INSTRUMENTATION

(The instruments you can hear and what they are doing – sometimes called 'orchestration')

Instrumental Ensembles

- Solo - 1 performer
- Duet - 2 performers
- Trio - 3 performers
- Quartet - 4 performers

Types Of Voices

Soprano	(Female)	HIGH
Treble	(Boy)	
Alto	(Female)	
Countertenor	(Male Alto)	
Tenor	(Male)	
Bass	(Male)	LOW

*SATB Choir: Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Bass

Instruments Of The Orchestra

TIMPANI
TRUMPET TROMBONE TUBA
PERCUSSION
CLARINET BASSOON
HARP
HORN
PIANO
FLUTE OBOE
VIOLIN II
VIOLA
BASS
VIOLIN I CONDUCTOR CELLO

STRINGS WOODWINDS HARP/PIANO BRASS PERCUSSION

Rock & Pop Instruments

Electric Guitar   Acoustic Guitar   Singers

Bass Guitar   Keyboard / Synthesizer

Drum Kit   Saxophone   Trumpet
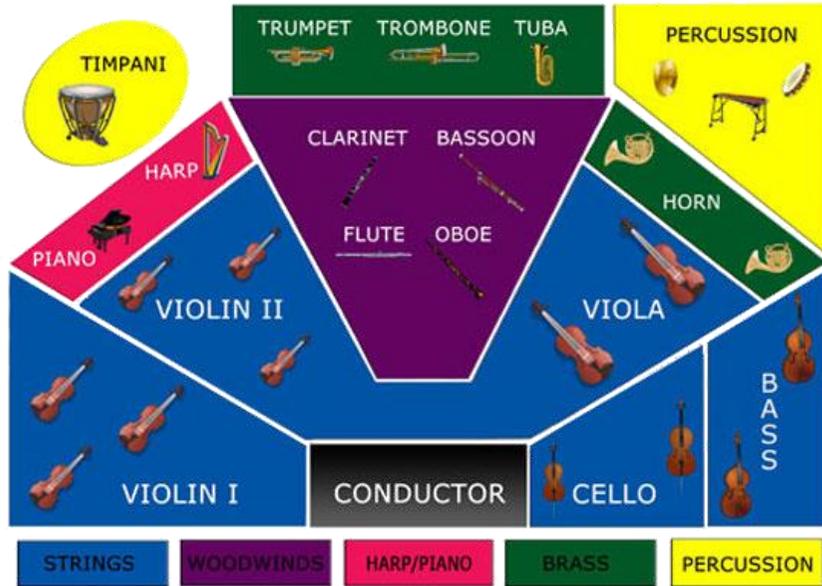
*Lead instrument = Often an electric guitar ('lead guitar'). Plays melody or harmonises with the singer & often has a solo.

Jazz Instruments

Rhythm Section
Backup / Accompaniment for the melody. Sometimes still improvise and get solos.

*The Groove: Double Bass
*The Beat: Drum Kit
*The Chords: Piano
    (Sometimes Guitar)

Front Line Instruments
Instruments that play melodies / improvise. Stand in front of the rhythm section.

*Trumpet
*Trombone
*Saxophone

Soprano   Alto   Tenor
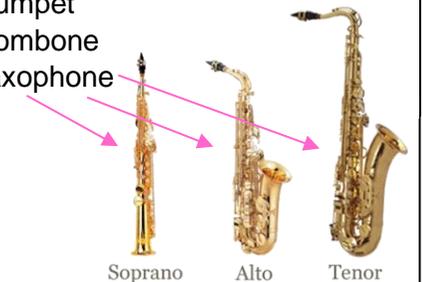
Musical Periods

Baroque Period (1600-1750)
*Small orchestra - Mostly Strings + Basso Continuo
*Basso Continuo - The part given to instruments playing the bass line & chords accompanying the melody. (Harpsichord, bass viol, organ, lute…)

Classical Period (1750-1810)
*Basso Continuo gradually stopped being used
*Pianoforte introduced & Clarinet invented
*String Quartet very popular (Violin x2, Viola, Cello)

Romantic Period (1810-1910)
*Piano music very popular (Instrument further improved)
*Large Orchestra
*Tone / construction of instruments improved

Instrumental Techniques - The way you play / use an instrument.

Some Examples

String Instruments
*Pizzicato (Pizz.) - Plucking the strings
*Arco / Bowed - Using a bow on the strings
*Double Stopping - Playing two strings at the same time

String & Brass Instruments
*Con Sordino (Con Sord.) - Playing with a mute (changes the sound produced)
*Tremolo - Quickly repeating the same note ('trembling')

Voices
*Falsetto - A technique used by men to sing at a much higher pitch

Voices, Brass, Woodwind and String Instruments
*Vibrato – Make the note waver up and down to add expression

Other Vocal Terms

Acapella
Singing without any accompanying instruments.

Chorus
Music written for a choir.

Backing Vocals
Sing harmonies / support the lead singer.