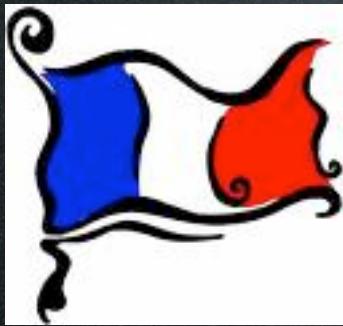


# Part I

## What is an overture?

# What does it mean?



- The word “overture” comes from the French word “ouverture” which means opening



# What is it?



- An overture is an instrumental work
- It is an introduction to something bigger

# What is an Opera overture?

- An Opera Overture is an introduction to an opera.
- It, “sets the stage”, for what you will see and hear later



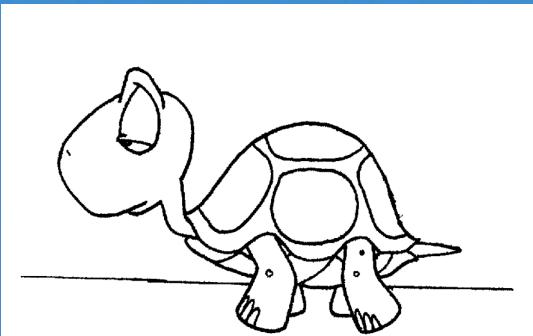
# Where did it come from?

- The idea of an overture dates all the way back to the 17th century
- Do you know the years of the 17th century?



# What's in an overture?

- 17th century overtures did not use music you would hear again in the opera
- There was a slow section and a fast section



# What's in an overture?

- More recent opera overtures use musical themes from the opera as an introduction to the opera
- When you hear the overture from, “The Marriage of Figaro”, listen to hear if it uses a slow section followed by a fast section

# Overture from “The Marriage of Figaro”

- In this overture you will hear music from the opera
- The melodies (themes) are passed from instrument to instrument
- Can you name the instrument that has the melody as you listen?



# The Marriage of Figaro

# Setting the mood



- One of the jobs of an overture is to set the mood for whatever it introduces
- If the music is light and happy, it is a sign that the opera may be happy or funny

# Setting the mood

- If the music is heavy and dark, it is a sign that what is coming up may be very dramatic



# Are overtures only for opera?

- Overtures are used for many things
- They can introduce a musical
- They can be a stand alone piece of music called a “concert overture”

# Where else will I hear an overture?

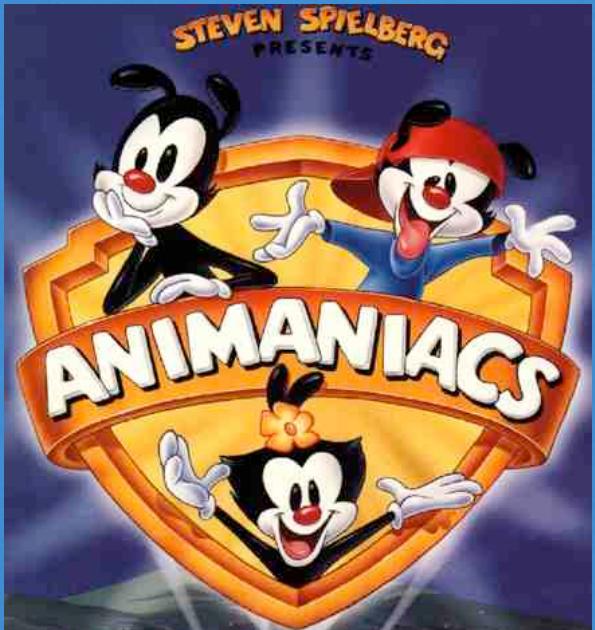
- Many things use overtures - musicals, movies, and TV shows all use overtures
- The Academic Overture by Johannes Brahms is usually heard at graduation ceremonies



# Where else will I hear an overture?

- “2001: A Space Odyssey” is really, “Also Spake Zerathustra from an opera
- Can you think of examples of overtures? Can you sing the melody?

# Who plays an overture?



- Traditionally an overture is a piece for orchestra, but it doesn't have to be
- What instruments do you hear in the “overture” to your favorite TV show?
- What about your favorite video game?

# Questions to answer

- What is an overture?
- What is its purpose?
- Who plays an overture?
- Where did the word come from and what does it mean?
- When did people start writing overtures?
- What kinds of things use an overture?

**IT'S  
OVER!**



The End