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## Which instrument do you want to play?

**Flute** – The flute is a woodwind instrument that does not use a reed. The sound is produced by the performer blowing across an opening in what is called the headjoint. The flute is an important part of symphony orchestras and concert bands, but can also be heard as a solo instrument or in jazz ensembles.

**Trumpet** – The trumpet is a brass instrument that produces a sound by buzzing ones lips into a metal mouthpiece. It has 3 valves that can be used to help change the pitch, and is the highest instrument in the brass family. Trumpets are an essential part of symphony orchestras, concert bands, and jazz ensembles.

Violin – The violin is the highest member of the string family. It is held under the chin and played by drawing a bow across the strings in order to produce a sound. Pitches are changed by moving ones fingers to press different locations on the strings. Violins are often the most featured instrument in orchestras.

Clarinet – The clarinet is a woodwind instrument that produces sound by using a single wooden reed. It has a warm, mellow sound and displays the widest pitch range of any woodwind instrument. The clarinet is an important part of symphony orchestras and concert bands, but can also be heard as a solo instrument or in jazz ensembles.

**Trombone** – The trombone is a brass instrument that produces a sound by buzzing ones lips into a metal mouthpiece. It has a slide that can be moved to different positions to help change the pitch, and plays in a lower register than the trumpet. Trombones are an essential part of symphony orchestras, concert bands, and jazz ensembles.

Viola – The viola has a slightly lower, deeper tone than the violin. It is also held under the chin, and played by drawing a bow across the strings to produce a sound. Pitches are changed by moving ones fingers to press different locations on the strings. Violas often provide depth to the string section of the orchestra, but can also be featured.

Saxophone – The saxophone produces sound by using a single wooden reed. It is considered a woodwind instrument even though it is made out of brass. Saxophones have a bright, powerful sound and are most known for their use in jazz, although they are also used as part of a concert band.

**Percussion** – Percussion instruments come in a wide variety of styles and uses. They are mostly used to enhance rhythm and tone color in all different types of music, but certain types can also play melodies. Most students will start out on a snare drum, bell set, or both, depending on what their school decides.

Cello – The cello has an even deeper, lower pitched sound than the violin or viola, and is much larger. It also uses a bow to produce sound, but is played from a seated position. Pitches are changed by moving ones fingers to press different locations on the strings. Cellos are an essential part of the orchestra.









