Orchestra Rehearsal Game

By Elizabeth Shier

May be used with “Instruments Are Fun” from the Music Fun for Little Ones in the March/April 2013 (Volume 13, No. 5) issue of Music Express magazine.

Materials needed: color-coded flash cards with the names of individual instruments in the orchestra (using a different color card for each family), and places for children to sit color coded into 4 groups (carpet squares or color-coded tape on the backs of chairs), recording of an orchestra playing music of your choice.

Set up: On every seat, place a card with the name of an instrument of the orchestra, families are seated together (you can have your chairs or carpet squares set up in 4 rows). Have enough seats for every player except one – that player is the “maestro.” Play a recording of the orchestra as the maestro conducts while children pretend to play the instrument they are representing. Then the maestro calls out two words. He can call out two instruments, two families, or he can say “orchestra rehearsal.” If he calls out two instruments, those two children change places, but the maestro tries to get in the empty chair while they are moving. The person left without a chair is the new maestro. If the maestro calls out two families, everyone in both families change chairs, and if the maestro calls out “orchestra rehearsal,” everyone changes chairs! Use whatever safety rules you need to keep your students safe. Each time you get a new maestro, let him conduct to the recording for a minute or so, while the children pretend to play the instrument on which they are now sitting.