

Schooltime: MADE IN PITTSBURGH

What Is a Conductor?

A conductor is an important piece of the orchestra puzzle. The conductor helps all the different members of the orchestra communicate to create music. The conductor directs different aspects of the music, like **dynamics**, **tempo** and **expression** using physical movements called **cues** and visual communication.

The PSO has a long history of amazing conductors. Victor Herbert, whose music is featured in Schooltime: Made in Pittsburgh, was the conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony from 1898 to 1904. Today the PSO has four conductors. Who will be a future conductor of the PSO? Maybe you?

			
Manfred Honeck , Music Director	Jacob Joyce , Assistant Conductor	Moon Doh , Assistant Conductor	Byron Stripling , Principal Pops Conductor

Here are some things to look for during the Schooltime: Made in Pittsburgh concert. Discuss what you observed at the concert.

1. Did the conductor use his hands or a baton?
2. Did the conductor give any direction to the orchestra using his voice?
3. What did you notice about the conductor's movement?
4. Was there anything that the conductor did that didn't make sense?
5. How did the conductor keep the orchestra together?

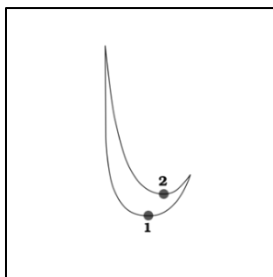
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Now It's Your Turn!

Listen to many different types of music. As you listen, begin moving to the music. Try tapping your foot, patting your leg, walking, and clapping the beat while listening to the music.

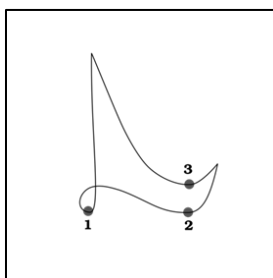
When you find a steady beat, see if there is a beat that feels “heavier” or “stronger” than the others. You might want to step harder or clap bigger when you hear this beat. This is your **strong beat** and is sometimes called the **downbeat**.

Conductors often conduct in patterns of two, three, and four. First, trace each of the following patterns with your finger or a pencil, then practice using your arm to trace each pattern in the air. Can you conduct each piece of suggested music?



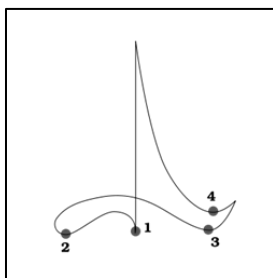
2/4 TIME SIGNATURE

Suggested music: Elgar, Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 in D Major (“The Graduation Song”)



3/4 TIME SIGNATURE

Suggested music: Smith, The Star-Spangled Banner



4/4 TIME SIGNATURE

Suggested music: Beethoven, IV. Presto from Symphony No. 9 (“Ode to Joy”)



PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PSO SCHOOLLTIME LEARNING RESOURCES 2022-23