Children's Music Guide





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Benjamin Britten "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra"



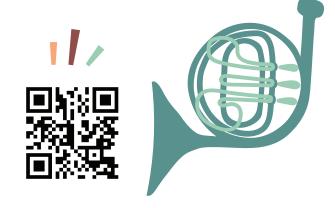
Composer: Benjamin Britten

Born: November 22, 1913, Lowestaft, England Died: December 4, 1976, Aldeburgh, England

Benjamin Britten wrote Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra in 1946 as part of the score to a documentary film designed for children in 1946 for a British Ministry of Education film entitled "Instruments of the Orchestra". The piece begins with the full orchestra playing a sweeping, stately theme based on the Rondeau from Abdelazar composed by Henry Purcell in 1695. Britten then introduces each section of the orchestra: woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion and each play their own take on the theme. Next, Britten produces a

"Who's Who" of the full orchestra.

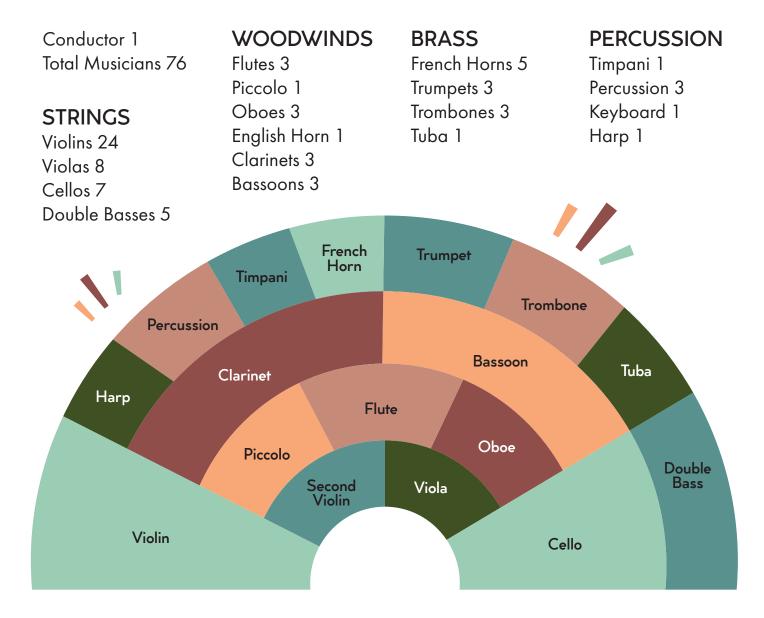
Want to hear what the Endless
Mountain Music Festival full symphony
orchestra sounds like before our
concert begins? Scan this QR code
with your smartphone's camera to hear
some of the incredible performances
we've had in the past!



All About the Orchestra

About the Orchestra

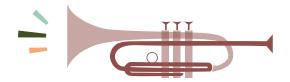
The symphony orchestra is the largest all musical groups, with as many as 100 players! It is divided into four musical families called strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. We will introduce you to these families later in the music guide. Every instrument in the orchestra belongs to one of these families. In a symphony orchestra, the musical families are related to one another just like cousins, aunts, and uncles. The orchestra is a big family of instruments playing together. Below is an example of what a typical symphony orchestra looks like, and how the musicians are arranged on the orchestra floor!



History of the Orchestra

The symphony orchestra is a type of music ensemble that has lasted and evolved throughout centuries. People have been putting instruments together in various combinations forever, but it wasn't until about 400 years ago that musicians started forming combinations that would eventually turn into the modern orchestra.

In the old days, when musicians got together to play, they used whatever instruments were around. In the 1500s, or the Renaissance, the word "consort" was used to refer to a group of instrumentalists making music together, or, "in concert".



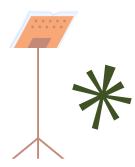
In the 1800s, the strings became more important than ever. Brass, woodwind and percussion instruments became more advanced, allowing composers to write more difficult parts. In the late 1800s, the orchestra reached the size and proportions we know today.



This all led us to the symphony orchestra that we know and love today!



Around 1600 in Italy, the composer Claudio Monteverdi changed that. He knew exactly which instruments and sounds he wanted, and he specified this in his music.



The 20th century was a century of freedom and experimentation with the orchestra. It was also a time of superstar conductors, as the conductor has more and more responsibility.

Meet the Instrument Families

Did you know that instruments are divided into groups called Families? There are 4 Instrument Families in a symphony orchestra. The instruments in each family share certain characteristics, such as their shape, what material they are made of, and how they are played. Let's meet the Instrument Families!

String Family

These family members:

- Have a similar shape, are made of wood, and come in different sizes.
- Have strings stretched across the front.
- Make their sound by drawing a bow across the strings, or by pulling the strings with your fingers.





Woodwind Family

These family members:

- Have a similar shape—long tubes that you blow air into.
- Originally, all woodwinds were made of wood. Today, the modern flute is made of metal and other woodwinds have some metal parts.
- All woodwinds except the flute & piccolo use a small piece of wood called a reed. The reed vibrates and produces sound when you blow across it.

