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## Meet the Orchestra

Ann Hayes

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**Ann Hayes : Meet the Orchestra** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Meet the Orchestra:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Awesome prep book for a School Orchestra field trip  
By DelilahRosie Purchased this book as a pre-teaching tool in preparation for taking my Homeschool to the Symphony. The book describes all the instruments with colorful illustrations. My children grades K-7 all enjoyed the book and it was exciting to hear them make connections at the event between book and practical experiential learning!  
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By Lark Song The ebook version is worthless. The pages are fragmented and do not align properly on the display. They are framed by the actual text of the story. Properly converted ebooks highlight the text, but do not copy it outside the pages of the original book, and therefore do not detract from the overall appearance. There is no way I could share this book with a child or with the classes I teach. A word of caution in general-- "samples" usually do not include enough pages to be able to identify such problems in advance. Do yourself a favor, and avoid ebooks for children.  
47 of 47 people found the following review helpful. Makes you wonder what might have been  
By Mike Windsor There are not a lot of books about orchestras that are aimed at young children. This book does a few things really well. The illustrations are wonderful, and depict animals buying their tickets and getting seated, playing realistic-looking instruments, and going home. The illustrations get five stars. The text falls off a bit, and demonstrates a problem describing music with words. To say that an instrument sounds "blue" really doesn't say much. The text gets three stars. What is just maddening is that publishers can crank out any number of cartoon character books, with buttons along the side, that make an assortment of sounds. Why then can't some publisher use the same technology to give a brief sample of what the instruments sound like? I read this book, and I think of how it could have been so much better.

This lyrical romp through the orchestra begins with animal musicians slowly gathering for the evening performance. Poetic descriptions suggest the sounds of the instruments, and lively watercolor illustrations capture the playful essence of each musician and musical instrument. Its a smashing introduction to classical music, and a must prior to a first visit to the symphony.--Publishers Weekly

From Publishers Weekly Working within the framework of an evening at the symphony--the title page features concertgoers buying tickets, the last page shows musicians and audience members heading home--these collaborators have drummed up a treasure of a book for musically inclined children. Each instrument of the orchestra--from oboes and violas to tubas, trumpets and timpani--is explained, with clear definitions as well as more subjective information as to how each one sounds (the clarinet's "cool tones melt in your ears just like ice cream melts in your mouth"). Thompson's illustrations are sumptuously silly--but musically correct--featuring an array of formally dressed animal musicians (check out the otter in tails on the piccolo). Readers also meet the conductor and learn his role, and are treated to a glimpse of the orchestra seated and in full cry. It's a smashing introduction to classical music, and a must prior to a first visit to the symphony. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Kindergarten-Grade 3-- An attractive, well-planned book that introduces the orchestra's families (groups of like instruments) and its members. In clear and understandable prose, each instrument's function, especially as it relates to the other members of its family, and its sound are described in sometimes poetic phrases--"its song can be bright as laughter, light as air, soft as a whisper, or sad as a tear." Single- or double-page spreads feature a large watercolor illustration of an animal playing the instrument under discussion. Although most are aptly chosen for their instruments--a polar bear playing a bassoon and a lion as the conductor--some are disconcerting. The sight of a chimpanzee in a pink dress and frilly pantaloons sitting at a grand piano lessens the effectiveness of that instrument's description. Overall, however, these creatures add a lively note and enable the book to be friendly and accessible without exhibiting the overriding silliness found in Eugen's *Orchestranimals* (Scholastic, 1989). A good book to use in the classroom as well as individually, this is a collaboration between two artists whose love for music and the orchestra is evident throughout. --Jane Marino, White Plains Pub. Lib., NY Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author No Bio