

## All Together Now

An orchestra is a large group of musicians who often play classical music. A big orchestra can have 100 musicians! An orchestra needs collaboration. This is when the musicians and the conductor work together. This takes practice, practice, practice.

An orchestra has four sections. There are the strings, the woodwinds, the brass, and the percussion.

The string section includes violins, violas, cellos, and double basses.

The woodwind section includes flutes, oboes, clarinets, and bassoons. They are called woodwinds because they used to be made out of wood. Now some are made out of metal.

The third section has brass instruments. The brass section is made up of horns. Some of the brass instruments are the French horn, the trumpet, and the trombone.

Last is the percussion section. Percussion players strike their instruments. The kettledrum, snare drum, bass drum, and triangle are just some of the percussion instruments. The piano is also a percussion instrument.

One reason orchestra members sit or stand in certain places is because of how loud their instruments are.

Musicians in the strings sit closest to the conductor. They sit in pairs and share a music stand. They are the largest section of an orchestra.

Most of the percussion instruments stand in the back because they have the loudest instruments.

The key to a successful orchestra is collaboration. The musicians must work together to make music. Each musician plays an important role. Each instrument has a unique sound. It is amazing to hear so many instruments blend into one beautiful sound. Which instrument would you like to play?