

Orchestrating the Soundscape with Max

Learning objective: To identify and classify orchestral instruments into their four main families: strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion.

Follow the steps below to create a detailed diagram of a symphony orchestra setup. Use the word bank to label your instruments accurately.

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of a concert hall stage. Sketch the instruments in their designated family groups (strings, woodwind, brass, percussion) to show a logical orchestral layout. Use clear, neat lines to define the shape of each instrument. You may add musical notes swirling around the instruments to show the music coming to life.



Label words: Violin · Flute · Trumpet · Snare Drum · Cello · Clarinet · Trombone · Timpani

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw a large semi-circle. Place the string instruments in the front centre. Label one 'Violin' and one 'Cello'.
2. Step 2: Draw the woodwind section behind the strings. Label one 'Flute' and one 'Clarinet'.
3. Step 3: Draw the brass instruments behind the woodwind. Label one 'Trumpet' and one 'Trombone'.
4. Step 4: Draw the percussion section at the very back. Label one 'Snare Drum' and one 'Timpani'.
5. Explain why the percussion section is usually placed at the back of the orchestra rather than the front.

6. Compare and contrast how a string instrument and a woodwind instrument create sound. Use scientific vocabulary like 'vibration' and 'air column'.