

# MUSIC IN THE MOVIES

Watch my clip on the Doreen PS YouTube channel "Harry Potter & the Musical Instruments": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWb2jSySVrM>

Do you have favourite film music? I really like *Hedwig's Theme* from the Harry Potter movies, which was composed by John Williams. It's a bit unusual and spooky, and also funny, like the character of Harry Potter himself. Film music is often played by a symphony orchestra to make the action come alive on the screen.

There's nearly 100 musicians in a full orchestra, with four different kinds of instrument families. The chart below shows each group of instruments in a different colour.



# THE STRING FAMILY

There are four different kinds of string instruments in the orchestra, and they make up the biggest section of the orchestra.

From highest to lowest they are: violin, viola, cello and double bass.

The sound is made by pulling a horse-hair bow across the strings, which vibrate.

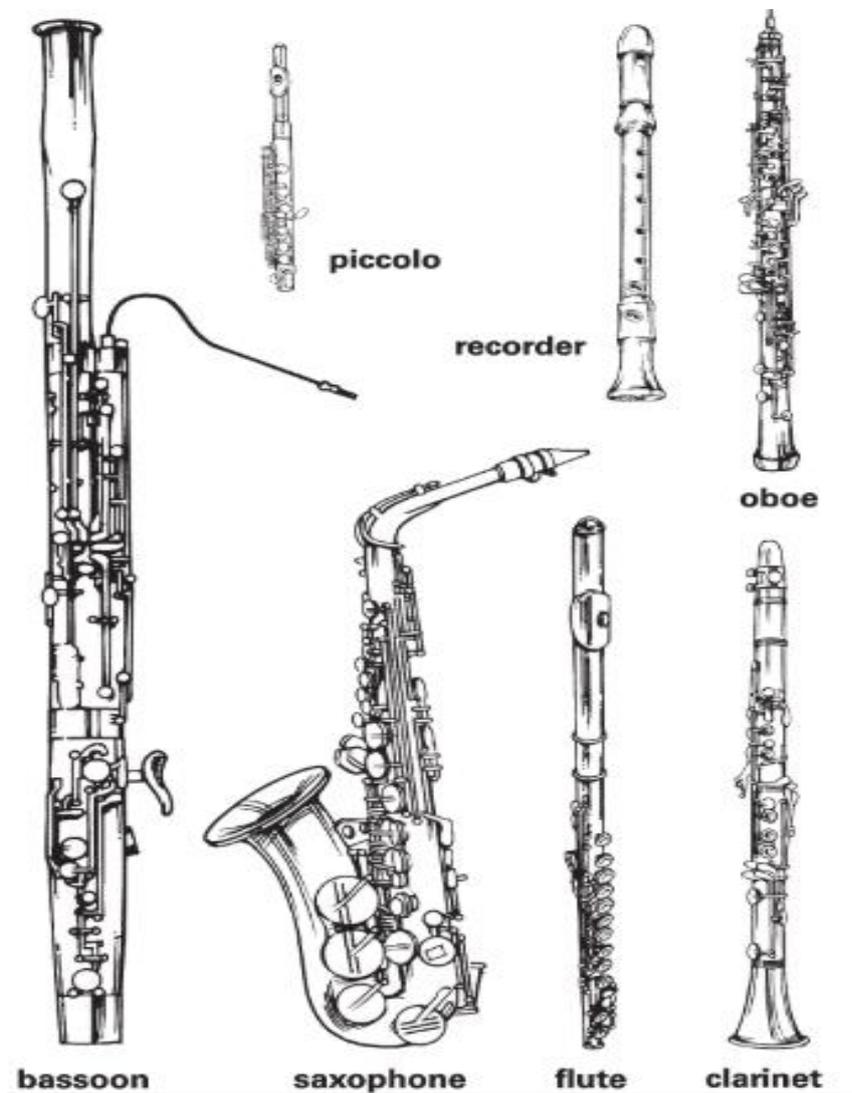


# THE WOODWIND FAMILY

The next biggest section of the orchestra is the woodwind section.

The sound is made by blowing air through a mouthpiece and into the tube of the instrument. The mouthpiece has a reed made out of dried cane plant that is carved very finely to make a sound, a bit like the way sound can be made by folding a leaf in half and blowing into it.

