

# Music Teaching & Learning Resource Guide

A collection of our favourite activities, books, websites, lesson plans, and other creative materials for use by teachers, parents, and students



PREMIER EDUCATION PARTNER



## Overview

We welcome teachers, parents, students, and music lovers of all ages to explore the resources in this guide. Its creation was inspired by the dramatic effects of COVID-19 on how we live, learn, work, and play. As we explore creative ways to interact with one another and consider alternative teaching strategies, it is our hope that some of the resources provided here will provide inspiration, joy, and fun. We have aimed to provide some content for all age groups, highlighting resources for symphonic music education. It is designed to be accessible for parents to engage children in musical activities at home, and also offers teachers additional tools that we hope will be useful. This is a living document: we invite you to send suggested additions to [education@vancouversymphony.ca](mailto:education@vancouversymphony.ca), and will issue frequent updated versions of the guide. The musicians and staff of the VSO wish you all the best as we navigate these challenging times together. We hope you'll join us in keeping the music going every way we can.

### VSO EDUCATION STAFF

Angela Elster  
*President, VSO & VSO School of Music*

Ryan Kett  
*Education Production Coordinator*

Christin Reardon MacLellan  
*Director of Education & Community Programs*

Yvanna Mycyk  
*School Programs Coordinator*

The VSO is here to help you both educate and entertain your children during this time of social distancing. If you are enjoying this content, please make a contribution to show your support. Without the ability to present concerts, the VSO must rely solely on donations to sustain our business until we can all come together again.



**Donate online:** <https://www.vancouversymphony.ca/donate>

# Learning Links for Ages 0-5

## **1. AN ALPHABET OF SONGS FROM THE VSO SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

A song for every letter, A to Z! For young learners and their families, teachers, friends, and caregivers. <https://vsoschoolofmusic.ca/resources-alphabet-of-songs/>

## **2. VSO SCHOOL OF MUSIC EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCES**

Songs, chants, and games for young learners and their families, teachers, friends, and caregivers. <https://vsoschoolofmusic.ca/resources/>

## **3. VSO SCHOOL OF MUSIC VIRTUAL CLASSES**

During this time of social distancing, the VSO School of Music is going virtual! Currently, our Mini Music Makers classes are being offered online with new course offerings coming very soon. Visit [www.vsoschoolofmusic.ca](http://www.vsoschoolofmusic.ca) for info.

## **4. VISIT THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC!**

You are only a click away from fun with the Philharmonic! Go backstage and meet the musicians, learn about their instruments, explore famous composers and their music, and even create music of your own. <https://www.nyphilkids.org/>

## **5. OFF TO THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY!**

The San Francisco Symphony Site for Kids is a rich resource for the music teacher or student. It provides kids of all ages the opportunity to "learn, listen and have fun" with music. <http://www.sfskids.org/>

## **6. CLASSICS FOR KIDS**

Listen, play, and learn with excellent content about classical music. <https://www.classicsforkids.com/>

## **7. SPHINX KIDS**

Sphinx Kids is an extension of the Sphinx Organization's Classical Connections program, which brings classical music into underserved schools. Sphinx Kids contains interactive games and videos from Sphinx Classical Connections as well as from the New York Philharmonic's KidZone website. [www.sphinxkids.org](http://www.sphinxkids.org)

## 8. MTNA RESOURCES

A list of websites for kids from the Music Teachers National Association

[https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/Parent\\_and\\_Student\\_Resources/Websites\\_for\\_Kids.aspx](https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/Parent_and_Student_Resources/Websites_for_Kids.aspx)

## 9. GEORGE MEETS THE ORCHESTRA

George is going to meet an orchestra for the first time! He wants to learn an instrument – but which one? Follow George as he chats with players of the Sydney Youth Orchestra and learns all about the four families of the orchestra – strings, brass, woodwind and percussion. A perfect introduction to classical music for kids ages 2-5.

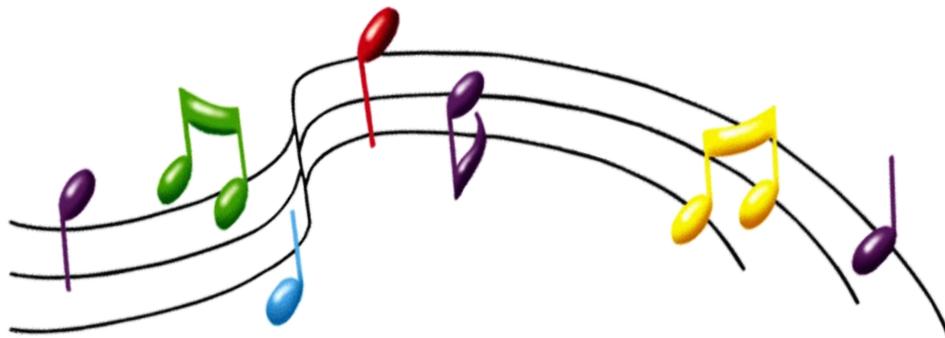
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0Jc4sPOBEE>

## 10. KAREN MEETS THE STRING FAMILY

Join Karen Pang and some musicians from the Australian Chamber Orchestra on the set of ACO's There's a Sea in my Bedroom at Sydney Opera House. Learn about the string family and how musical techniques can be used to create mood, character and setting. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xznJAc2Cjk0>

## 11. DEBORAH ZIOLKOSKI'S JUST FOR KIDS: CHILDREN'S GUIDE

A simple, fun approach to classical music. <http://funwithcomposers.com/>



# Learning Links for Ages 6-12

## **1. VSO KIDS CONCERT: PETER AND THE WOLF WITH BRAMWELL TOVEY**

This playlist from CBC Music features well-known and loved selections from a VSO family concert conducted by Music Director Emeritus Bramwell Tovey. \*Check out our study guide for lesson plans & activities (see p. 22)!

