

Vancouver Island  
Symphony  
Pierre Simard  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



CLASSICAL  
& Casual

2020 Grade 4 Education Program

# INVENTIONS

## Teacher's Guide



Artistic Director **Pierre Simard**



Guest Artist **Dinah D**



Music by **Pierre Simard** and Script by **Dinah D**  
featuring the **Vancouver Island Symphony**  
and the **VIS Children's Choir**



Season Sponsor



The VIS acknowledges the support of our Education Partners and government investment. The VIS is committed to its contribution to the community through its Education Programs. The ticket price covers less than 10% of the cost to produce and present these concerts. The difference is covered by the Vancouver Island Symphony through sponsorships, foundations, service clubs and donations from organizations and individuals that share these values.

Please help us thank those who support Education programming in our communities.

### Community Support



### Government Support



**Presenting Sponsor**  
VIS Children's Choir



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Thank you to School Districts #68 & #71 and private schools on Vancouver Island for seeing the value in attending a Symphony performance. Together we have been able to make sure every Grade 4 student attends a live Symphony performance!

# INVENTIONS

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# About the Vancouver Island Symphony



Under the artistic direction of our noted conductor, Pierre Simard, the Vancouver Island Symphony is a professional Canadian orchestra - one of only two on Vancouver Island. Celebrating its **25th Anniversary** in 2019-2020, the VIS presents an annual season of world-class orchestral performances at the beautiful harbour setting of Nanaimo's Port Theatre. In addition the VIS performs three one hour concerts, *Symphony at the Sid* at the Sid Williams Theatre in Courtenay, and a series of two concerts at Campbell River's Tidemark Theatre.

By attracting professional musicians and soloists from across the country, offering special education and community concerts and programming, and engaging active volunteers and donors, the VIS serves as a creative asset to the many communities of the growing Central Island area. Its wide-reaching audience and commitment to education are helping to Keep Music Live and foster the next generation of audiences and performers.

The Vancouver Island Symphony values the continued support it receives from its patrons through tickets sales and donations. Buy a ticket and join us in Keeping Music Live on the Island!

[www.vancouverislandsymphony.com](http://www.vancouverislandsymphony.com)

## About the Artistic Director & Creator



Acclaimed in Canada and internationally, Pierre Simard is a prominent conductor, composer and arranger. Artistic and Music Director with the Vancouver Island Symphony and formerly Associate and Resident Conductor with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and the

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Pierre Simard's artistry is versatile, compelling and nuanced, performing every masterwork with remarkable musicianship.

An accomplished composer and arranger, his works are notably performed by the Tasmanian Symphony, the Toronto Symphony, the Calgary Philharmonic and Montreal-based Ensemble Pentàèdre.

Pierre Simard's warm personality on and off stage combined with his unwavering commitment to music performance have drawn concertgoers of all generations to celebrate a large and diversified repertoire.

Photo: Heydemann Art of Photography



# Artistic Team, Cast & Crew

## Dinah D



Dinah D is a much loved Canadian entertainer! For the last 20 years, Dinah D has stayed smiling both on and off stage between her two bands The Kerplunks, and Dinah D & The Contraband Swingclub and acting, songwriting, and free-lance work for other artists!

Dinah lives on Gabriola Island and has a small farm with her partner, the clown Clever Trever, where they grow veggies, play with chickens, carefully tend their honeybees and scheme ways to make audiences laugh!

Dinah D has produced 5 award-winning albums for The Kerplunks and is currently writing for album number 6 and she also writes and produces adult music with The Contraband Swingclub.

Whether she is fronting her swing jazz band, acting onstage with the Vancouver Island Symphony, performing spoken word at a coffee shop, backing another artist or playing to 1,000 screaming Kerplunks fans in an auditorium, Dinah D loves it all!

[www.thekerplunks.com](http://www.thekerplunks.com)

[www.dinahd.com](http://www.dinahd.com)

## Patricia Plumley, Choir Conductor

Patricia has been a faculty member of the Vancouver Community College School of Music since 1988. She currently teaches piano, class piano, and is the Artistic Director of the VCC Wilan Choir and Concert Choirs.

At her home in Nanoose Bay she runs a private studio for all ages of voice and piano students combining a love of movement and dance with musical training. In addition to the VIS Children's Choir, Patricia enjoys conducting A Cappella Plus, The Village Voices of Qualicum Beach and the Vancouver Island Choir.

Past touring experiences with the BC Boys Choir, founding the Kids Sing Inner City Chorus in Vancouver, exciting choral projects with VIS kids and adult choirs, choral collaborations with the West Coast Symphony Orchestra, Body Awareness workshops in Hong Kong, yearly participation in the West Coast Amateur Musicians' Summer Camp and, most recently, working with the children's chorus of Opera Nanaimo have all been wonderful parts of the variety in Patricia's musical life.