Meet the Instrument Families (continued)

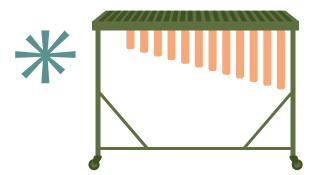
Brass Family

These family members:

- Are all made of long brass tubes curled up into different shapes.
- Have cup-shaped mouthpieces that you buzz into to create sound.
- All have a bell—that's the flared end of the brass tube. That's where the sound comes.







Percussion Family

These family members:

- Make sounds when they are hit, shaken, scraped, or rubbed.
- Many are played by striking the instrument with a stick or mallet.
- Most are used to keep the rhythm and to create special sounds.

Try to find all of the words in the word bank below!

Α	В	D	А	D	M	Е	Υ		S	Е		С
R	R	F	F	С	D	Ι	Z	Т	U	Z	U	Т
G	Α	R	0		U	Α	R	G	Е	Τ	>	N
S	S	Е	R	Α	Р	I	J	Е	L	В	Z	I
Υ	S	Е	Т	M	Z	F	S		С	R	Τ	W
M	R	Y		G	Α	S	0	O	D		A	Α
Р	L	Т	S	V	В	M	M	В		Τ	Р	D
Н	I	Α	S	Т	Α	S	D	K	0	Τ	Е	S
0	U	Е		Z	S	Т	R	J	M	Е	Z	Т
N	Υ	Z	M	R	Т	Z	Е		R	Z	Т	Е
Υ	Е	С	0	M	Р	0	S		Т	I	0	N
Α	R	Е		Т	Е	Р	R	Y	W	Q	Е	R
Α	Т	R	0	Т	С	U	D	N	0	С	Y	Т



★ Word Bank ★



Brass Instrument Fugue

Britten Fortissimo Composition

Timpani Oboe Conductor

Strings Symphony Reed

Listening Notes: "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra"

The "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" is played by the entire orchestra at the beginning, and then is scored for individual sections at a time. After this introduction to the different families of the orchestra, there is a more in-depth look at the different instrument families with variations on the theme played by individual instruments. Although it starts by featuring the piccolo and flutes, the underlying harmonic structure is maintained by the harp and strings.

Each member of the woodwind family is then introduced, highlighting the unique sound of each instrument. This format is then copied by the strings, and then by the brass and percussion. After the whole orchestra has given their intrerpretation, it is reassembled using an original fugue which starts with the piccolo, followed in by all the woodwinds, strings, brass and percussion. Once everyone has entered, the brass are re-introduced with Purcell's original melody while the rest continue the fugue theme until the piece finally comes to an end after building up to a fortissimo² finish.

Follow along as you watch and listen to this performance. Each instrument in each section is brought into the theme! The piece is 16 minutes and 48 seconds long. It's worth listening and watching a few times through, to see how each section shines. Close your eyes, and try to recognize each instrument joining in on each variation. Benjamin Britten wrote this piece specifically for students to listen, learn and be inspired to play!

Listen to the piece by scanning this QR code!

^{2.} Fortissimo – to play very loudly.

Can you fill in the blanks using the word bank below?

It's another great year at th	ne Endless Mountain N	Ausic Festival! Ope	ning night at
Mansfield University featur	res a piece by	, C	alled "The Young
Person's Guide to the Orch	nestra". The piece begi	ns with the full orch	nestra, and then
Britten introduces each sec	tion of the orchestra: _		, brass, strings, and
percussion and each play	their own take on the t	heme. Can you red	cognize each
instrumentv	vhen they are playing?	Our first POPS co	ncert this year at
the PA Grand Canyon Reg	ional Airport will featu	ıre Corky Siegel, B	lues Harmonica,
and the orchestra! One of	the wonderful parts ab	oout the Endless M	ountain Music
Festival, is that there is	for everyone to	enjoy! Join us at	the Penn Wells
Hotel in Wellsboro, for one	e of our crowd favorite	Musi	cians, Bram
Wijnands. Do you like voc	al performances as we	ell as just	? Join us
at Mansfield University, Ste	eadman Theater, where	e Peggy Dettwiler	will lead a full
in song! Abbie	Gardner is also a singe	er, and she plays t	he slide guitar, also
known as the F	or our final	this season, c	don't forget about
"Corning POPS!", at the C	orning Civic Center Pla	aza Ice Rink, where	e you'll hear "Two
for the Road," featuring Ar	nthony Nunziata- direc	t from Nashville a	nd Broadway with
orchestra! Free for everyor	ne, it will be a concert	you won't want to	miss! There are so
many fun concerts to come	to each year, and do	n't forget – studen	t tickets are always
free!			
	Word Bar	nk: =	

