

THE ORCHESTRA

An orchestra is a large group of musicians who play together on a variety of string, wind and percussion instruments.

Leading the group of musicians is the **conductor**.

The instruments of the orchestra are organised into families:

Strings - String Instruments use vibrating strings to make their sound. The violin is an example of a string instrument.

Woodwind - Woodwind instruments are made of a long hollow tube of wood or metal. The sound is made by blowing air through a very thin piece of shaved wood called a reed, or across a small mouthpiece. The clarinet is an example of a woodwind instrument.

Brass - Brass instruments are wind instruments made of metal with a cup shaped mouthpiece. The tuba is an example of a brass instrument.

Percussion - Percussion instruments are played by being struck or shaken. A snare drum is an example of a percussion instrument.

Complete the Classical Orchestra worksheet on the next page.

Label the different families and sections of the orchestra by using the clues on the worksheet. Use the Orchestral vocabulary worksheet to help. You may also use the internet for research purposes.