Photo: Heydemann Art of Photography



**VIS Children's Choir for Gr. 4-7**

Conductor  
**Pierre Simard**

VIS Education Coordinator  
**Mark Beaty**

Choir Director  
**Patricia Plumley**

Guest Performers  
**Dinah D**  
**VIS Children's Choir**

Film Director  
**Nathalie Cusson**

Stage Manager  
**Shelby McCoy**

# VIS 2020 Education Program

## INVENTIONS

Compositions, Arrangements and Orchestrations  
by Pierre Simard

Script written by Dinah Desrochers

“Cool Invention” song written  
by Dinah Desrochers

Arranged by Dinah D and Pierre Simard

### Synopsis

Join time-traveling pilots Pierre Simard and Dinah D aboard the first passenger-class time machine, Infineon! Get a glimpse of the newest crew (the audience) and their powerful Time Bus (the theatre) as they travel through time to re-examine seven important inventions in human history. Sit back and enjoy the Symphony’s inspiring orchestral pieces that bring those inventions to life! Where will the crew end up next? What will be the next big invention? Jump aboard and buckle up!

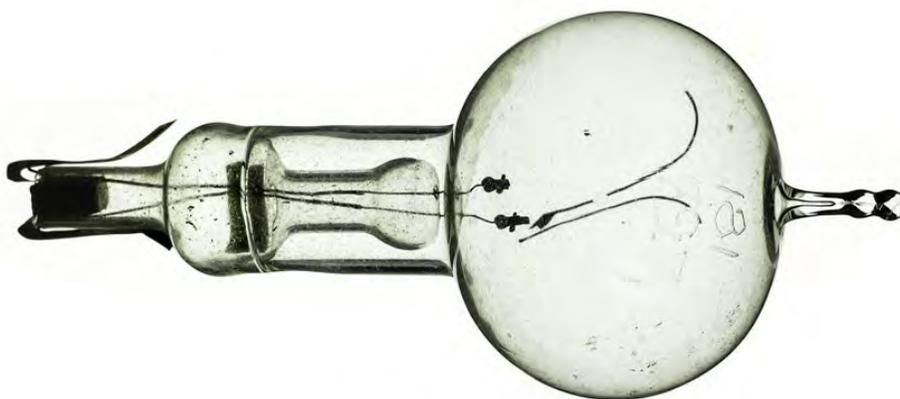
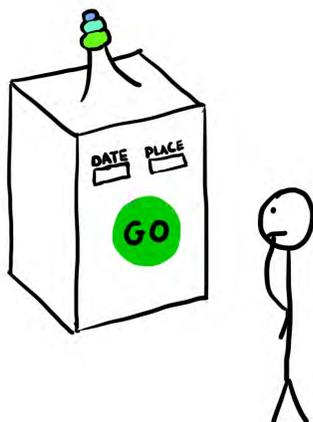
The performance runs 45 minutes with no intermission.

### Musical Numbers

- 1 - Introduction: Welcome to Inventions
- 2 - The Light Bulb
- 3 - The Printing Press (Gutenberg)
- 4 - Button and Scissors
- 5 - The Airplane
- 6 - The Automobile
- 7 - The Space Shuttle (Space Flight)



# An Overview by Pierre Simard



Original carbon-filament bulb from Thomas Edison.

My father has a saying which has become one of my favourites: « Everything I know, I've learned ». Simple, you might say... But when you stop to think about it, the truth of it is striking: most of what we become as human beings is given to us by others through learning from them...

At the Vancouver Island Symphony, one of our most important missions, besides the obvious one of producing great performances of live symphonic music, is making sure that we play an important role in music education around the Island. My own contact with an orchestra at a very early age was paramount in my choice of profession... Attending a Montreal Symphony school matinee, I still vividly remember being in awe of the whole experience! It provided a "cultural imprint" which remained present in my brain throughout my childhood and teenage years, subtly opening my mind and making it available to appreciation of beauty, sensitivity to communication through art.

We strive to reproduce the same kind of experience for students who attend our annual Education symphony program. For its 2019-2020 season and beyond, our orchestra is producing a brand-new show, "Inventions", based on a full-fledged, cutting-edge symphony program presented in 2017. The program features 7 original compositions (6 by yours truly, and an orchestration of a song by script-writer / actress / singer Dinah D) which attempt to musically describe some of the most significant and life-changing inventions in humankind's history.