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxuaaONzLc3fkwGt7z6pHU8pyYfs5r6tp>

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## **5. MAKE A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT**

Making Musical Instruments with Kids: 67 Easy Projects for Adults Working with Children by Bart Hopkin

<http://barthopkin.com/books-cds/making-musical-instruments-with-kids/>

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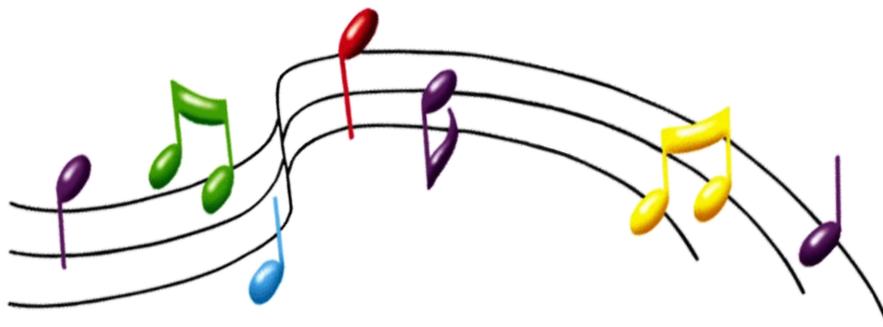
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A simple, fun approach to classical music. <http://funwithcomposers.com/>

## **11. MEET THE MAESTRO**

Filmed live at Jarvis Elementary School in Delta, BC on May 2, 2017, with Maestro Bramwell Tovey, as part of the VSO Connects program.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeTlkyEQjgE>



# Learning Links for Ages 12 to Adult

## TED TALKS

How to Truly Listen - Evelyn Glennie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IU3V6zNER4g>

Why should you listen to Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* - Betsy Schwarm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xcpc8VDsv3c&t=15s>

The Secrets of Mozart's "*Magic Flute*" - Joshua Borths

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iKd-P4Bcac&t=33s>

Music and Emotion Through Time - Michael Tilson Thomas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FD5ZKi-moMU>

The Value of Music Education - Richard Gill

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeRus3NVbwE>

How Playing an Instrument Benefits Your Brain - Anita Collins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0JKCYZ8hng>

Does Music Change a Child's Brain? - John Iversen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2sqXbwlaWw>

Music and Math: The Genius of Beethoven - Natalya St. Clair

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAxT0mRGuoY>

Music as a Language - Victor Wooten

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zvjW9arAZ0>

The Transformative Power of Classical Music - Benjamin Zander

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9LCwl5iErE>

How Sampling Transformed Music - Mark Ronson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3TF-hl7zKc>

## **THE VSO PERFORMS BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO. 6**

The virtual finale of the VSO's 2020 Beethoven Festival:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5XRT9Yg918>

## **VSO SCHOOL OF MUSIC VIRTUAL CLASSES**

During this time of social distancing, the VSO School of Music is going virtual! Visit

[www.vsoschoolofmusic.ca](http://www.vsoschoolofmusic.ca) to explore virtual classes and lessons.

## **THE BERLIN PHILHARMONIC DIGITAL CONCERT HALL**

Innovative access to one of the world's top orchestras.

<https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/home>

## **SARAH'S HORN HANGOUTS**

Sarah Willis plays French horn in the Berlin Philharmonic. Sarah's Horn Hangouts are up-close and personal interviews with well-known musicians with live interaction from the viewers. A unique and fun insight into the world of these famous musicians and teachers. If you have never joined in live, do - you'll love it!

<https://sarah-willis.com/horn-hangouts/>

## **MEET THE MAESTRO**

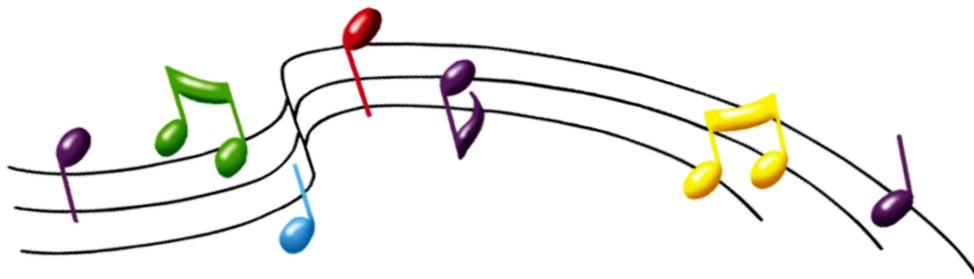
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeTlkyEQjgE>

## **UBC SCHOOL OF MUSIC PERFORMANCES**

This season's large ensemble concerts from our friends at UBC.

