

Competency 5.0

Ability to exhibit awareness of the structure, sound production and tone quality of musical instruments.

Competency Level 5.1

Identifies, observes and names the four sections of the orchestra

5.1.1

Exploring the tone colour in music

Exploring the tone colour in music

Orchestra



Source: <https://images.app.goo.gl/UDswWdkHsjVTAfCs8>

Look at the above picture

- **What kind of a performance is this?**

It is a group of instrumentalists, that is playing classical / modern music.

- **Do you see many musicians there?**
- **Who are they?**

They are the combination of string, woodwind, brass, and percussion instrumentalists.

Therefore,

The orchestra is a group of instrumentalists playing together, especially which combines string, woodwind, brass wind, and percussion instrumentalists and playing classical / modern music.

- **You can see the different kinds of instruments.**

Do all the instruments appear the same?

No, you can see the different types of instruments.

For further reference:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=M0Jc4sP0BEE>

- **Did all the instruments sound the same in that orchestral performance?**

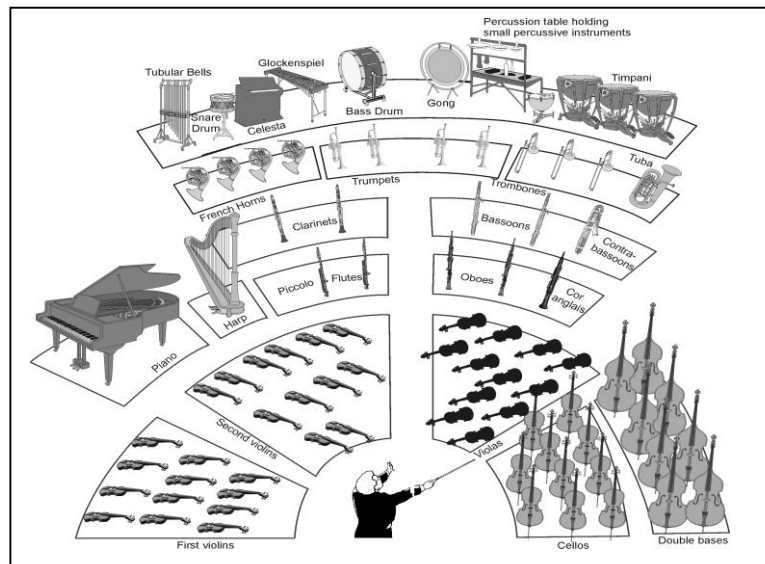
No. The instruments in between the different sections, show the differences in the tone as well as the way they are played.

But you can see the same kind of instrumentalists seating together in sections. The following diagram shows the **seating arrangement of the instrumentalists in an Orchestra**.

MAIN SECTIONS OF AN ORCHESTRA

An orchestra is a combination of instruments made of the following.

- **String Section**
- **Woodwind Section**
- **Brass wind Section**
- **Percussion Section**



Source: <https://images.app.goo.gl/Qnq8cuGtpgXjKzKT6>

Now let's learn about those **Main Sections of the Orchestra** in detail.

- **What section of instrument is made up of the most number of players as you can see in the above diagram?**

That is the **Violin family** of the **String section**.

Two thirds of the orchestra consist of the string players.

What are the instruments you can see in the string section? Are they all violins of different sizes?

1) String Section of an Orchestra



Source: <https://images.app.goo.gl/NVf7pNmSnHAWlQre6>

Main features of the String Section

- This is the largest section of an orchestra

Violinists



<https://images.app.goo.gl/zaa3LYj5BtejtTB77>

Violists



<https://images.app.goo.gl/rodWjf4THg1ujS28>

Cellists



<https://images.app.goo.gl/hyjbLDpyoy1EAECY6>

Double Bassists



<https://images.app.goo.gl/pKCHmChah3oU2UHBA>

- All the instruments look the same but are of different sizes.



Violin Viola Violoncello Double Bass (Contrabass)

<https://images.app.goo.gl/ZAx8tgM7KAig3jhD7>

- Violin, Viola, Violoncello (Cello) and Double Bass are the four main instruments.
- They all can be played,

with a bow or plucked with the fingers.



<https://images.app.goo.gl/Fex8MR9K4aeiMFVm8>



<https://images.app.goo.gl/nQwbfSorpKA927fT9>

2) Wood wind Section of the orchestra



<https://images.app.goo.gl/8Erkry4yGDPNPxAHA>

Main features of the Wood wind Section.



