

Aristos Online Review of the Arts

Classical Music for the Very Young

If you live in the New York Metropolitan area and know a child you'd like to introduce to the pleasures of classical music, you couldn't do better than subscribe to the Little Orchestra Society's children's concerts (see links that follow for information on upcoming performances). Under the masterly direction of [Dino Anagnost](#), this wonderful little ensemble knows just how to engage children. For the very young, that involves, first and foremost, music that is lively, not too long, and amenable to visualization and vocalization. (In contrast, the New York Philharmonic's Young People's Concerts often include music that is far too subtle or too somber to hold a youngster's attention.) A little silliness helps, too. In the [Lolli-Pops♦ Concerts](#) (for children 3-5) the costumed characters Bow the Panda, Toot the Bird, Buzz the Bee, and Bang the Lion regularly prance around the stage, singing simple ditties that remind the audience of the four sections of the orchestra. As my then three-year-old granddaughter enthused aloud at her first concert: "Singing and dancing is good!" Children aged 6-12 can graduate to the Peabody Award-winning [Happy Concerts for Young People](#). Last year's series included a cleverly updated adaptation of Victor Herbert's *Babes in Toyland*--which was repeated again this year--and a very moving tribute to celebrate the Lincoln Bicentennial: *Honest Abe: Four Scores and More*. Bravo, Maestro Anagnost! -- *M.M.K.*