

Orchestral Instrument Assignment

1. Each student must study an instrument from one of the four "families" of orchestral instruments (brass, woodwind, strings, and percussion).

The instrument chosen for investigation should be one you're unfamiliar with (don't study the trumpet if you already know all about the trumpet, for example).

2. For the instrument selected for investigation, each student should then work by themselves, to find out:

- How the instrument is constructed
- How the instrument makes a sound (how it works)
- How the instrument is played (how a musician gets it to work)
- What different types of the instrument there are (and what other instruments are in the same family)
- The instrument's **pitch** range (how high and low it can play)
- The instrument's **dynamic** range (how loud and soft it can play, relative to most other instruments)
- A description of the instrument's tone (the "character" of its sound)
- What pieces of music by what composers features the instrument
- How the instrument compares with two other instruments from different families.

3. Each above dot point in step 2 should form a subheading of your assignment. You have this week's time in class to work on this task.

Your assignment may be completed in any reasonable and suitable format.

4. Date due: **TBA**.