

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

WHAT IS A SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA?

Prepared by Carolyn Cross

Having the opportunity to listen to and see an orchestra perform live is an incredibly special and memorable event for children. Please explore the links below to familiarise students with the four sections of the orchestra and the instruments in each section.

Listening to an Orchestra

Play a piece that the students are familiar with being performed by an orchestra. Playing the students a piece that they are familiar with allows them to connect immediately with the music and they are very excited because they know the piece and it can conjure up images in their mind and stir up memories. Once this connection has been created you can move on and focus on the sections of the orchestra and the instruments in them. A good starting point would be Pirates of the Caribbean – which is the last piece in the program.

Here is a link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zTc2hD2npA> to a performance by the Auckland Symphony Orchestra.

Colouring Page

Ask the students to colour in the 4 sections of the orchestra using the colours that the players will be wearing in the concert:

Woodwind = **dark blue** Brass = **green** Percussion = **light blue** Strings = **red**

Use this link: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/475692779367242089/> OR <http://www.myriad-online.com/cgi-bin/workshop/YaBB.pl?board=request;action=display;num=1305290627> for a free orchestra layout chart.

George Meets the Orchestra

George is going to meet an orchestra for the first time! He wants to learn an instrument – but which one?

Follow George as he chats with players of the Sydney Youth Orchestra and learns all about the four families of the orchestra – strings, brass, woodwind and percussion. A perfect introduction to orchestral music for Prep – Grade 2 students.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0Jc4sP0BEE&list=PLEEFED516C8A220CD&index=53&feature=iv&src_vid=PBJ92Hd7_xc&annotation_id=annotation_1470887223

Instruments of the Orchestra

Instruments of an Orchestra – Roger Gunn. Thinglink – each image has a clip linked to it to enable the viewer to see and hear each of the instruments from the orchestra playing. Find out about the conductor's role as well.

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/374799720679211009>

There are many interactive online websites. For example:

San Francisco Symphony Orchestra: <http://www.sfskids.org/classic/templates/instorchframe.asp?pageid=3>

Philharmonia Orchestra: <http://www.philharmonia.co.uk/explore/instruments>

MSO Learn app: <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/mso-learn/id441422027?mt=8>

Composition Lab: <http://www.compositionlab.co.uk>

Create your own “Stand-up Symphony”

There are 20 cut out figures for students to colour in and cut out and put in place on a stage plan. It's a hands on way of reviewing the instruments as well as learning where the orchestra members sit.

<http://colorinmypiano.com/2012/09/20/instruments-of-the-orchestra-study-free-orchestra-stage-pieces/>

A monster collection of links from Katie Wardrobe

Katie Wardrobe is a music technology trainer and consultant with a passion for helping music teachers. This link will take you to an amazing collection of free resources online that she has collated to help introduce or expand upon the topic of “Instruments of the Orchestra”.

<http://www.midnightmusic.com.au/2014/12/instruments-of-the-orchestra-a-monster-collection-of-links-for-music-teachers/>

Adventures with the Orchestra Artie Almeida Book and Audio/Data CD

Inspire your students to embrace the music of the orchestra. Everything you need for a complete instructional unit is here: flashcards, printable game pieces, guided listening activities, musical examples, website lessons, and more. Artie Almeida is a gifted teacher with many years of experience guiding elementary students and young teachers, and her skills in both areas make this the quintessential resource for teaching students about the orchestra.

<https://www.lorenz.com/classroom/lessons?ProductID=75/1034H> - there are sample pages to view and download at this address.

Orchestra MEGA Pack of Listening Activities and Assessments.

Do you need a fun way to review orchestral instruments, form, and rhythmic concepts through a classical connection? This resource from Cowgirl Compositions can be found on Teachers Pay Teachers <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Orchestra-MEGA-Pack-of-Listening-Activities-and-Assessments-1730644>