<https://vimeo.com/ubcmusic>



## Reading List! Books about Music for Kids & Babies

*Because* by Mo Willems

*The Philharmonic Gets Dressed* by Karla Kuskin

*Edda: A Little Valkyrie's First Day of School* by Adam Auerbach

*When Stravinsky Met Nijinsky* by Lauren Stringer

*Muffin Stories: Ludwig van Beethoven*

*Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay* by Susan Hood

*Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin* by Lloyd Moss

*The Music in George's Head: George Gershwin Creates Rhapsody in Blue* by Suzanne Slade

*I Know a Shy Fellow Who Swallowed a Cello* by Barbara S. Garriel

*Mole Music* by David McPhail

*We Sang You Home* by Richard Van Camp

*The Song Within My Heart* by Dave Bouchard

*Listen to My Trumpet* by Mo Willems

*Beethoven Lives Upstairs* by Barbara Nichol

*The Remarkable Farkle McBride* by John Lithgow

*Ketzel, the Cat who Composed* by Lesléa Newman

*Poppy and the Orchestra* by Magali Le Huche

*Music Is* by Brandon Stosuy

*Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb* by Al Perkins

*Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa* by Andrea Davis Pinkney

*The Composer is Dead* by Lemony Snicket



# Learn About Your Vancouver Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 1919, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra is the third largest symphony orchestra in Canada. The VSO performs to an annual audience of more than 200,000 people and performs over 150 concerts annually in the historic Orpheum Theatre, as well as in venues throughout the Lower Mainland. As a cultural staple of the Lower Mainland, VSO Education Programs are experienced by over 50,000 students annually.

The VSO's mission is to enhance the quality of life in our city and region by presenting high-quality performances of classical and popular music to a wide variety of audiences and offering educational and community programs.

This is a typical layout for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in the Orpheum Theatre.



# The Orpheum Theatre

## HOME OF THE VANCOUVER SYMPHONY

Designed in 1927 by architect Benjamin Marcus Priteca, the Orpheum Theatre is Canada's last great entertainment palace, and one of Vancouver's most spectacular heritage buildings. Since its opening, the Orpheum has hosted vaudeville, cinema, musical theatre, concerts, ballet, opera, and children's shows.

The building is a masterpiece of theatre design, with a magnificently painted dome soaring above ornate plaster carvings, gold leaf, and crystal chandeliers. Great care was taken with the acoustics of the building: the sound is so clear that musicians can hear a whisper in the very last row of the highest balcony, and the audience can hear every note played on stage. In 1973, Famous Players slated the Orpheum for demolition, but thousands of Vancouverites wanted to save it. The City of Vancouver responded, rescuing and renovating the theatre.

In the fall of 2013, the VSO became the first organization to be inducted into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame. Stars for both the VSO and Music Director Emeritus Bramwell Tovey will soon appear on Granville street's star walk!

When you come to visit the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in downtown Vancouver, take a few extra minutes to pay homage to some of the greatest personalities in BC entertainment. Along the Granville Street sidewalk, you'll find the stars in the cement, featuring locals such as former VSO pianist Linda Lee Thomas, Bard on the Beach's Christopher Gaze and many more! Once you're inside the Orpheum, you can visit the "BC Star Wall" on the 2nd floor where the VSO's first concertmaster, Allard de Ridder, is featured alongside popstar heavyweights such as Sarah McLachlan and Michael Bublé.

If you're approaching the Orpheum via Seymour Street, visit the "Beethoven Wall" between the Orpheum and the School of Music, just north of stage door. The panels here showcase Beethoven's 9th Symphony, in the composer's own handwriting.



## What is a Symphony Orchestra?

When you come to see the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Maestro Otto Tausk or Assistant Conductor Andrew Crust will introduce you to the many diverse instruments found in a contemporary orchestra. Just like the people that make up your community (the students, teachers, staff, volunteers and parents in your school) the instruments of the orchestra are all part of their own families.

The word *symphony* means “sounding together”. An orchestra is made up of a group of musicians - usually seventy to one hundred - playing instruments from four main families: string, woodwind, brass and percussion. A symphony orchestra consists of these different instruments “sounding together”.

The louder instruments are at the back of the orchestra, and the quieter ones are in front so that the audience hears a balanced sound. The size of the instrument does not always match the size of the sound it can produce.



When you are at a symphony concert, you will notice that large instruments can make soft or muted sounds while small instruments, like the triangle or the piccolo, can ring out above the whole combination of other instruments. A composer produces the sounds he wants by choosing combinations of instruments from each family and writing the sounds that they will play together. Because a symphony orchestra is made up of so many different instruments, and because the musicians are so well trained to produce a variety of sounds, the composer has a palette of instrumental colour combinations and sound possibilities at their disposal.

## What do conductors do?

Orchestral conductors stand on a podium with a baton (which looks a bit like a wand) in front of the orchestra, constantly communicating directions to the whole orchestra during a performance. The primary responsibilities of the conductor are to set tempo, indicate beats (particularly first or “down” beats) and to listen carefully and critically to the ensemble. Communicating changes that need to be made within the ensemble (such as showing the violins you want them to play louder to balance the sound) requires highly trained listening skills. There are no strict rules for conducting, and you will notice that different conductors have very different styles. However, the very basics of beat indication do follow a set pattern.

## VSO Music Director

# MAESTRO OTTO TAUSK



Dutch conductor Otto Tausk is the Music Director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, now in his second season, and serves as Artistic Advisor of the VSO School of Music. Until spring 2018, Tausk was Music Director of the Opera Theatre and Tonhalle orchestra St Gallen. He appears as a guest with such orchestras as Concertgebouw Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Melbourne Symphony, the Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre, the orchestras of Perth, Tasmania, Auckland, BBC Scottish Symphony and BBC National Orchestra of Wales, with whom he made his BBC Proms debut last season. He is a hugely respected musical personality in his native Holland, working with all its major orchestras and composers.

