



TEIGN SCHOOL MUSIC

Y7 Cycle 2 Knowledge Organiser: THE ORCHESTRA



Sonority & Tonality

Exploring Instruments of the Orchestra & how tonality and sonority effect the mood of a piece of music

Strings Section/Family

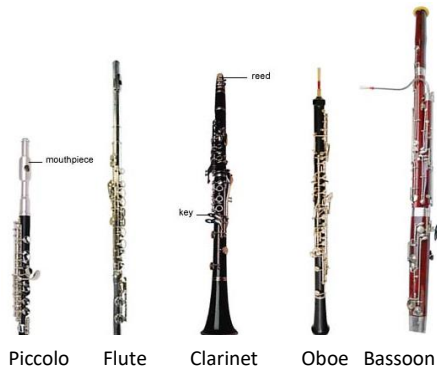
Made from wood and have strings. They are usually played with a **BOW (ARCO)** –but can also be **PLUCKED (PIZZICATO)**. The smaller the instrument, the **HIGHER PITCHED** it is. The Harp is always plucked, it has many more strings so can play both high- and low-pitched notes.



Violin Viola Cello Double Bass

Woodwind Section/Family

FLUTES (create a sound by air passing over a small hole and include the Flute and Piccolo) The oboe, Clarinet & bassoon have a **REED**. The Saxophone is not traditionally used in an orchestra. However, some modern composers have included it.



Piccolo Flute Clarinet Oboe Bassoon

Brass Section/Family

There are 4 main brass instruments used in the orchestra. They are made of metal and the sound is made by blowing into the mouthpiece by buzzing the lips in a similar way to blowing a raspberry! The bigger the instrument, the lower the pitch. The Trumpet is the highest.



Trombone

French Horn

Tuba

Percussion Section/Family

A vast range of instruments which produce sound when **hit, struck, scraped or shaken**. These fall into two groups : **TUNED PERCUSSION** (able to play different pitches) and **UNTUNED PERCUSSION** (e.g. drums)

TUNED PERCUSSION



Piano Xylophone Glockenspiel Timpani

UNTUNED PERCUSSION



Bass Drum Snare Drum Cymbals Woodblock Guiro



Triangle Gong Tambourine Cabasa Maracas

Key Words that you will need to learn!

ORCHESTRA – A large ENSEMBLE divided into four SECTIONS or FAMILIES of musical instruments

SONORITY (TIMBRE) – unique sound of an instruments Sonority can be described in different ways – *velvety, screechy, throaty, rattling, mellow, chirpy, brassy, sharp, heavy, buzzing, crisp, metallic, wooden etc.*

PITCH – How HIGH or LOW a note is (high/low, getting higher/lower, step/leap).

ARTICULATION – smooth/spikey– legato/staccato – bowed/plucked

TONE – whole step

SEMITONE – Half a step

MAJOR – Happy sounding tonality

MINOR – Sad sounding tonality

SCALE – A series of notes arranged in pitch order within an octave (2 notes of the same name 8 notes apart)

OSTINATO – short repeating musical phrase (eg DA, DA, DA)

CHORD – 3 or more notes played together

LAYOUT of an Orchestra

