**Carnival of the Animals – Aquarium  
Lesson Plan – Kinder – 2nd grade**

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Students will recognize the music from Camille Saint Saens ‘Carnival of the Animals’ – “Aquarium”
2. Students will learn what a composer is and does
3. Students will hear, see and move appropriately to the music

**Materials:**

1. Poster of composer “Camille Saint Saens”
2. Picture of fish
3. Stuffed/Plush fish for game
4. Links ready on laptop to show video clips   
   [**'Aquarium' music and real fish**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IyFpZ5MZ7kk)   
   [**'Aquarium' with Bugs & Daffy and real Orchestra**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpPfd_zNW_E) **(start at 12:57)  
   ​​**[**'Aquarium' by Mormon Youth Philharmonic Orchestra**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uerDXMMGrS0) **(start at 10:26)**
5. I-tunes ready on laptop to play “Aquarium’ music

**Activities:**

1. As students enter room I’m playing “Baby Beluga” on the piano. They have previously learned to sing this song. They will begin to sing as they make their circle
2. Have students sit down. Play ‘At the Bottom of the Sea’ game a few times. This is a great ‘name game’ and lets all the children have a chance to hold the stuffed plush fish.
3. Students move to their assigned seating spots.
4. Hold up picture of Camille Saint Saens. Ask if anyone remembers what a composer is and does.

Solicit their answers. Explain/remind that a composer is ‘the person who writes the music’. Somebody wrote ‘Baby Beluga’ – that person is the composer. Somebody wrote ‘At the Bottom of the Sea’ – that person is the composer. Tell them somebody wrote the music I’m going to play for them – that person is the composer and…that person is THIS person! (point to picture of Camille Saint Saens). Quickly tell them how Mr. Saint Saens lived in France, spoke another language (French), learned to play piano when he was only 2 ½ years old and is no longer alive.

1. Play ‘Aquarium’. Instruct class to listen with eyes closed. “When it is over I will ask you what the music reminded you of…..made you think of….how did it make you feel.” Solicit their responses. Usually, someone always says it sounds like fish.
2. Now I hold up the picture of the Fish and tell them how Mr. Saint Saens did write this music to sound just like an aquarium.
3. Encourage students to now move around the room like their favorite fish in an aquarium while I play the music again. ‘Do the fish make sounds you can hear through the glass?’ If time, after they have moved and sat back down, ask a few of them to share what kind of fish they were pretending to be.
4. Tell students that composers use their imaginations to write music. And, they hope that those listening to their music will use their imaginations, too!
5. Show them 1 or 2 of the video clips – encourage them to listen with their ears and watch how someone else’s imagination saw Mr. Saint Saen’s music.

**Assessment:**

1. Ask students who a composer is and what they do
2. Ask students who our composer was
3. Ask students what the name of the music was that we listened to