based in Minneapolis. She performs regularly with Theater Latte Da and VocalEssence, and in ballet performances at the Northrop Auditorium and the State Theater. Before moving to Minneapolis, she performed with the Hartford (CT) Symphony, New Haven (CT) Symphony, Boston Lyric Opera Orchestra, and on National tours with Celtic Thunder and the Phil Coulter Irish Orchestra.

Marissa Frye is a classically trained violist and violinist and has established herself as a reputable teacher in Minneapolis and St. Paul. With an ever-expanding private studio, she specializes in teaching elementary through high school musicians and has coached skilled young string players across Minnesota. She performs in a duo with her husband Wesley Frye (The Frye Music Duo), playing for weddings, private events, collaborations/recording projects, and individually for lessons, coaching, and individual performances. More information can be found at fryemusicduo.com.

Diane Loudon enjoys an active performing career as both soloist and chamber musician. Along with her fellow musicians in the Rosewood String Quartet, Diane has conducted outreach programs and delivered presentations to encourage participation in the performing arts in cities such as Bloomington, Mounds View, and Hastings. As a teacher, Diane has been in demand to teach beginner cello courses and orchestra sectionals in school districts across Minnesota, including Edina Public Schools. Diane offers many performance opportunities for her students by hosting multiple studio recitals each year. Students also enjoy collaborating with peers in cello quartets and large cello ensembles as part of their studies, playing a wide range of genres from classical to rock to pop. Diane is a cello teacher for Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts.

Julian Malaby is a bass player with 15 years of experience. After graduating from St. Olaf College in 2021 with a degree in music, he has enjoyed working as a staff member at MacPhail Center for Music and playing with various groups in the Twin Cities metro area. When not playing, Julian enjoys spending time with his wife, Katie, and dog, Jasper, as well as bouldering at the Minneapolis Bouldering Project.

Bob Adney is a music educator, percussionist, and timpanist who has been a part of the Twin Cities music community for nearly 50 years. He teaches students of all ages and abilities and is frequently the teacher of students selected for All-State Band/Orchestra, GTCYS, MYS, and MacPhail Concerto winners. In addition to teaching at the MacPhail Center for Music, he has held adjunct teaching positions at numerous colleges in the area. He also teaches at his home studio, Mounds Park Percussion Studio (bobadneystudio.com). He has performed with virtually every musical organization in the area and has a discography of over 24 CDs, featuring collaborations with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the South Dakota Symphony. He has been with the South Dakota Symphony for 19 years. Bob also plays for the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra, Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Dance, Hamline Oratorio Society, Music St. Croix, and Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. In addition, he is a founding member of the Minnesota Percussion Trio (1987), co-owner of marimbarental.com, and the author of several self-published instructional books for percussion, as well as a handful of arrangements and original compositions for percussion ensemble.

Riley McNutt (He/They) is delighted to be participating in this wonderful piece today. Off-Broadway, Riley worked at the Sheen Center, regionally at Asolo Repertory Theater, and several national tours. Local companies he has worked with include Theater Latte Da, Children's Theater Company, Artistry, Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Opera, St Croix Valley Opera, and Flying Foot Forum. Hi Mom and Dad!

MUSIC & ART AT MOUNT OLIVET

BECOME A SUPPORTER!

Thank you for sharing your time with us today. If you are interested in helping support the FIKA Music Series or you would like to be added to our Mount Olivet Music Events email list, please use the QR codes below. Thank you for your generosity and support to Mount Olivet's School of Music & the Arts where music and art are made in community!

DONATE



EMAIL LIST



ART CLASSES

Tuesday, November 11, 6pm, Mpls Campus
Watercolor & Mixed Media Art Class

In this watercolor painting class you will work with watercolors, pencils, and pen and ink as you combine and layer them to create a work of art!

Monday, December 8, 6pm, Mpls Campus
Chalk Pastel Drawing Art Class

Dive into the expressive world of chalk pastels—an artist's medium known for its vibrant color and blendability.

Monday, January 26, 2026, 6pm, Mpls Campus
Northern Lights Acrylic Pour

Come and experience "pour painting" - an innovative way to use acrylic paint to create a unique piece of art.

MUSIC IN COMMUNITY

Sunday, December 7, 3:15pm Rehearsal, 4pm Concert, Mpls Campus
Messiah Sing-Along

Get ready for Mount Olivet's annual **Messiah** Sing-along!
This festive December tradition brings the community together in a powerful celebration of music and joy. Register to sing at mtolivet.org.

Sunday, December 14, 2 & 4pm, Mpls Campus
*Mount Olivet Annual Christmas Concert: **The Heavens Shall Sing!***
These free concerts are a must-see, filled with the beauty and joy of the holidays. Come enjoy this musical gift for those seeking an uplifting and inspirational Christmas experience.

Thursday, March 12, 7pm, Mpls Campus
John Rutter's Requiem
This coming Lenten season, Mount Olivet is honored to present its second Requiem concert. John Rutter's beloved Requiem will be performed with orchestra, soloist, and a volunteer community chorus, under the direction of Brandon Berger, Director of the Sanctuary Choir at Mount Olivet's West Campus. All singers are invited to participate.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Now in its 22nd year, Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts (MOSOMA) continues to thrive with excellence and energy! With over 30 professional teachers and 300 students, the school continues to champion the importance of Music and Art. The MOSOMA represents a warm, welcoming environment where people come first, learning feels safe and supportive, and exceptional teachers inspire every step of the way. For more information, check out our MOSOMA teachers online and then fill out the private lesson interest form via the QR Code below.



