

An Introduction to the Orchestra

Kindergarten Lesson for week of April 27

Focus: This week we will begin looking at the instruments of the orchestra.

What is an orchestra? What do you think an orchestra is?

What is a family? We all have a family. Our family may look different from someone else's family but they are both still a family. In our families, we have similarities. We may look like, sound like or simply like to do something the same as someone else in our family.

Just like us, instruments have families. There are four main families of instruments that are found in the orchestra. Strings, Percussion, Woodwind and Brass.

The Percussion Family:

Percussion instruments are any instrument that you hit, shake or scrape. **Can you think of an instrument that would be in the percussion family?**

Last week I encouraged you to drum for 5 minutes. I encourage you to do the same this week but think of different ways that you could create a percussion instrument at home.

Here is a link to listen to a percussion ensemble https://youtu.be/k7BerR_qbLw



The String Family:

String instruments are instruments that use strings to produce their sound. **Can you think of an instrument that would be in the string family?** Some string instruments are not typically found in the orchestra. Normally, we do not see guitars, mandolins or banjos in an orchestra. But they are in the string family.

Here is a link to listen to a string quartet (4 players) composed (written) by Johann Sebastian Bach. A composer from the Baroque Period of music.

<https://youtu.be/-M1DwtMvcLc>



The Woodwind Family:

This family is the most diverse (different). Woodwinds used to be made of wood and you blow into it for it to sound. **What instruments do you know that might be a woodwind?**

Listen to this woodwind quartet playing Karl Goefart 's composition. <https://youtu.be/RMyIPDOjAd4>



The Brass Family:

Brass instruments are made of metal, have a flared bell where the sound comes out, and a round mouthpiece. **Do you know any brass instruments?**

Listen to this brass ensemble
<https://youtu.be/VhTOM6LcVh8?t=18>

An orchestra is when we put all of these instruments together in one group.



As you go throughout your week listen for the different families of instruments in the music that you hear.

There is no homework this week.