In the opera pit in St Gallen, Tausk conducted the world premiere of *Annas Maske*, by Swiss composer David

Philip Hefti, the Swiss premiere of George Benjamin's *Written on Skin*, Korngold's *Die tote Stadt* and other titles including *Don Giovanni*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *Eugene Onegin*, *West Side Story*, *Lohengrin* and *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Tausk will conduct Michel van der Aa's new opera in the 20/21 season, with the world premiere at Dutch National Opera, plus further appearances with the other co-commissioning parties. In the 2019/2020 season, Tausk continues guesting relationships with Lahti Symphony, Orquesta Sinfonica de Galicia, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, and makes debut appearances with Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Orchestre symphonique de Québec and Orchestre philharmonique de Monte-Carlo. In Vancouver, programming highlights include celebrating Beethoven's 250th birthday with *BeethovenFest* in spring 2020, and soloists such as Susan Graham, Alina Ibragimova, Gidon Kremer, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Daniil Trifonov and Dawn Upshaw.

Born in Utrecht, Otto Tausk initially studied violin and then conducting with Jonas Aleksa. Between 2004 and 2006, Tausk was assistant conductor to Valery Gergiev with the Rotterdam Philharmonic a period of study that had a profound impact on him. In 2011 Tausk was presented with the 'de Olifant' prize by the City of Haarlem. He received this prestigious award for his contribution to the Arts in the Netherlands, in particular his extensive work with Holland Symfonia serving as Music Director 2007 to 2012. In reflecting on their work together in The Netherlands, Valery Gergiev paid particular tribute to Tausk on this occasion.

## **VSO Assistant Conductor**

### **MAESTRO ANDREW CRUST**

Andrew Crust has developed a versatile international career as a conductor of orchestral, opera, ballet and pops programs. Currently serving as the Assistant Conductor of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in Canada, Andrew conducts a large number of subscription, pops, educational and contemporary concerts with the VSO each season. In the 19/20 season Andrew will debut with the Bozeman and Lima Symphonies as a Music Director finalist and begin a relationship with the San Diego Symphony as Cover Conductor. Recent engagements include performances with the Winnipeg Symphony, Memphis Symphony, Hartford Symphony, and l'Orchestre de la Francophonie in Québec.

Andrew is equally at ease in the pit, having conducted ballet with Ballet Memphis and the New Ballet Ensemble, and opera with Opera McGill, College Light Opera Company, Boulder Opera Company, and others. As a Pops conductor, Andrew has collaborated with such artists as Rufus Wainwright, Steven Page, Michael Bolton, Cirque de la Symphonie, and the United States Jazz Ambassadors, and will make his film debut conducting *Casablanca* with the Vancouver Symphony in the 19/20 season.

Andrew served as Assistant Conductor of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra from 2017-2019 where he conducted around forty concerts each season. He stepped in last minute for a successful subscription performance featuring Bernstein's *Serenade* with violinist Charles Yang. Andrew also served as Conductor of the Memphis Youth Symphony Program. As the Assistant Conductor of the Portland Symphony Orchestra in Maine from 2016-2018, he conducted a variety of concert series, helped coordinate the orchestra's extensive educational programs, and helped lead a program for concertgoers under 40 called "Symphony and Spirits". Crust was the Assistant Conductor of the National Youth Orchestra of the USA (NYO-USA) in the summers of 2017 and 2018, assisting Michael Tilson Thomas on an Asian tour, as well as Giancarlo Guerrero, Marin Alsop and James Ross at Carnegie Hall and in a side-by-side performance with the Philadelphia Orchestra. He has also served as Cover Conductor of the Kansas City Symphony and Nashville Symphony, Assistant/Cover Conductor of the Boulder Philharmonic and Assistant Conductor of Opera McGill.

Abroad, he has led concerts with the Orchestra Giovanile Italiana in Italy, Hamburger Symphoniker at the Mendelssohn Festival in Germany, the Moravian Philharmonic in the Czech Republic, the Filharmonia "Mihail Jora" of Bacau, Romania, and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Chile in Santiago. In 2017 he was awarded first prize at the Accademia Chigiana by Daniele Gatti, receiving a scholarship and an invitation to guest conduct the Orchestra di Sanremo in Italy. He was a semi-finalist for the Nestlé/Salzburg Festival's Young Conductors Award competition and was selected by members of the Vienna Philharmonic as a winner of the Ansbacher Fellowship, with full access to all rehearsals and performances of the Salzburg Festival.

Andrew is dedicated to exploring new ways of bringing the classical music experience into the 21st century through innovative programming and marketing, creating community-oriented and socially-sensitive concert experiences, and utilizing social media and unique venues. Andrew lives in Vancouver and enjoys making and consuming visual art during study breaks.



# Meet the Orchestra!

## String Family

The four major instruments in the string family, the violin, the viola, the cello and the double bass, are built the same way. The instruments are made of many pieces of wood which are glued together. The body of the instrument is hollow, thus becoming a resonating box for the sound. Four strings made of animal gut, nylon, or steel are wrapped around pegs at one end of the instrument and attached to a tailpiece at the other. They are stretched tightly across a bridge to produce their assigned pitches.

1. The **violin** (top) is the soprano voice in the string family. It is held under the chin, resting on the shoulder. The violin has a lovely tone that can be soft and expressive or exciting and brilliant.



2. The **viola** (bottom) is the alto voice in the string family. Like the violin, it is held under the chin, resting on the shoulder. Unlike the violin, the viola is slightly larger and is tuned five notes lower. It has a darker and warmer tone quality than the violin but is not as brilliant.



3. The **cello** (left) is the tenor voice in the string family. While shaped like a violin, the cello is much larger and is held between the player's knees. Because it can produce beautiful sounds from its lowest to its highest notes, it is a popular instrument.



4. The **double bass** (right) is the largest and lowest instrument of the string family. The double bass has sloping shoulders, instead of rounded shoulders like the other string instruments. This allows the player to have more room to move his or her arms, hands, and fingers in front of the instrument. Because of its size, the player stands or sits on a high stool to play the double bass.