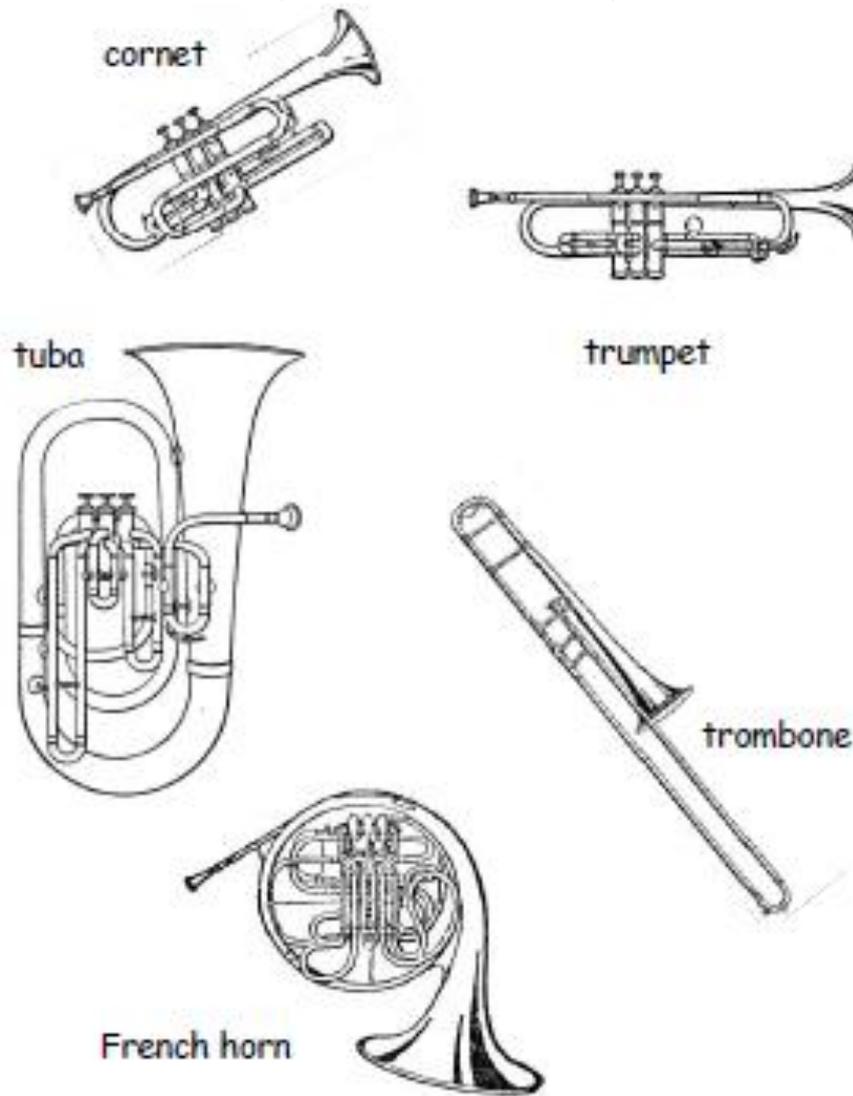
From highest to lowest they are: piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, and bassoon.



# THE BRASS FAMILY

Brass instruments are made of metal which helps them produce a big sound. Like the woodwind instruments, sound is produced by air being blown into a mouthpiece. But unlike the woodwind, there's no need to vibrate through.

From highest to lowest they are: cornet, trumpet, trombone, French

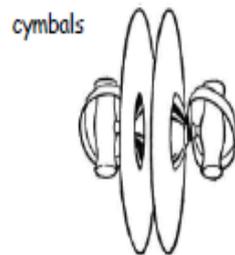
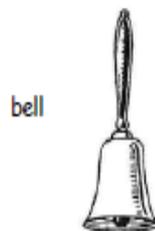


horn

# THE PERCUSSION FAMILY

Percussion are instruments that you hit with either your hands or a mallet to produce the sound. There are many big and small instruments in this group, some of these are: drums, cymbals, gongs, xylophones and marimbas.

