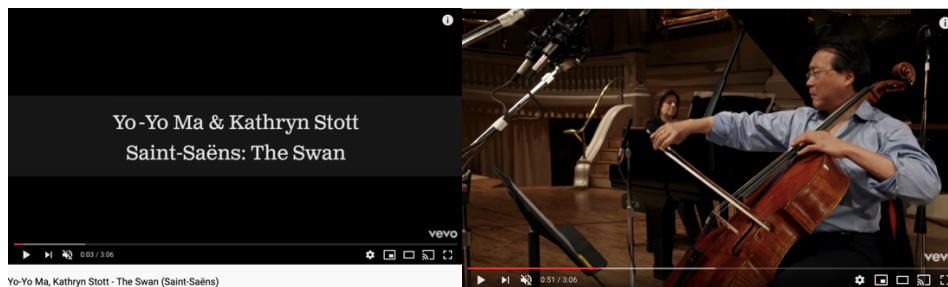


# Yo-Yo Ma

plays “The Swan”

Yo-Yo Ma, cello  
Kathryn Stott, piano

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qrKjwjo7Q>



- 1) “The Swan” is one movement from a larger piece of music called “The Carnival of the Animals,” composed by Camille Saint-Saëns. Each movement depicts a different animal. Do you feel this piece accurately depicts a swan?  
  
If so, how?  
  
If not, what animal would you title this piece?
- 2) Many say the piano represents the busy paddling feet of the swan under the water, and the cello represents the swan calmly gliding across the surface of the water.
  - A) What are musical characteristics of the piano part that support this description?
  - B) What are characteristics of the cello part that support this description?
- 3) At 1:44 the melody first heard at the beginning comes back for a second time, but is played slightly softer and slower. Why do you think the performer would choose to play second time softer and slower? How does it change the experience for you, the listener?
- 4) What happens to the tempo as the piece approaches the very end? How might this relate to the picture of a swan gliding across the water?