



## BEHOLD THE BOLD UMBRELLAPHANT

### Characters in Music

Composer Lucas Richman uses different instruments, sounds, and musical elements to bring the characters in *Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant* to life. This activity invites students to do the same! Use the musical element list below to help your students imagine what music would help enliven an *Umbrellaphant* character of their choice.

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Tempo</b>            | <b>The speed of the music</b>                           |
| <b>Dynamics</b>         | <b>The loudness or softness of the music</b>            |
| <b>Rhythm</b>           | <b>How short or long sounds are held</b>                |
| <b>Pitch</b>            | <b>How high or low sounds are heard</b>                 |
| <b>Timbre (tam-ber)</b> | <b>The unique sound of each instrument</b>              |
| <b>Found sounds</b>     | <b>Sounds that can be made using objects around you</b> |

1. Have students choose one of Jack Prelutsky's characters in *Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant* or a new character they imagine (see Creature Creations worksheet).
2. Discuss the personality of their character. How is the character feeling? What words describe best describe the character? What types of things does the character do?
3. Next identify musical elements that express the personality the character:

**Tempo:** How fast or slow is the character? How can we show that with the beat?

**Dynamics:** Is this character loud or soft?

**Rhythm:** Would this character make short sounds, long sounds or some of both? Is there a pattern?

**Pitch:** Do high sounds or low sounds describe this character better?

**Timbre:** Is there an instrument that most sounds like this character?

**Found sounds:** What sounds can you find to help express your character?

