Home Learning 2 - Music
Year 7 - HL 2 (23/11/26)
Instruments of the Orchestra

C. Strings Section/Family

Largest section of the orchestra who sit at the front, directly in front of the conductor. Usually played with a **BOW (ARCO)**, (not the **HARP**) but can be **PLUCKED (PIZZICATO)**. **VIOLINS** split into two groups: **1st VIOLINS** (often have the main **MELODY** of the piece of music) and **2nd VIOLINS**.



Violin Viola



Cello Double Bass Harp

D. Woodwind Section/Family

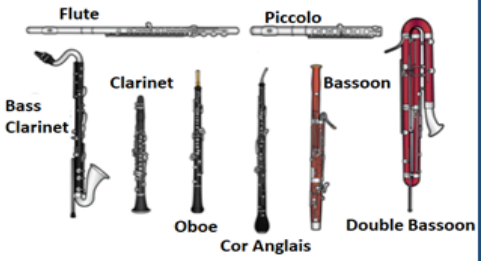


Originally (and some still are) made from wood (some now metal and plastic). All are **BLOWN**.

FLUTES: Flute and Piccolo – air blown over hole.

SINGLE REED (small piece of bamboo in the mouthpiece): Clarinet, Bass Clarinet & Saxophone (not traditionally in the orchestra, but some modern composers have used it)

DOUBLE REED (two reeds in the mouthpiece): Oboe, Cor Anglais, Bassoon, Double Bassoon.



E. Brass Section/Family



Four types of brass instruments in an orchestra, all made from metal – usually brass and **BLOWN** by the player 'buzzing their lips' into a **MOUTHPIECE** *(shown right)*. The Trumpet, French Horn and Tuba all have three **VALVES** which, along with altering the players mouth positions, adjust the length of the tubing allowing for different notes to be played. The Trombone has a **SLIDE** which adjusts the length of the tubing. Brass instruments (along with Percussion) have often been used to play **FANFARES**: a short, lively, loud piece of music usually warlike or victorious in character used to mark the arrival of someone important, give a signal *e.g., in battles*, of the opening of something *e.g., a sporting event or ceremony*.

Fanfares often use notes of the **HARMONIC SERIES** – a limited range of notes played by **BUGLES** (smaller trumpets with no valves) and valveless trumpets.



F. Percussion Section/Family

Always located at the very back of the orchestra (due to their very loud sounds!). Large number of instruments which produce their sound then ***hit, struck, scraped, or shaken***.

TUNED PERCUSSION (able to play different pitches/notes)



Piano Xylophone Glockenspiel Timpani Celesta Tubular Bells

UNTUNED PERCUSSION (only able to produce 'sounds').



Bass Drum Snare Drum Cymbals Woodblock Guiro



Triangle Gong Tambourine Cabasa Maracas

Name: _____

Home Learning - Read and use the information about the instruments of the orchestra. **You need to spend time learning the answers to the questions - you will be tested on these in the next lesson.**

1	Which is the largest section in the orchestra?	
2	Which is the smallest instrument in the string section?	
3	Name two woodwind instruments that have a single reed.	
4	Name two woodwind instruments that have a double reed.	
5	Name two brass instruments that have 3 valves.	
6	Which brass instrument has a slide?	
7	Which family of instruments are known for playing fanfares?	
8	Which family of instruments is located at the back of the orchestra?	
9	Name two tuned percussion instruments.	
10	Name two untuned percussion instruments.	