The **harp** is also considered part of the string family, though it's built a bit differently than other string instruments. The strings are plucked and the harp has pedals that adjust the length of the strings to produce additional pitches.



# Woodwind Family

The three branches of the woodwind family have different sources of sound. Vibrations begin when air is blown across the top of an instrument, across a single reed, or across two reeds. Reeds are small pieces of cane. A single reed is clamped to a mouthpiece at the top of the instrument and vibrates against the mouthpiece when air is blown between the reed and the mouthpiece. Two reeds together are commonly known as a double reed. The double reed fits into a tube at the top of the instrument and vibrates when air is forced between the two reeds.

1. Originally made of wood, the **flute** is now made from silver or gold and is about 2 feet in length. It looks like a narrow tube with a row of holes covered by keys along one side. The player blows air across the small hole in the mouthpiece to produce a sound that can be either soft and mellow or high and piercing.

2. The **oboe** is similar to the clarinet in many ways. Both are made from wood and have metal keys that can produce many notes rapidly. Unlike the clarinet, the oboe does not have a mouthpiece, but has two reeds tied together. By placing them between one's lips and blowing air through them, the reeds vibrate and produce a sound.

3. Made from wood, the **clarinet** produces a fluid sound when air is blown between a single reed and the mouthpiece. By pressing metal keys with the fingers of both hands, the player has the ability to play many different notes very quickly.

4. The **bassoon** is a large double reed instrument with a lower sound than the other woodwind instruments. Its double reed is attached to a small curved tube called a bocal which fits into the bassoon. When the player blows air between the reeds, the vibrating column of air inside the instrument travels over nine feet to the bottom of the instrument, then up to the top where the sound comes out.



## Brass Family

Brass family instruments produce their unique sound by the player buzzing his/her lips while blowing air through a cup- or funnel-shaped mouthpiece. To produce higher or lower pitches, the player adjusts the opening between his/her lips. The mouthpiece connects to a length of brass tubing ending in a bell. The shorter the tubing length, the smaller the instrument, and the higher the sound; and the longer the tubing length, the larger the instrument, and the lower the sound. The brass family can trace its ancestry back to herald trumpets, hunting horns, and military bugles. The main instruments of the brass family include the trumpet, horn, trombone, and tuba.



1. The **French horn** consists of about 12 feet of narrow tubing wound into a circle. The player obtains different notes on the horn with a clear mellow sound by pressing valves with the left hand and by moving the right hand inside of the bell.

2. Made of about 16 feet of tubing, the **tuba** is the lowest sounding member of the brass family. The tuba has three to five valves and is held upright in the player's lap.

3. The mouthpiece of the **trombone** is larger than that of the trumpet and gives the instrument a more mellow sound. Instead of valves, the trombone has a slide which changes the length of its approximately 9 feet of tubing to reach different pitches.

4. The **trumpet** is the highest sounding member of the brass family. The brilliant tone of the trumpet travels through about 6½ feet of tubing bent into an oblong shape. The player presses the

three valves in various combinations with the fingers of the right hand to obtain various pitches.

# Percussion Family

Percussion instruments are the loud instruments in the back of the orchestra that produce sound when they are struck with another object, usually a drumstick or mallet. There are two types of percussion instruments: definite-pitch instruments make pitches just like the other instruments of the orchestra, while indefinite-pitch instruments make neutral rhythmic sounds.



1. The **timpani** are the most visible instruments in the percussion family, because they are placed on a platform at the back of the stage, in the centre. Timpani are usually played in sets of four, with each drum a different size and pitch. The player uses a pedal to tighten or loosen the skin on the top of the drum to change the pitch.

2. The **bass drum**, snare drum, and triangle are indefinite-pitch instruments that are hit with a drumstick or a beater.

3. The tambourine and **cymbals** are also indefinite-pitch instruments, but they do not require a beater to play. The tambourine is struck with the player's right hand, while the cymbals are crashed together.

