

Music

Find your Voice and Timbre

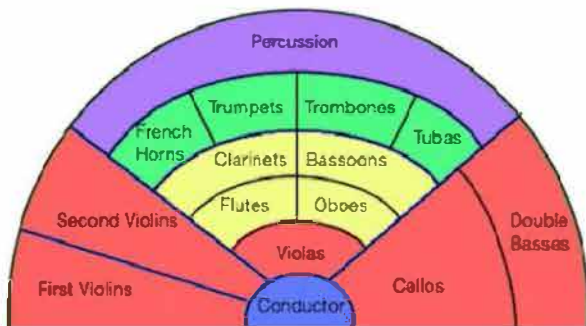
A. Elements of Music

Pitch	How high or low a note is
Tempo	The speed of the music
Texture	How thick or thin a sound is
Timbre	The different sounds of different instruments
Dynamics	How loud or quiet music is
Tonality	Can relate to key or major/minor
Duration	How long a sound lasts
Attack and Decay	Whether sound starts suddenly or gradually
Silence	No sound! - As important as sound

B. Keywords

Rhythm	A pattern of long / short notes
Ensemble	A group of musicians
Orchestra	A large ensemble of musicians which includes all four families of instruments
Strings	String instruments are made from wood All string instruments make their sound by strings vibrating. Sometimes we pluck the strings with our fingers or a pick. Other times we can pull a bow across the strings to make the sound.
Woodwind	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 divided into flutes and reed instruments.
Brass	Brass instruments are made out of metal. The sound vibrations are created by the players lips.
Percussion	Percussion instruments include any instrument that makes a sound when it is hit, shaken, or scraped. It's not easy to be a percussionist because it takes a lot of practice to hit an instrument with the right amount of strength, in the right place and at the right time.

C. Sections of the orchestra



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 is interpreted properly by acting as the guide to the musicians or singers.

D. Families of Instruments in the Orchestra

Strings		Woodwind	Brass	Percussion	
Bowed	Plucked	Piccolo	Trumpet	Tuned	Untuned
Violin	Harp	Oboe	French Horn	Xylophone	Bass Drum
Viola	Classical Guitar	Clarinet	Trombone	Vibraphone	Cymbals
Cello		Bass Clarinet	Tuba	Timpani	Gong
Double Bass		Flute		Glockenspiel	Triangle
		Bassoon		Tubular Bells	Tambourine

E. Wider listening

Pieces of music which experiment with timbre:

Peter and the Wolf - Sergei Prokofiev. Each instrument represents a different character in the story.
Carnival of Animals - Saint-Saens- The different animals are matched with an individual or family of instruments.
Night on a Bare Mountain - Mussorgsky - The instruments have to conjure images of a bleak, wild place.
Carmina Burana - Orff - This time it's the voices which create timbral differences.