

The Orchestra's Secret Symphony: A Guide to Musical Families

Join Max the Monkey on a melodic journey to discover the rhythm and harmony behind the world's most magnificent instruments!

- **String instruments create sound when a player plucks or bows a string, causing it to vibrate against the instrument's body.**
- **Woodwind instruments produce notes by forcing air across an edge or through a reed, which is why instruments like the clarinet and oboe sound so distinct.**
- **Brass instruments, such as the trumpet or tuba, are played by buzzing lips into a mouthpiece, using valves to change the length of the tubing.**
- **Percussion instruments are the heartbeat of the orchestra, creating sound through striking, shaking, or scraping surfaces to create rhythm.**
- **The timbre of an instrument—the 'colour' of the sound—is determined by the materials used to build it and the way the air or strings vibrate.**

Did you know? Did you know? Even though a flute is made of metal in modern orchestras, it is still classified as a 'woodwind' instrument! This is because, historically, all flutes were carved from wood, and they still rely on a split column of air to produce their unique sound.

Key vocabulary: Orchestra · Vibration · Resonance · Timbre · Pitch · Percussion · Woodwind · Acoustics