

## WHAT IS A SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA?

### NOTES FOR TEACHERS

There are many Internet sites which set out to introduce children to the instruments in a symphony orchestra. This one is different.

The source of the video clips was a series of workshops / rehearsals with the players of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, directed by Maestro Richard Gill AO, which included the active involvement of students from schools in the Hobart area. Filming took place in the quite crowded TSO Studio, with the musicians in casual dress and quite clearly going about their day jobs, business-like and professional. Nothing was planned, except in Maestro Gill's mind; no script, no retakes, nothing 'staged' for the camera. That it has been possible to produce this resource is down to the excellent work of two alert and highly-skilled camera operators.

The instruments demonstrated are those which were required by the repertoire being performed. When you click on one of the graphics, you get the name of the instrument, a few seconds of solo work which demonstrates posture as well as sound, and then a snippet of how the instrument sounds within the orchestral context, which also allows students to see where the player sits in relation to others close by.

You can select from piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, bass trombone, tuba, timpani, percussion (glockenspiel, tam-tam, whip, triangle, tambourine, woodblock), harp, violin, viola, cello, double bass. As a bonus, there's also a conducting demonstration.

#### NB

1. The excellent instrument pictures are available in A4 size by downloading from the **Booklet**. This includes pictures of the instruments in their families so students can see the relative size of each.
2. The diagram represents the usual seating of the Tasmania Symphony Orchestra for schools concerts, and is colour-coded to show the colour of the shirts each section wears. It can be downloaded by clicking on **Map**.
3. The **video** puts all the snippets together.
4. There are many more video clips from this source which can be viewed by clicking on **The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra in Your Classroom** and following the links.

#### ASSESSMENT POSSIBILITIES

Skill development in the aural identification of instrumental timbre supports learning outcomes ACAMUM080, ACAMUM084, ACAMUM088, AMAMUM093