An orchestra is a group of musicians who play instruments together. There are four groups of instruments (or families): strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Each family creates sound in a different and unique way. The bigger the instrument, the lower the sound.

**The Role of the Conductor (Maestro)**

- Conducting an orchestra is like musical “follow the leader”.
- The conductor uses hand movements or a stick called a “baton” to let the musicians know whether to play loud or soft (dynamics), fast or slow (tempo).
- All families of the orchestra follow the conductor in order to play together.
Families of Instruments

Strings
Violins and other string instruments make sound by vibrating a string. They are played by rubbing a bow across a string or plucking a string. They are all the same shape except for the harp. Can you name the instruments below?
Word Bank: violin, cello, double bass, harp

1. 
2. 
3. 
4.
Families of Instruments

Woodwinds

Woodwind instruments are played using “wind” or a vibrating column of air. All woodwinds use a reed except for the flute. In the beginning, woodwind instruments were all made of wood. Some are now made from metal or plastic. Can you name the instruments each student or group of students is playing?

Word Bank: bassoon, oboe, clarinet, flute

5. 

6. 

7. 

8. 
Families of Instruments

Brass

Brass instruments make sound when players vibrate (buzz) their lips into a mouthpiece. The mouthpiece is connected to a long metal tube which is curled up into different shapes and sizes and ends with a cone called the “bell”. Can you name the instruments below?

Word Bank: trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba

9. ____________________________ 10. ____________________________

11. ____________________________ 12. ____________________________

13. Bonus Question: The tubing for the French horn is about ________ feet.
Families of Instruments

Percussion

Percussion instruments are played by striking, scraping, or shaking. This family has the greatest number of different instruments. Can you name the instruments below?

Word Bank: snare drum, tambourine, triangle, orchestra bells, timpani

14. 

15. 

16. 

17. 

18. 

19. Bonus Question: What other percussion instruments can you name?
Orchestra Activity

Where the orchestra members sit... most of the time

Find the answers in the Mini-News!

20. What is the name of the orchestra in this photo? _____________________________

Fill in the Blank

Find the answers in the Mini-News!

21. There are _________ groups (families) of instruments in the orchestra.

22. The conductor uses a stick, called a _____________, to lead the orchestra.

23. Plucking a string or rubbing a bow across a string makes it _________________.

24. All woodwinds use a ______________, except for the flute, which is played by blowing across a hole.

25. Brass players _____________ their lips into a mouthpiece to play the instrument.

26. When the orchestra plays, the _____________ family, which is the largest family, is closest to the conductor.

Can you find this same photo somewhere else in the Music Van Mini-News?
How Music Benefits Your Student

- promotes social skills through team work
- increases capacity of memory
- develops creativity
- enhances mathematical ability
- boosts listening skills
- enhances coordination
- boosts self-esteem and performance skills
- teaches discipline
- exposes students to cultural history

…and is FUN!

Symphony Education Programs

Each year, the Santa Barbara Symphony provides more than 10,000 children in Santa Barbara County with high quality, equal-access music education through its Music Education Center: a pipeline of connected programs designed to support students every step along the way. From their first experience holding an instrument to applying for college, the Symphony’s Music Education Center is there. Through partnerships with school districts and other community organizations, the Santa Barbara Symphony’s Music Education Center empowers students in grades TK-12 to be at their best through music.

About the Music Van

The Music Van is the Santa Barbara Symphony’s mobile music classroom. For many kids, the Music Van provides their first opportunity to see, hear, and play a musical instrument. Docents and a professional musician introduce the orchestra and students try out all the instruments. It inspires students to try an instrument and discover self-expression through music.

To learn more about enrolling your child in a music program, please contact:

Marie Hébert
Education Programs Manager
Santa Barbara Symphony
805-898-1417
Education@TheSymphony.org

You can also visit our website:
https://thesymphony.org/education/education-programs-overview/

Every year, the Music Van visits more than 2,200 students across more than 40 schools in Santa Barbara County!

Proud Sponsor of the Music Van!

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Special thanks to Marilynn Sullivan (sponsor) & Mary Jane Cooper (Music Van Volunteer Coordinator) for their continued support of the Santa Barbara Symphony’s Music Van program.
Información para Padres

Cómo la Música Beneficia a tu Estudiante

- promueve las habilidades sociales a través del trabajo en equipo
- mejora la capacidad de memoria
- desarrolla la creatividad
- mejora la capacidad matemática
- aumenta las habilidades de escuchar
- mejora la coordinación
- aumenta la autoestima y las habilidades de rendimiento
- enseña disciplina
- expone a los estudiantes a la historia cultural
... y es divertido!

¡Cada año, Music Van visita a más de 2,200 estudiantes en más de 40 escuelas en el condado de Santa Bárbara!

Programas de Educación de la Sinfónia

Cada año, la Santa Barbara Symphony brinda a más de 10,000 niños en el Condado de Santa Bárbara una educación musical de alta calidad y acceso equitativo a través de su Centro de educación musical: un conjunto de programas conectados diseñados para apoyar a los estudiantes en cada paso del camino. Desde su primera experiencia con un instrumento para postularse a la universidad, el Symphony’s Music Education Center está allí. A través de asociaciones con distritos escolares y otras organizaciones comunitarias, el Centro de Educación Musical de Santa Barbara Symphony capacita a los estudiantes en los grados TK-12 para estar a su mejor nivel a través de la música.

Información Sobre la Music Van

The Music Van es el aula de música móvil de Santa Barbara Symphony. Para muchos niños, Music Van ofrece su primera oportunidad para ver, escuchar y tocar un instrumento musical. Docents y un músico profesional presentan la orquesta y los estudiantes prueban todos los instrumentos. Inspira a los estudiantes a probar un instrumento y descubrir la autoexpresión a través de la música.

Para obtener más información sobre cómo inscribir a su hijo en un programa de música, comuníquese con:

Marie Hébert
Education Programs Manager
Santa Barbara Symphony
805-898-1417
Education@TheSymphony.org

También puede visitar nuestro sitio web: https://thesymphony.org/education/education-programs-overview/

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