Students will discover, through music and supple-

mentary audio-visual content, interesting facts about Edison's Light Bulb, Gutenberg's Printing Press, the Button and Scissors, Wright's Airplane, Cugnot's Automobile, leading all the way to Space Flight. Technology is married to acoustic instruments for this production, as our audience is invited on a time travel journey using the "Infineon" – a carbon-fuel engine which speaks its own mind, mostly with scientific comment! Infineon's voice is provided via state-of-the-art sound design, modern sample banks and pre-programmed electronic tracks – a unique and unusual concept within a symphony program.

The show, specifically designed for Grade 4 students, also features the VIS Children's Choir, which perform annually on our Education program, and is also featured on our mainstage VIS programs. The audience will also be invited to participate during "Inventions" – as they learn a quick 4-measure sing-along melody, on location, in performance!

Our program is an incredible occasion to be introduced to science as it relates to music, and – most importantly – open new horizons for our children, using the rich universe of a symphony orchestra. After all, most of what happens inside the concert hall is often a surprisingly accurate reflection of what happens in daily life outside the concert hall...

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pierre Simard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the text.

Hello kids!

My name is Dinah I.

I am writing you from the year 2075  
to invite you to join our crew on  
the INFINISON!

As you may already know the INFINISON  
is a carbon capture fuelled time bus  
that uses the Orion Nebula to travel  
in time.

To find out more, please join us for an  
orientation session!

On behalf of your captains (myself and  
Pierre Simard), the Vancouver Island Symphony  
Orchestra and the Carbon Capture choir,  
we look forward to seeing you soon.

Welcome Aboard!

DINAH I 



IR M

# Welcome to the Symphony | Note to Teachers

## Guidelines for Attending Education Concerts

### Before the Performance

**Imagine this:** 800 children, limited space to congregate and 15 minutes! This is the situation that our wonderful front of house crew of ushers at Education Concerts frequently face. Please help us out and **arrive 30 minutes prior** to concert time. (Latecomers will be seated when there is a suitable break in the performance.)

#### AT THE PORT THEATRE:

- School buses may stop off on Front Street or turn and drop off on Museum Way. Please pull up as far as possible so that other buses can pull in behind.
- If travelling by car, there are parkades beside the Port Theatre on Front Street and at the Convention Centre (entrances are off Museum Way). You are responsible for the cost of your parking. Pay for one-and-a-half to two hours.
- Washrooms are located on the main floor at the end of the hall near the Box Office. Please encourage students to use washrooms BEFORE and AFTER rather than during the concert so as not to disturb other listeners or the musicians. No child may leave the show without an adult.

#### AT SID WILLIAMS THEATRE:

- School buses may stop along Cliffe Avenue. Please pull up as far as possible to allow buses to pull up behind. A sign in the window of the bus will facilitate unloading and loading.
- If travelling by car, pay public parking is available beside the theatre in a ground-level lot. Pay for one-and-a-half to 2 hours of parking.
- Washroom are available in the lower level of the lobby. Please encourage students to use washrooms BEFORE and AFTER rather than during the concert so as not to disturb other listeners or the musicians. No child may leave the show without an adult.

### MORE INFO & REQUESTS

- **Seating your group:** you will have pre-assigned seats in the theatre. Groups must enter the centre front doors of the theatre together. If you are arriving separately, arrange to meet outside the theatre by the box office and enter at the same time.
- Encourage children to remove their outer clothing and place it on their seats. They will be more comfortable.
- No food or drink including chewing gum may be consumed in the theatre.
- Cell phones, video or still cameras, and any kind of audio or video recorders are prohibited in the theatre.

### During the Performance

- Before the concert begins, the musicians may be “warming up” by playing scales and excerpts from their music. This way, musicians get their lips, fingers and muscles ready to play music.
- Prior to the conductor arriving on stage, the Concertmaster will make his entrance. The audience applauds. He will walk to his place at the front of the violins and signal the oboist for the “A” note, at which time all the musicians will tune their instruments. The audience should become quiet so the musicians can hear their instruments. Following the tuning, when all is quiet, watch for the arrival of the conductor. The audience will applaud and the concert will begin.
- Audience members should not leave the theatre in the middle of the show. If necessary, wait for applause to exit the theatre.
- Applause is appreciated and is appropriate. You will know it is time to clap when the conductor has dropped both of his arms to the sides.
- Audience participation is encouraged! Look through the guide to find out ways to prepare your students to sing along with the show. Their participation and singing will be encouraged throughout the show by the performers.