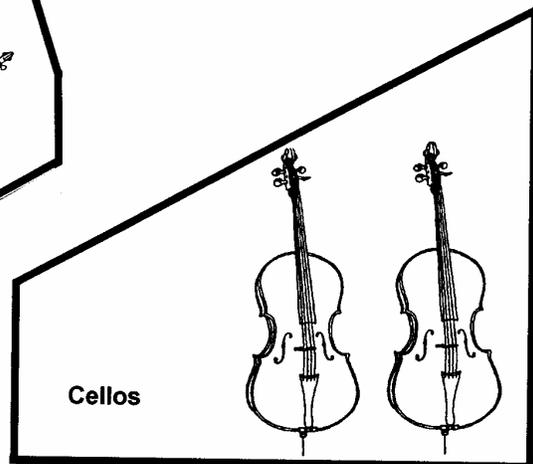
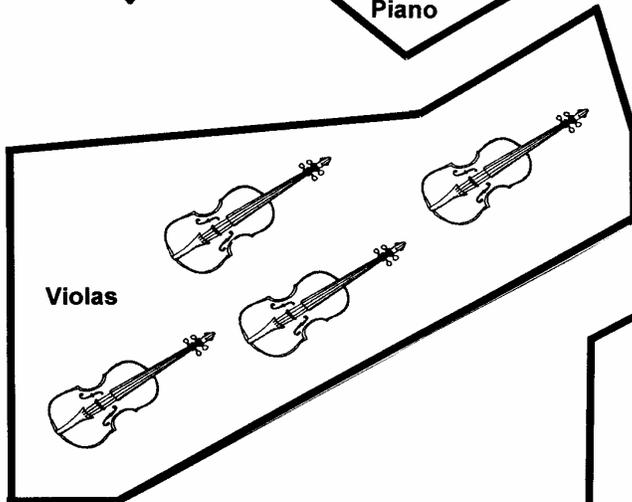
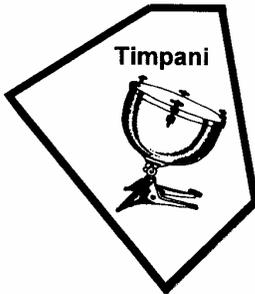
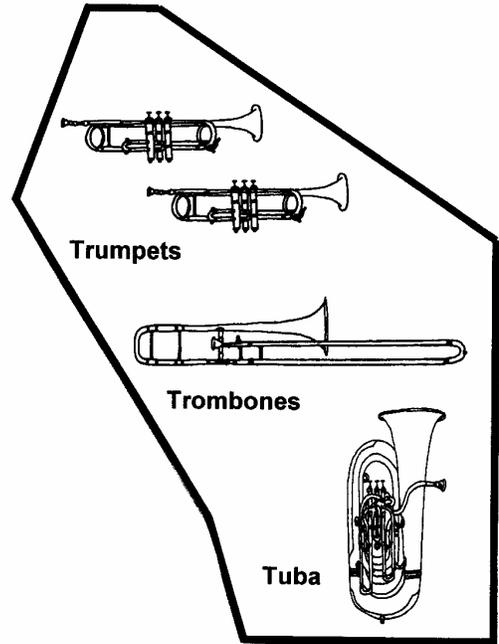
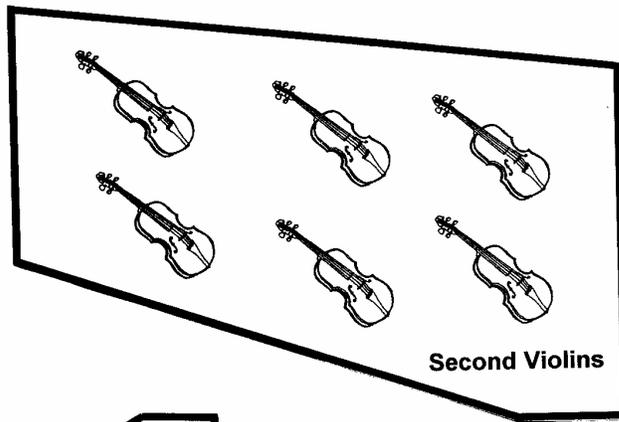
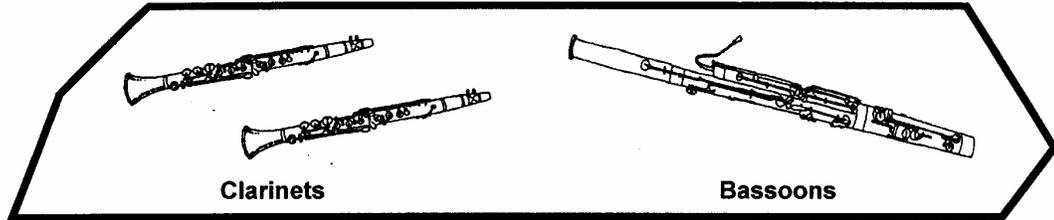
4. The **marimba** and xylophone are definite-pitch instruments that are played with yarn-covered or rubber mallets.