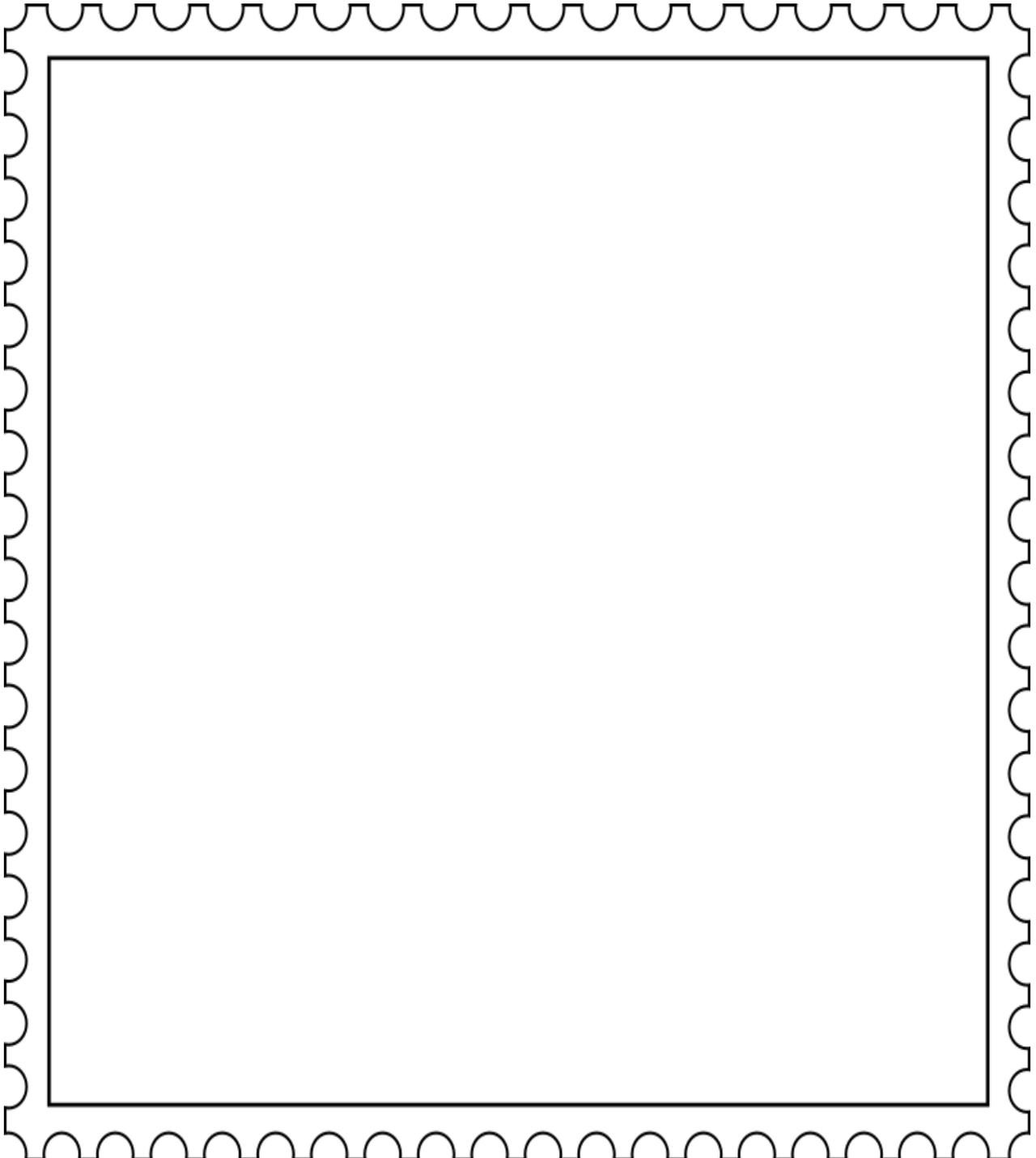
The piano is also considered a percussion instrument because you push the keys down to make a sound. The keys hit the strings like hitting a xylophone. But because the piano has strings it is also considered a string instrument.



# MY FAVOURITE MOVIE MUSIC

Think about the music in one of your favourite movies. Draw a picture of what it sounds like, such as what instruments are in it or use colour and shape to show what kind of mood the music creates.

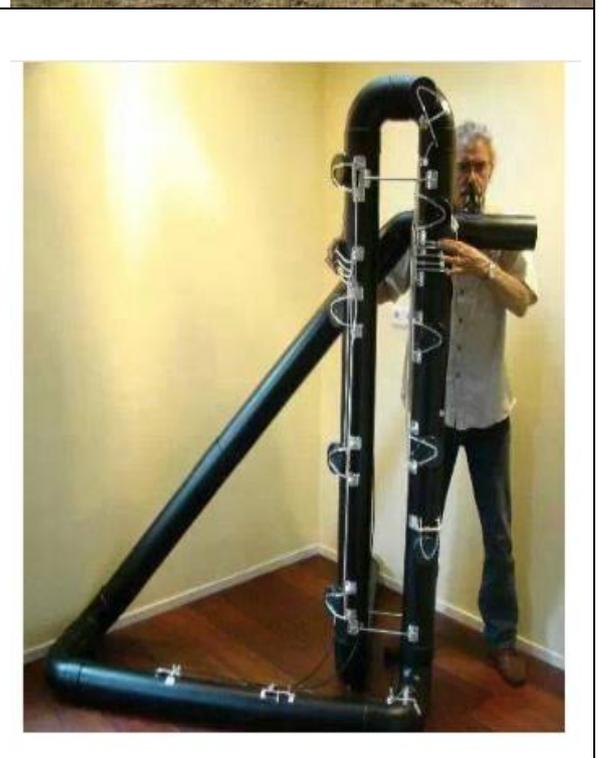
Name of movie: \_\_\_\_\_



Most musical instruments around the world fall into one of the four categories of string, wind, brass or percussion. Some are hybrids of two or more, like the piano. Throughout history musical instruments have been invented that either stay with us today, like the violin whose design is about 400 years old, or get almost completely forgotten.

Here are a few examples of some unusual instruments that are no longer played much today.

Can you guess how their sound is produced by looking at them?



# MY MUSICAL INVENTION

Have a go at designing your own musical instrument. Think about combining two types of instrument, such as percussion and wind, and guess what kind of sounds you might produce from such an instrument. Draw a design, it can be as fantastical as you like. Don't forget to give it a name!