# Sing-Along Music & Lyrics

There are 2 places during the show when the kids in the audience can sing along. If you have the opportunity to go over the music with your students beforehand they will be eager to participate. Each segment will be taught as part of the show. **Audience participation is encouraged!**

## The Cool Invention by Dinah D.

For « I Fly » the audience will join the Children's Choir to sing « I Fly » in A minor on A-C-A, A-E-C, A-C-A, A-E-C, always on beats 2-3-4 (« I Fly - y »).

### VERSE A

Although it *flies* at convention  
I am *propelled* to mention  
It is *plane* to see (to me....)  
This is a Cool Invention!

### KIDS CHOIR & AUDIENCE

I Fly, I Fly, I Fly, I Fly

### VERSE B

I've got wings that can lift me up  
Two huge engines propel me  
I've got pilots to guide me clear  
And wheels for my landing  
Wheels for my airplane

### KIDS CHOIR & AUDIENCE

I Fly, I Fly, I Fly, I Fly

### BRIDGE

### VERSE C

I see sky in my windshield  
Clouds are brushing my cheeks  
Mountains blanket below me  
My shadow on their glaciers and peaks  
In my airplane, in my airplane

### KIDS CHOIR & AUDIENCE

I Fly, I Fly, I Fly, I Fly

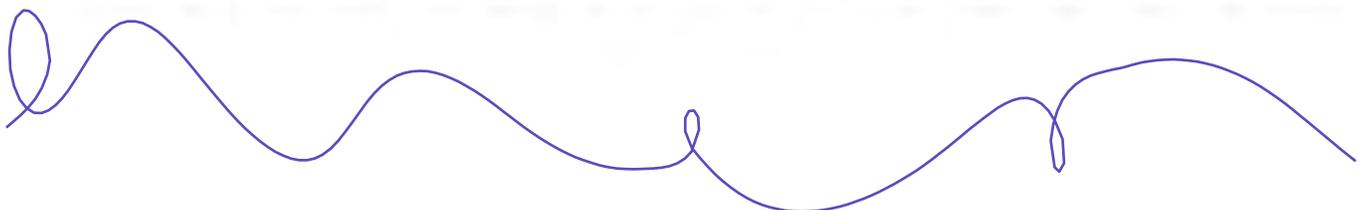


## Automobiles, Freedom on Wheels by Pierre Simard

Driving (♩.=60)

*f*

Au - to - mo - biles, free - dom on wheels! Au - to - mo - biles, free - dom on wheels!



# LEARNING & DISCOVERY

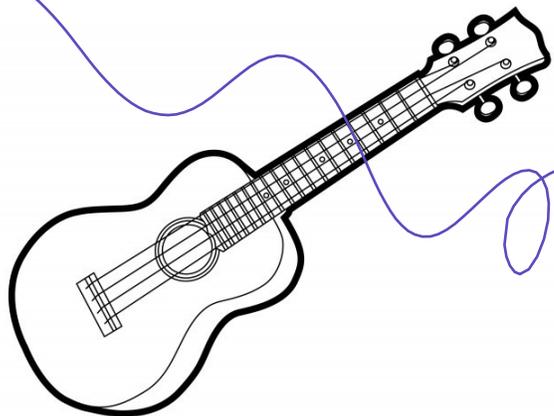
## About the Ukulele

The modern day **Ukulele** (or Uke) is intricately woven into the culture of the people from the tropical islands of Hawaii. It is a practical and transportable instrument that almost anyone can play, from tiny children to old grannies!

The arrival of the Ukulele dates back as far as 1879 when a similar instrument arrived to Honolulu, Hawaii, from Maderia Portugal. Soon afterwards the Ukulele became a traditional instrument for the Hawaiian culture.

All Ukuleles have 4 strings and come in 4 main sizes ranging from Soprano, **Concert**, **Tenor** to **Baritone**, which is a lower tone and larger frets. The larger sizes are helpful for people like Dinah D who normally plays the UPRIGHT BASS, but decided a Ukulele fits the song better! "Basses are VERY long neck scale, and a ukulele is a small neck scale. The Upright Bass is also VERY LARGE and the Ukulele fits into my back pack with my lunch and all my books! I play a Tenor Ukulele." says Dinah.

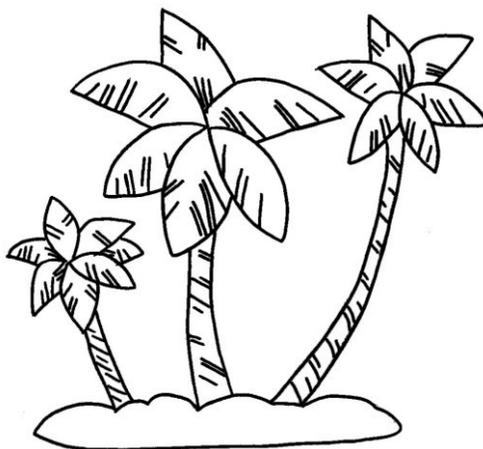
Today, the Ukulele has taken the whole world by storm and there are thousands of "Uke Groups" popping up all over the world! Musicians have also adapted their songs to the Ukulele because of it's accessibility, so there are loads of tutorial videos on line.