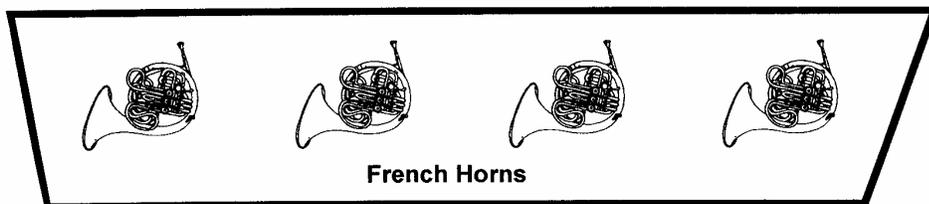
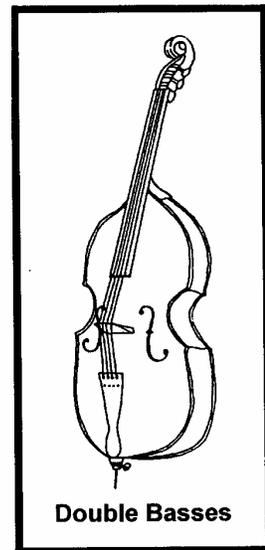
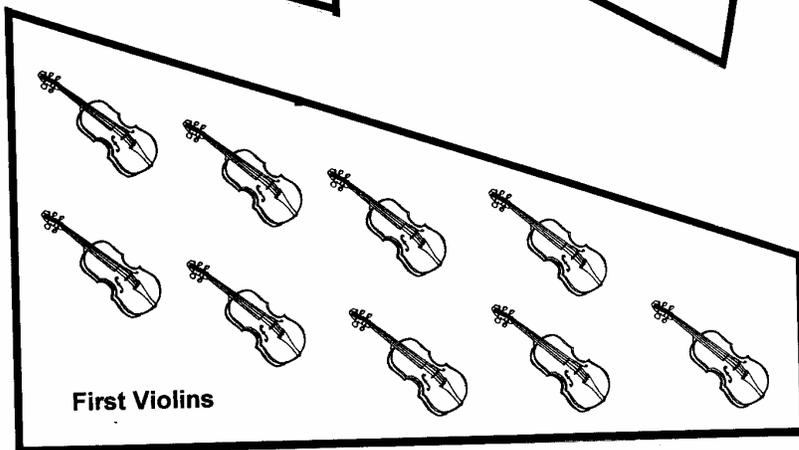
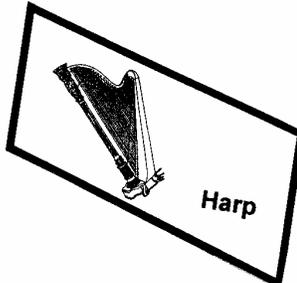
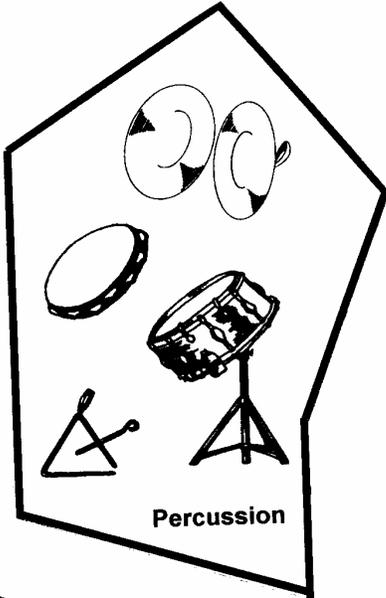
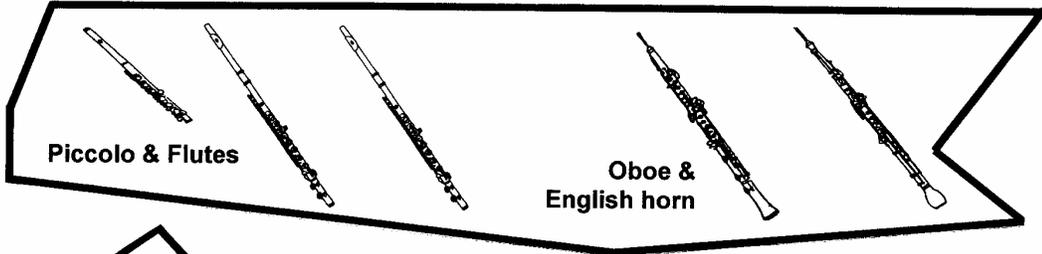
The **piano** can be considered both a string and percussion instrument. When keys are pressed, little hammers inside the piano strike strings to produce a sound. The piano has the most strings of any string instrument!



