

Getting to know the orchestra

GUIDE

The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is made up of a Conductor and around 65 players. There are roughly 20 different instruments in the orchestra, each of which fall into four different families:

STRINGS – violin, viola, ‘cello, double bass, harp

You can spot these instruments because they are all made of wood, have a similar shape and use a bow. The harp is the odd one out!

WOODWIND – piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, contrabassoon

You will see all the players of these instruments have to blow in them to make a sound.

BRASS – trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba

These are easy to spot as they all made of brass. Like the woodwind instruments, the players also have to blow into these instruments to get a sound but have to make a ‘buzz’ sound with their lips.

PERCUSSION – timpani, bass drum, snare drum, cymbals, xylophone

To get a sound on these instruments you have to hit them. There are many different types of percussion instruments but the ones listed are the main ones.



How to use the resources:

“Orchestra layout blank”

An opportunity to discover how the orchestra looks and who sits where. Use the instructions to help figure out what fits where. Options are then write the names of the instruments in the correct spaces, draw the instruments in the right place, or use the provided labels. Once constructed you could get the children to colour-code the four sections.

“Orchestra layout instructions”

“Instrument labels”

Use this guide to help figure out who sits where.

“The Orchestra general resources”

Pictures of each of the instruments. These can be printed and used with the layout document.

Various sheets and activities including guides on how to make your own instruments.