Almost every popular song in the world has been re-written into ukulele fingerings! Do you have a favourite song? I bet you can learn it FAST on a Ukulele!

Ukuleles are amazing and for their small size they sure pack a lot of great volume and tone into a small body!

**Try one out!**

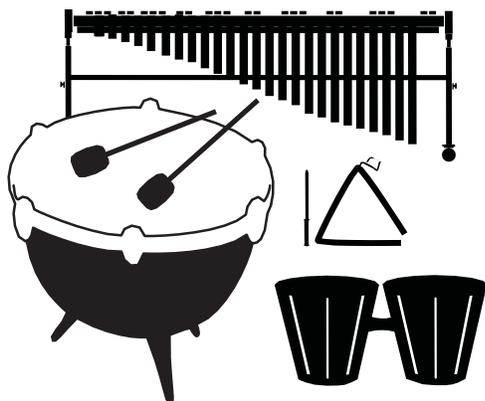


# The Instruments of the Orchestra

The symphony orchestra can be divided into five instrument families. Members of the families are 'related' by the similar ways in which they produce sound. The five families are the percussion family, the woodwinds, the string family, the brass family and the keyboard family.

## The PERCUSSION Family

Percussion instruments developed thousands of years ago when early people struck objects together to bring out the rhythms of dancing and song. The name percussion means hitting one body against another. All instruments of the percussion family are played by being struck, shaken or scraped. In the orchestra, the percussion section provides a variety of rhythms, textures and tone colours.



Percussion instruments can be classified as pitched or non-pitched. Pitched percussion instruments can play specific notes and thus melodies and harmonies. They include instruments like xylophones, marimba, chimes, and glockenspiels. You might play some of these in school Orff orchestras. Non-pitched percussion can play different timbres but not specific notes. They range in size from the gigantic timpani, down to the tambourine and the tiny, but important, triangle!

## The WOODWIND Family

Each of the three branches of the woodwind family has a different source of sound. Vibrations begin when air is blown across the top of an instrument, across a single reed or across two reeds. The player makes different notes by changing the length of the tubing. This can be accomplished by covering the holes in the instrument with the fingers or using 'keys' to do this. Reeds are small pieces of cane. A single reed is clamped to a mouthpiece at the top of the instrument and vibrates against

the mouthpiece when air is blown between the reed and the mouthpiece. The double reed is two reeds tied together. The double reed fits into a tube at the top of the instrument and vibrates when air is forced between the two reeds. The flute and the recorder are woodwinds that use air alone to create the vibrations. A woodwind that uses a single reed is the clarinet. Two double-reed woodwinds are the oboe and the bassoon. You might be surprised to find the saxophone in the woodwind family. It may look like a brass instrument but it has a single reed in the mouthpiece that vibrates to make the sound. The player uses keys to change the length of the tubing to make the different pitches or notes.



## The STRING Family

The String Family is named for the gut, wire or nylon cords that are stretched over or attached to a hollow sound box. Striking, bowing, plucking or strumming the strings produce musical sounds that are amplified acoustically or electronically. In the orchestra, the string family is represented by the violin family, the harp and though not always in the orchestra, the guitar. The violin family is the largest section in the orchestra. Instruments in the violin family — the violin, viola, cello and bass — have four strings, each tuned to a different note. The four pegs at the top of the instruments allow the player to loosen or tighten the strings to keep them in tune. The player's left hand is in charge of playing the correct notes. Because each string is only one note, the player must change the length of the string by pressing it to change the pitch. The right hand produces sound by pulling the bow across the strings or by plucking them.

- **VIOLIN** Both a solo instrument and an important member of the orchestra, the violin has a lovely tone that can be soft and expressive or exciting and brilliant.

- **VIOLA** Very much like the violin, the viola is tuned five notes lower than the violin, is slightly larger and has a more mellow voice. The viola is an important player of harmony in the orchestra.
- **CELLO** The cello's full name is violoncello and it has a rich and mellow tone. While shaped like a violin, the cello is much larger and is held between the player's knees. At the bottom of the instrument is the tail spike, which the player sets on the floor.



- **DOUBLE BASS** The largest of the string family, the bass must be played while standing up, and has sloping shoulders instead of square shoulders like the other members of the violin family.