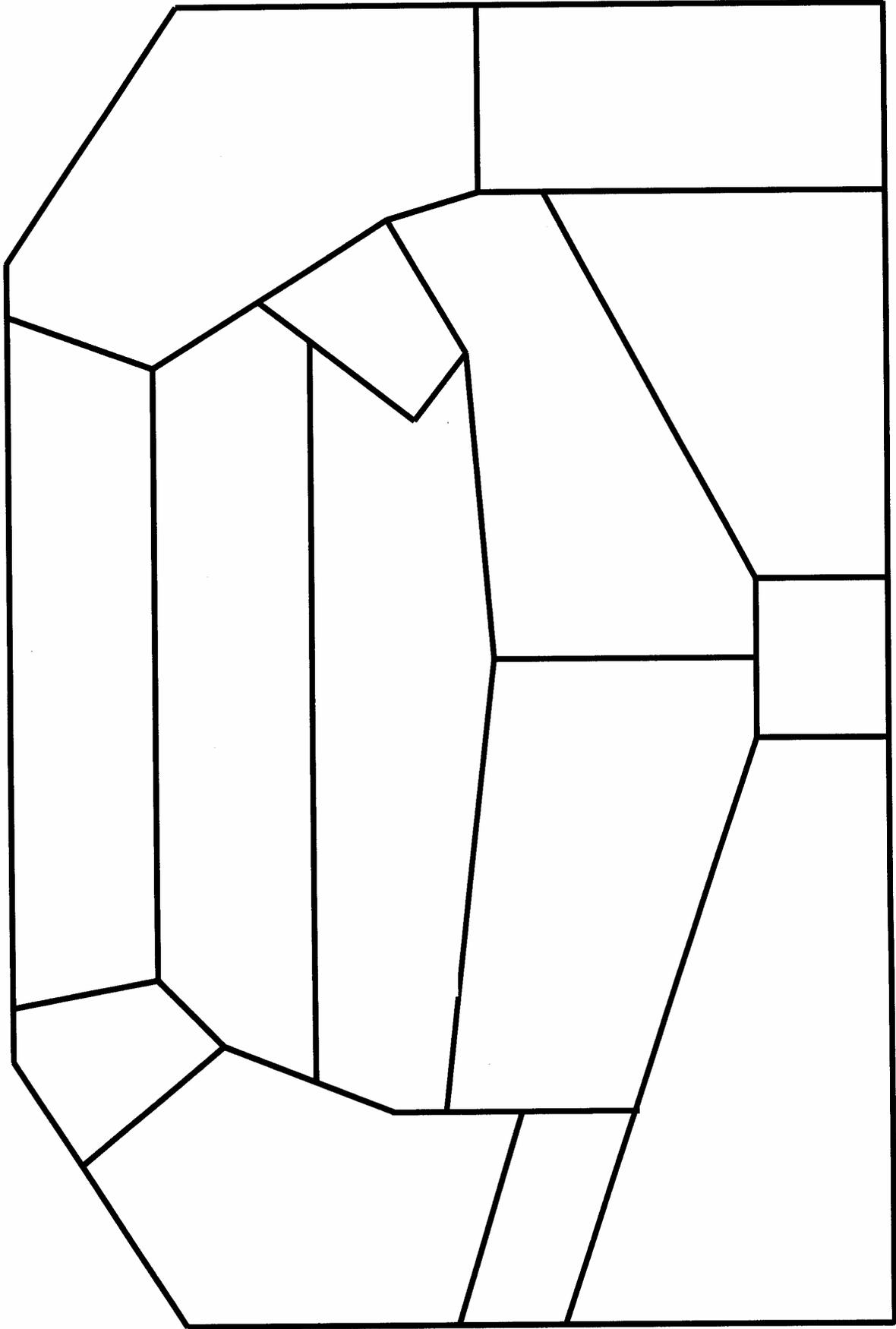
# VSO Orchestra Puzzle

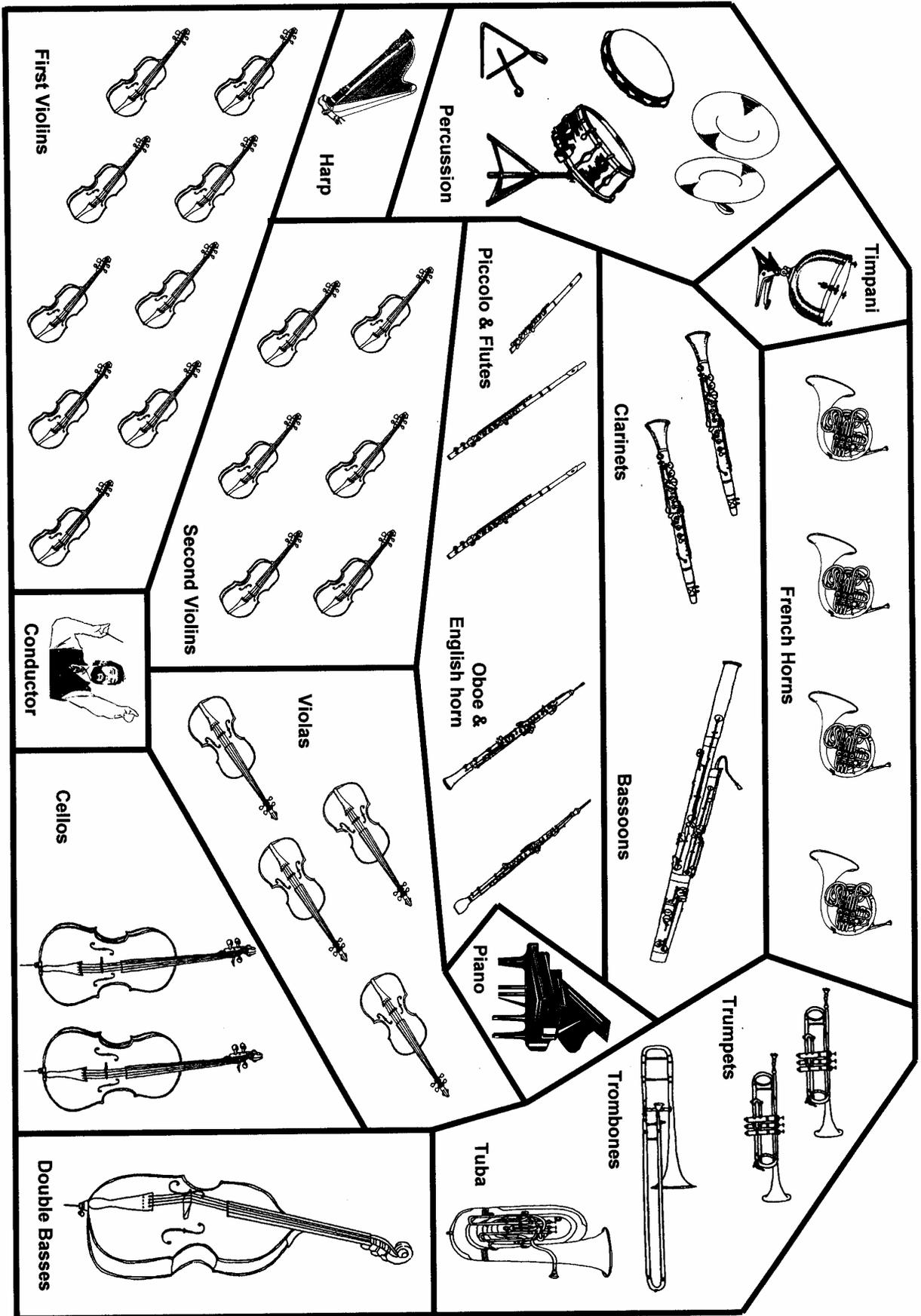
Practice seating the instruments within the orchestra! Cut out the following puzzle pieces and put them together on the puzzle board.





**Let's Build An Orchestra – See if you can find where all the instruments live on the Orpheum Theatre stage.**





**Solution – This is what your finished puzzle should look.**

## Lesson Plans & Student Activities

We invite you to explore samples of our Study Guides prepared for VSO Elementary School Concerts.

[Link to Wall to Wall Percussion 19-20](#)

[Link to Peter and the Wolf](#)

[Link to Meet the Orchestra](#)

## Musical Apps

Musical Me by Duck Duck Moose

Smithsonian Folkways

Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra by Benjamin Britten

The Orchestra

Singing Fingers

Sound Drop

SoundPrism

Dropophone

DrumJam

Monkey Drum

The VSO is here to help you both educate and entertain your children during this time of social distancing. If you are enjoying this content, please make a contribution to show your support. Without the ability to present concerts, the VSO must rely solely on donations to sustain our business until we can all come together again.



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