



## The Conductor

The orchestra needs a conductor because of the large size of the group. He spends many hours studying the scores and interpreting the music. He marks bowing instructions on the string parts, and checks the scores for errors. He acts like a coach, making sure that all the musicians are doing their jobs and playing the correct notes.

The most important role of the conductor is to control the sound of the orchestra. He tells the musicians when to start and stop. With his baton or arm, he controls the tempo (speed of the music). With hand gestures, facial expressions, and body movements, he controls the dynamics (loudness, softness). He may keep the beat with smaller gestures if he wants the musicians to play softly. He may use his left hand, palm down, to tell a section to play more quietly. A raised palm often means to crescendo (to gradually become louder).

The conductor of the Jackson Symphony is Dr. Jordan Tang. Watch to see how he communicates with the orchestra.

## The Composer

A composer is a person who creates music. Almost everyone has been a composer at one time – you have, if you have hummed an original tune or played it on an instrument. When a composer writes the music on paper, it will be remembered and can be played or sung by others. Some people make a living by composing music. Their music may be simple, like the songs sung in nursery school, or quite complex, like symphonies and concertos. Some famous composers like Bach and Beethoven, wrote music hundreds of years ago, and their music is still enjoyed all over the world today. New music is being composed all the time. In this year's Jackson Symphony school concerts, we will premier works based on six brand new melodies, created by West Tennesseans!