Instrumental

Concert

Benjamin Britten

Dobro

Woodwind

Jazz

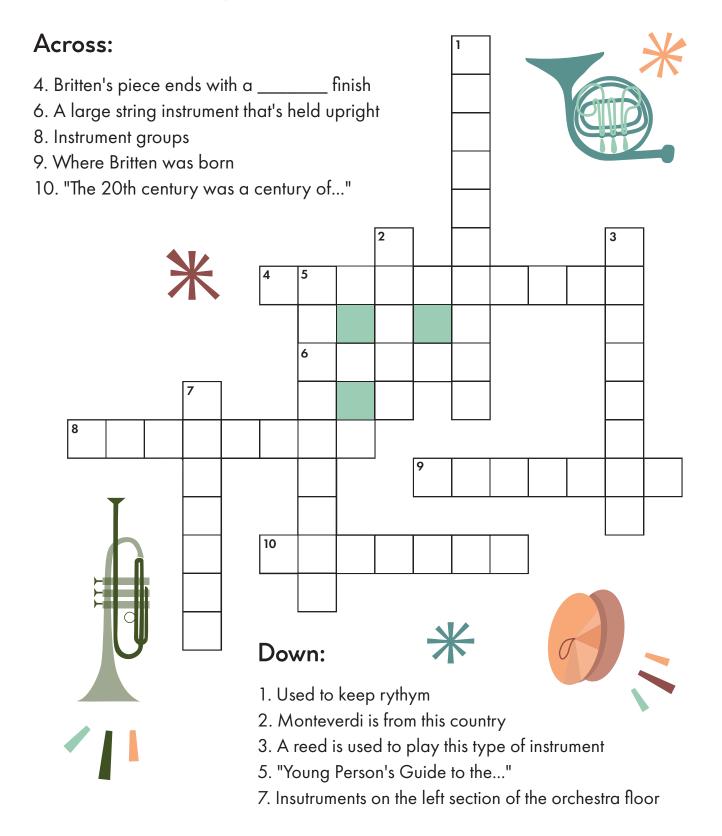
Family

Chorus

Music

Benjamin Britten & the Orchestra Crossword Puzzle

Use the rest of the music guide to find the answers!

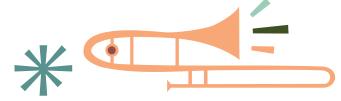


Tell Us What You Think!

Which concert did you go to?
What was your favorite part of the concert?
What was your favorite instrument in the orchestra?
What did you learn?

Tell us what you though by mailing this sheet to:

Endless Mountain Music Festival 130 Main Street Wellsboro, Pa. 16901

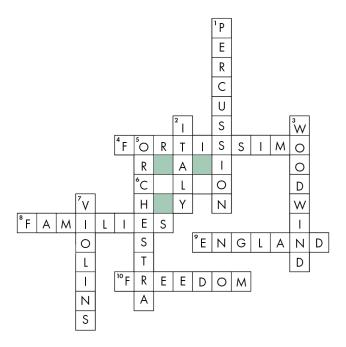


Answer Key

Fill in the Blank

It's another great year at the Endless Mountain Music Festival! Opening night at Mansfield University features a piece by <u>Benjamin Britten</u>, called "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra". The piece begins with the full orchestra, and then Britten introduces each section of the orchestra: <u>woodwind</u>, brass, strings, and percussion and each play their own take on the theme. Can you recognize each instrument ___family__ when they are playing? Our first POPS concert this year at the PA Grand Canyon Regional Airport will feature Corky Siegel, Blues Harmonica, and the orchestra! One of the wonderful parts about the Endless Mountain Music Festival, is that there is <u>music</u> for everyone to enjoy! Join us at the Penn Wells Hotel in Wellsboro, for one of our crowd favorite ____Jazz__ Musicians, Bram Wijnands. Do you like vocal performances as well as just <u>insutrumental</u>? Join us at Mansfield University, Steadman Theater, where Peggy Dettwiler will lead a full <u>chorus</u> in song! Abbie Gardner is also a singer, and she plays the slide guitar, also known as the <u>dobro</u>. For our final <u>concert</u> this season, don't forget about "Corning POPS!", at the Corning Civic Center Plaza Ice Rink, where you'll hear "Two for the Road," featuring Anthony Nunziata- direct from Nashville and Broadway with orchestra! Free for everyone, it will be a concert you won't want to miss! There are so many fun concerts to come to each year, and don't forget – student tickets are always free!

Crossword Puzzle



Wordsearch

Α	В	D	Α	D	М	Е	Υ		S	E	I	С
R	R	F	F	С	D	Н	Z	T	U	Z	С	Т
G	Α	R	0	I	U	A	R	G	Ш	Τ	٧	Z
S	S	Е	R	Α	Р		J	Ш	Ш	В	Z	I
Υ	S	Е	Т	M	Z	F	S	_	U	R	Т	W
M	R	Υ		G	Α	S	0	O	Д		Α	Α
Р	L	I	S	٧	В	М	X	В	-	Т	Р	D
Н	I	Α	S	Т	Α	S	D	K	0	Τ	Е	S
0	U	Е		Z	S	Т	R	\supset	Μ	Е	Z	T
Z	Υ	Z	Μ	R	Т	Z	Е	_	R	Ν	Т	Е
Υ	Е	С	0	М	Р	0	S	_	Т		0	Z
Α	R	Е	1	Т	Е	Р	R	Y	>	Q	Е	R
Α	Т	R	0	Т	С	U	D	Z	0	С	Υ	Т

Endless Mountain Music Festival



Artistic Director

Stephen Gunzenhauser

Created by Allison Rudy