













Instruments of the Orchestra

Woodwind

Instrument	Notes	Clefs used	Written Range	Transposing?	Sounding pitch	Common Variants
Flute	No reed.	Treble clef		No		Piccolo - sounds an octave higher than written
Oboe	Double Reed	Treble clef		No		Cor Anglais - sounds a 5th lower than written
Clarinet	Single Reed. N.B. the clarinet can play alto parts, as well as treble.	Treble clef		Clarinet in B flat - sounds a Major 2nd lower		(E flat clarinet)
				Clarinet in A - sounds a Minor 3rd lower		
Bassoon	Double Reed	Bass and tenor clefs		No		(Double Bassoon)





Instruments of the Orchestra

Brass

Instrument	Notes	Clefs Used	Written Range	Transposing?	Sounding pitch	Common Variants
French Horn in F	Horns are often found in orchestral scores with other transpositions	Treble clef (Bass clef for low notes)		Yes		
Trumpet in B flat	Sometimes written in other transpositions	Treble clef		Yes		
Tenor Trombone		Bass and tenor clefs		No		Bass Trombone (also non-transposing) - range is slightly lower
Tuba		Bass clef		No		

Instruments of the Orchestra

Strings

Instrument	Notes	Clefs Used	Written Range	Transposing?	Sounding pitch	Common Variants
Violin	The are two sections of violins in an orchestra - 1sts and 2nds	Treble clef		No		
Viola		Alto clef		No		
Cello	Although the cello often plays the bass line, it is also comfortable in the tenor range	Bass and tenor clefs		No		
Double Bass		Bass clef		Yes - sounds an octave lower than written	