- These instruments all look different from one another.
- The Flute, Clarinet, Oboe and Bassoon are the four main instruments of the wood wind family
- They all make their sound by being blowing in different ways and make different sounds.

Flautist



<https://images.app.goo.gl/mNl43yg2AuR86KP2A>

Clarinetists



<https://images.app.goo.gl/k8rHmkuGX2AGAVWCA>

Oboist



<https://images.app.goo.gl/fnLwAywzjWSH911r5>

Bassoonists



<https://images.app.goo.gl/ZubS5iqhjf6hND9Y7>

2) Brass wind Section of the orchestra



<https://images.app.goo.gl/rnFXKg7gTrTJPKb68>

Main features of the Brass wind Section.

- The sound is produced by buzzing the lips of the player in to a cup-shaped mouth piece.
- The Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone and Tuba are the four main instruments of the Brass wind section of the orchestra.



Trumpet



Trombone



French Horn



Tuba

- This is the strongest section of the Orchestra

Trumpeters



<https://images.app.goo.gl/x29PrKeoGKUCziWL8>

French Hornists



<https://images.app.goo.gl/Ag2zv3InoU7Me5xCA>

Trombonists



<https://images.app.goo.gl/KWttrjNfRKogE5b16>

Tuba Players



<https://images.app.goo.gl/gzSVfjRUSr2jYJE6>

3) Percussion Section of the orchestra



Main features of the Percussion section

- This is the rhythm section of the orchestra.
- Any instrument that can produce sound by being hit, struck or shaken is called Percussion.
- Some of the Instruments can play a melody (definite pitch) and the others can only give the beat (indefinite pitch).

Definite pitched

Celesta
Chimes
Xylophone
Glockenspiel
Timpani



Indefinite pitched

Tambourine
Cymbals
Gong
Snare Drum
Triangle
Bass Drum

What do you think the person standing Infront of the orchestra is doing?

Who is he? He is the Conductor.



- He is the person who gives the instructions to all in the orchestra.
- He moves his arms to express these instructions.
- He helps all the players to keep together and control their speed and the way they should play as how loudly or quietly.
- He sometimes has a stick known as the baton.

Now you know about an Orchestra.

- **Have you seen a performance of this nature before?**
- **Do you know about the Western Classical Orchestras in Sri Lanka?**

You also can join the **National Youth Orchestra** to improve your skills and to perform as talented musicians.

There are a few Western Classical Orchestras in Sri Lanka such as,

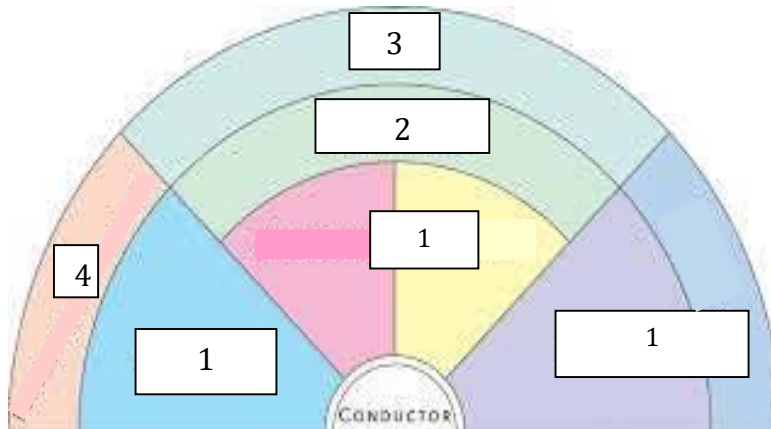
- The Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka (SOSL)
- Orchestra of the Chamber Music Society of Colombo (CMSC)
- National Youth Orchestra (NYO)

Watch the following videos for further knowledge about the orchestra.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dP91qeohMeo>
(performed by SOSL)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwQq10rytgY>
(performed by NYO of Sri Lanka)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sr-l2m8twX0>
(Introduction to the instruments of the orchestra)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vbyhU22uAM>
(The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra by Benjamin Britten)

Evaluation

1) Name the sections of the orchestra according to the **number** given below.



2) Match the instruments to the relevant section. Draw a line and match.



WOOD WIND

STRING

BRASS WIND

PERCUSSION

