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## What do the movements of an orchestra conductor signify?

### 12 Answers

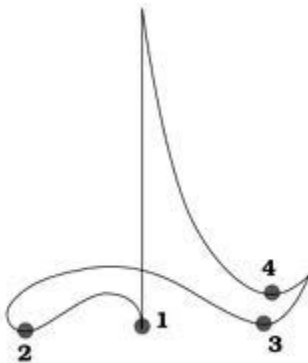
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Russell Canty, Engineer, Military Officer

Written 6 May 2012

To add on to the other answers, the conductor will always raise his hands/baton on the last beat of a measure and will follow it up with a large downward motion to signify the beginning of a new measure, like so:



This motion is subject to all the nuances mentioned in this answer.

He also queues certain instrument groups (usually by pointing with his free hand), especially if they have been idle for long periods of times. This is more prevalent in brass and percussion sections, as string and winds typically play from beginning to end with little rest.

If the conductor "loses it" for whatever reason the symphony is trained to then follow the concert master (first chair in the first violin section) who will use his head (nodding) and up and down motion of his bow as he plays to conduct the Symphony. I played a gig in San Angelo with then Governor George Bush conducting us during the 1812 Overture. He had no idea what he was doing, so we just ignored him and