- **HARP** Another member of the string family is the orchestral harp, which has about 45 strings stretched across a triangular frame perpendicular to the soundbox. The strings are plucked by hand while seven pedals at the bottom of the harp adjust the length of the strings to produce additional notes. There may be one or two harpists in the orchestra depending upon the demands of the music.



- **GUITAR** The guitar is a hollow sound box with six strings stretched across it. The guitar player presses the strings, to change the length and the pitch, like the members of the violin family. The guitar player plucks or strums the instrument to make the strings vibrate. The guitar sound is amplified either acoustically or electronically.

### **The BRASS Family**

Early people buzzed their lips against animal horns or sea-shells to create sound. Brass instruments also need buzzing lips to make them sound but they have mouthpieces to make it easier on the lips. The mouthpiece is put in a long brass tube, which is wound around to make it easier to hold. The tube ends with a 'bell' – the longer the tube, the deeper the voice. Many brass instruments have valves, however the trombone uses a slide to lengthen and shorten the brass tube to change the notes. All brass players must use their lips as well to control the pitches.

Brass instruments you will see in the orchestra include the **trumpet**, the **trombone**, the **French horn** and the **tuba**. They have a very big sound so you will see them at the back of the orchestra. They are also popular instruments in school and marching bands.



### **The KEYBOARD Family**

A family not always seen with the orchestra but used in some concerts is the keyboard family. Keyboard instruments are often classified as percussion instruments because they play a rhythmic role in some music. However, most keyboard instruments are not true members of the percussion family because their sound is not produced by the vibration of a membrane or solid material. Sound is produced on the **piano** by small hammers striking strings. The hammers are controlled mechanically and strike the strings when the player's hands press the piano keys.

On the **harpsichord** the sound is produced when quills pluck the strings as the player presses the keys. In the organ, air is pushed through different length pipes to make the notes.

An **electronic keyboard** is similar to an **organ** but have loudspeakers instead of pipes.



Here is how the orchestral families look on stage when the Symphony is ready to play!

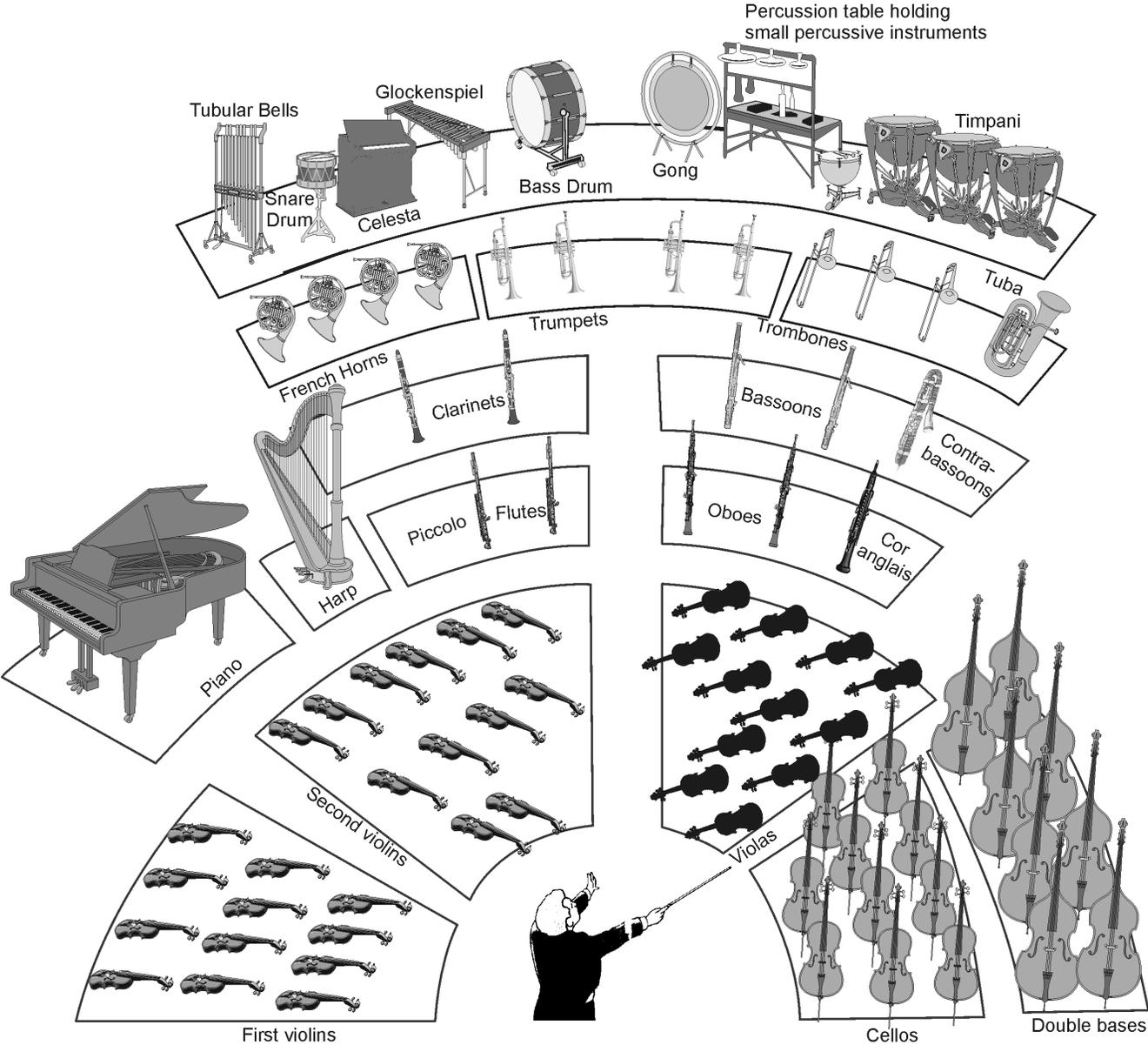
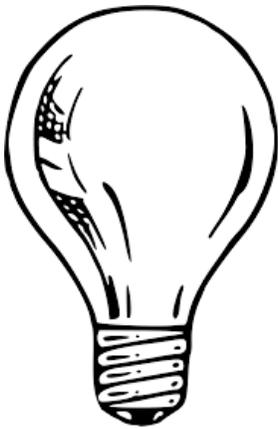


