

Y7 Knowledge Map – Instruments of the Orchestra and Music from around the World

Key vocabulary / concepts	What knowledge is required:
<i>Timbre</i>	The personality or tone of a sound. EG a violin sounds different from a trumpet
<i>Texture</i>	The musical word for the layers of a piece of music. How many instruments are playing at once.
<i>Dynamics</i>	The musical word for changes in volume. Describing how loud or quiet it is.
<i>Tempo</i>	The musical word for speed of the pulse in music. Describing how fast or slow it is.
<i>Duration</i>	The musical word for how long a note lasts. One beat; four beats etc.
<i>Pitch</i>	The musical word for how high or low a note is. You could also describe the name of the exact note letter name. eg. B or G sharp
The 4 INSTRUMENT FAMILIES	All instruments in the world belong to one of FOUR FAMILIES: Strings; Woodwind; Brass; Percussion
String Family	The strings are the largest family of instruments in the orchestra and they come in four sizes: Lowest to highest in pitch the biggest and lowest in pitch is the double bass, next cello, then viola and the violin, is the smallest and highest pitch.  String Family
Woodwind Family	The instruments in this family all used to be made of wood, which gives them their name. Today, they are made of wood, metal, plastic or some combination. They are all basically narrow cylinders or pipes, with holes, an opening at the bottom end and a mouthpiece at the top. You play them by blowing air through the mouthpiece (that's the "wind" in "woodwind") and opening or closing the holes with your fingers to change the pitch. They can be grouped as follows depending on whether they need a Reed to vibrate to make the instrument sound: No Reed: Flute, Piccolo Single Reed: Clarinet, Bass Clarinet Double Reed: Oboe, Cor Anglais, Bassoon, Contrabassoon 

Woodwind Family

Brass Family

They are the instruments in an orchestra that are usually made out of brass! Like the woodwind family, brass players use their breath to produce sound, but instead of blowing into a reed, you vibrate your own lips by buzzing them against a metal cup-shaped mouthpiece. Trumpets, Tubas and French Horns use valves to change their note, Trombones use a slide.



Percussion Family

The percussion family is the largest in the orchestra. Percussion instruments include any instrument that makes a sound when it is hit, shaken, rattled or scraped. Some have a skin which vibrates (drums), for others the instrument itself vibrates.



Percussion Family (tuned & untuned)

Untuned percussion

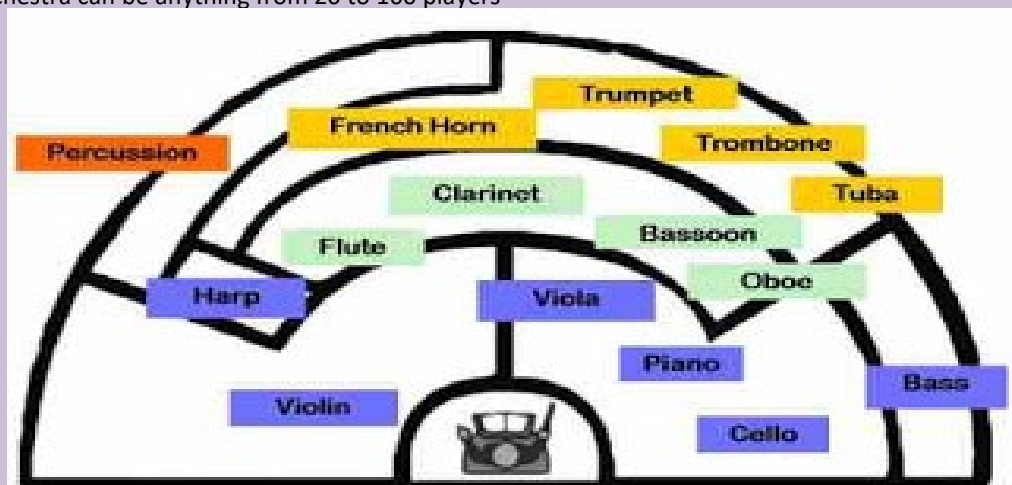
A percussion instrument that produces a sound that is not a note (such as a woodblock)

Tuned percussion

A percussion instrument that produces pitched notes (such as the xylophone).

Orchestra

A larger ensemble (group of musicians) that usually consists of instrumentalists from each family. An orchestra can be anything from 20 to 100 players



Conductor

A conductor is someone who leads and guides an orchestra or a group of singers in order to perform a piece to the best of their abilities. The conductor makes sure that the music piece is interpreted properly.

Western Orchestral Tradition	Music that originated in Europe is considered to be from the `Western` Musical Tradition. This includes much modern pop music but mainly refers to Classical Music. Ludwig Van Beethoven was one of the most famous and brilliant Classical composers who lived in the early 1800s. Beethoven composed a large scale piece of Music for the whole orchestra called a Symphony. His 9th Symphony includes the Melody we call `Ode to Joy` which was sung by a huge choir at the same time.
Music from around the World	Each country, culture or Community has it`s own special way of playing Music. They can use different Instruments Sing in different languages Use different patterns of notes (e.g. Scales) and rhythms. These may include traditional styles of playing past down over the years.
Japanese Music	Japanese music often uses a different set of notes from `western` music. The Melody (tune) uses 5 notes only. This is called a PENTATONIC scale. The music often reflects the sounds of nature and the Cherry Blossom season is celebrated annually.
Japanese Instruments	Common Japanese Instruments include KOTO: SHAMISEN: TAIKO DRUMS: BAMBOO FLUTE: