Benjamin Britten’s *The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra*

**Character Traits in Music**

**Skills/Learning Goals:**
- Understanding character traits
- Relating character traits to musical traits

**Big Idea:**
Just as people or literary figures have character traits, music can also convey character traits.

**Preparing for the Video:**
Review the concept of character traits. List some traits you have encountered in books or movies. Talk about what behaviors reveal those traits.

**How to Use this Video:**
Pause at the six opportunities to discuss what you have heard.

**Pause 1:** Teaching artists Chris Gross and Janey Choi have played contrasting melodies on the cello and violin. Which instrument sounds more shy, and which one sounds more outgoing?

**Pauses 2 & 3:** Two video clips feature the oboes and trumpets. Discuss which word(s) on the screen best describes the character of each instrument.

**Pauses 4, 5, & 6:** Three video clips feature the harp, flutes, and double basses. Pause to suggest words that describe each instrument’s character.

**Extension:** Think of a character from your favorite book. Write down some words or sentences describing the character’s traits. Now think about the musical instruments you have heard in this video—cello, violin, oboe, trumpet, harp, flute, double bass. If you were a composer, which of these instruments might you use to portray that character’s traits? Discuss or write a paragraph explaining why you made your choice.