Photo: Heydemann Art of Photography

# Discovering the Inventions

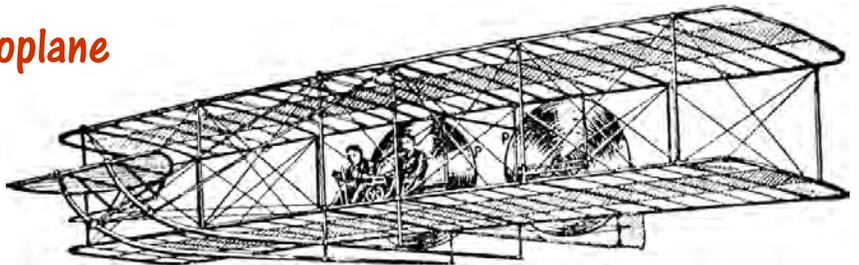
There are 7 Inventions featured in this production. Each one is represented by a piece of music. If you pay attention there is a lot of information about each invention in the show. Listen closely to learn some interesting facts about how each invention came to be. Work on your own or in groups to learn more about each invention.

- What do you know about each invention?
- When was it invented?
- What did the first version look like?
- Was it a good invention? Why or why not?
- Which invention is the most important to you? Why?
- What would your life be like without these inventions?
- Which instrument of the orchestra would best represent this invention musically?
- Of all the things humans have ever invented, which are *your* Top 5 inventions?



Lightbulb

Aeroplane



Space Shuttle

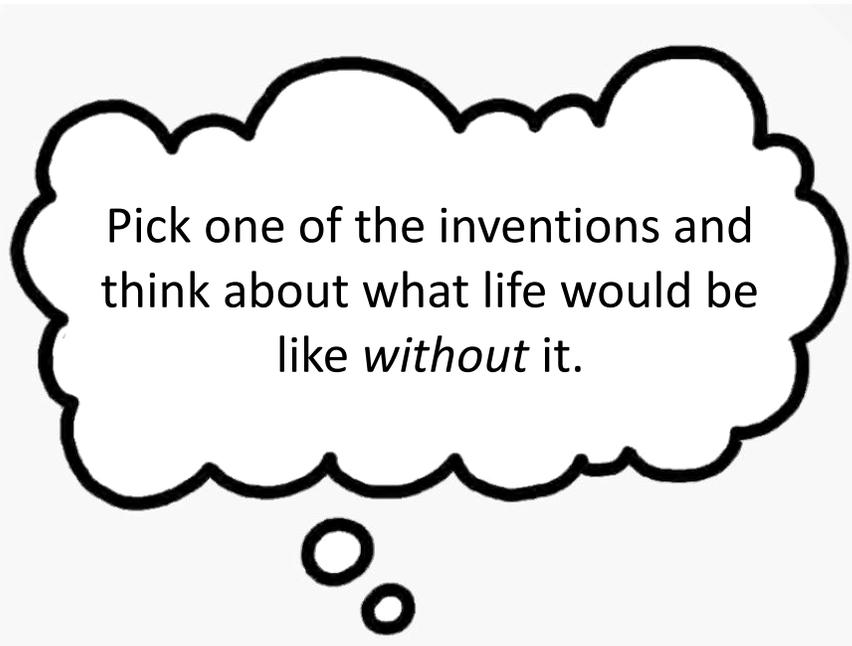




Printing Press



Scissors



Pick one of the inventions and think about what life would be like *without* it.

