

Orchestras: A Music Team

Do you like to play with other kids? Do you like to be part of a team? Do you like music? If you answered yes to these questions, you might like to be part of an **orchestra**—a music team!

A Team of Musicians

An orchestra is a team of musicians who play different instruments. Some musicians play stringed instruments, like violins, cellos, and violas. These are played with a bow that moves across strings.

There are **wind instruments**, such as clarinets, flutes, and saxophones. There are French horns, trumpets, trombones, and tubas, which are known as the horns section. Musicians blow into these instruments and press different keys to make sounds.

Some musicians play **percussion instruments**. These instruments can be rattles and bells and cymbals. They can be different kinds of drums, such as a snare drum, bass drum, or timpani.

Musicians practice every day. They take lessons. They listen to music. They work hard.

If you were in an orchestra, which instrument would you play?

The Team Leader

The **conductor** leads the orchestra. Conductors hold batons, or skinny sticks, and move their hands and arms to guide the musicians. Conductors help the musicians keep the beat and play their best.

The conductor chooses the music the orchestra will play. The conductor studies the music and helps the musicians understand it. The conductor sets times for the musicians to practice together before they perform in front of an audience. The conductor has to be an organized person and a good teacher.

Orchestras Everywhere!

Most cities all over the world have orchestras that perform throughout the year. Many cities even have junior orchestras for young musicians.

Orchestras perform in front of large and small audiences. They record CDs and invite school groups to watch them practice. Orchestra musicians get to travel and meet lots of people.

It's fun to be in an orchestra!



timpani



French horn



violin