

The String Family

The four main string instruments in the orchestra are:



- They are all made of wood.
- They can be played with a stick called a bow.
- The strings can be plucked with the fingers.
- The violin is the highest in pitch.
- The double bass is the lowest in pitch.

The Woodwind Family

The four main woodwind instruments in the orchestra are:

- The flute is made of metal
- The clarinet, oboe and bassoon are made of wood or plastic.
- The clarinet, oboe and bassoon have a wooden reed at the top that you blow down.
- The flute is held sideways.
- To change the note you press the keys or cover the holes with your fingers.
- The flute is highest in pitch
- The bassoon is lowest in pitch



The Brass Family

The four main brass instruments in the orchestra are:



- They are all made of metal.
- To play them you blow a raspberry down the mouthpiece.
- You change the note by pressing the buttons called valves.
- To change the note on the trombone you move the slide in and out.
- The trumpet is the highest in pitch.
- The tuba is the lowest in pitch.

• The Percussion Family

The percussion instruments are instruments that you hit, shake or scrape to make the sound. They can be untuned - which means they only play rhythms (like a drum) or they can be tuned - which means they can play pitched notes and are able to play tunes (like a xylophone).