Button



Automobile

# Cast of Characters | Who are YOU?

Who are the characters in the show *Inventions*? How would you describe them?

Fill in the blanks to help describe each character or performer in the show.

Which instrument of the orchestra would best represent each character and why?

## CHARACTERS

**Dinah D**

Funny

Goofy

Endearing

Ukulele



**Maestro Pierre Simard**

Serious

Composed

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**Carbon Capture Choir**

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**Orchestra**

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**Maschine**

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**What kind of time traveler would you be?**

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# Stage Name Activity

A Stage Name is a fancy name performers & celebrities use in the public eye. It is differing from their legal name (the name they got at birth) by a lot or just a little. Either the first or last names changes, or they choose an entirely different name.

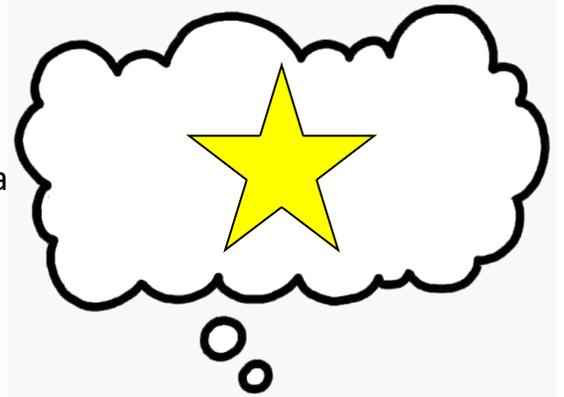
Here are some examples of stage names of people you might know.

## Stage Name

Nicki Minaj  
Vin Diesel  
Lady Gaga  
Katy Perry  
Miley Cyrus  
Elton John  
Dinah D

## Real Name

Onika Tanya Maraj  
Mark Sinclair  
Stefani Angeline Germanotta  
Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson  
Destiny Hope Cyrus  
Reginald Kenneth Dwight  
Dinah Desrochers



If you became famous—for any reason—as a performer, astronaut, politician or explorer, would you change your name and use a Stage Name?

What would your Stage Name be? \_\_\_\_\_

What would make you famous? \_\_\_\_\_



Astronaut **Ellen Ochoa** plays a flute while floating in the aft flight deck of the Space Shuttle Discovery April 17, 1993 in Earth orbit.



# Time Traveling

Over the years, time travel has captured the hearts and imagination of story-tellers, film makers and scientists. Here are two examples of time travelling machines.



Actor Rod Taylor in the 1960s film *The Time Machine*.



*Back to the Future* DeLorean Time Machine (1985)

In this show, the time traveling machine is called **Infineon**. What would your time travel vehicle look? What equipment would you include in the design?

# Thinking About the Future

Pilots Dinah D and Pierre are from 2075. Let's think about what life will be like in 2075.  
How old will you be in 2075?

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What do you think the world will be like in 2075?

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What new inventions will there be?

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If we could travel through time, what would some of the consequences be?

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What new musical instruments could there be?

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Draw one here ➤



# Symphony Trivia

1. Name four families of musical instruments.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Name 5 stringed instruments.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do the horns sit in the back of the orchestra?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does the Concertmaster do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why is the conductor called a maestro?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How old is the Vancouver Island Symphony?  
\_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS:  
1. Percussion, Woodwinds, Strings, Brass, Keyboards  
2. Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp, Guitar  
3. Because they are loud!  
4. The concertmaster in the principal violinist responsible for coordinating the bowing and articulation of all the strings; communicating  
5. Maestro means master in Italian and many musical terms are Italian. A conductor must study hard to earn the title of Master of the Orchestra and lead all the musicians.  
6. 25



# Vancouver Island Symphony **COMMUNITY DAY**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020**  
**11-1:30PM | PORT THEATRE, NANAIMO**

**for Ages 6  
to 96!**



**FREE FAMILY EVENT!**

Attend the Symphony Rehearsal. Come try the instruments at the Musical Zoo (ages 6+)

**FREE Tickets required call the  
Port Theatre Box Office 250-754-8550**

PRESENTING SPONSORS

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