Instruments of the Orchestra
Flash Cards

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The orchestra, or symphony orchestra, is an ensemble made up mainly of bowed stringed, percussion, wind, and brass instruments.

The size of an orchestra may vary from fifty to one hundred musicians, depending on the orchestra or the music being played.
A brass instrument is played by blowing or buzzing through a mouthpiece to change the pitch, or note.

They are not always made of brass but are always metal.

Brass instruments usually use valves to change the pitch, though the trombone uses a slide.
Trumpet

A trumpet is a brass instrument used mainly in classical and jazz music.

The trumpet is played by blowing into the mouthpiece and making a "buzzing" sound. There are three keys called valves that the player can press to change the pitch.
Piccolo

The piccolo is the smallest and highest pitched type of flute.

It plays one octave higher than the standard flute.
The Violin is the highest member of the string family and has four strings.

In the orchestra, the violins are divided into two sections - First Violins, and Second Violins. They will usually have different music to play.
Timpani (or kettle drums) are drums that are usually made out of large bowls of copper.

The Timpani are tuned drums, and are tuned to specific musical notes before the piece begins using a pedal.