

ORCHESTRATION NOTES – PART 2

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ORCHESTRAL GROUPS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

All instruments under each heading are listed in the order in which they appear on a score. Each bullet point represents one staff on a score. This is NOT a definitive list, because much of the grouping depends on what the piece requires – so these lists must not be taken as the only lists, or indeed the only versions of these lists; they are merely a *guide*.

When I list wind instruments, I mean there to be one player per part. When I list timpani, a the number of players will depend on the number of timpani, although only HUGE orchestrations should require more than, say, four timpani and one player. As for string parts, if the piece is being written for a specific orchestra, the number of players in each section should be taken into account. Ballpark ‘standard’ figures (as a guide) are sixteen players in each of Violin I and II, ten of each of Viola and Violoncello, and eight of Double Bass.

STRING ORCHESTRA

(5 parts, 5 staves)

- Violin I
- Violin II
- Viola
- Violoncello
- Double Bass

‘SMALL’ OR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

(11 parts, 11 staves)

- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Bassoon
- Trumpet
- 2 Timpani
- Violin I
- Violin II
- Viola
- Violoncello
- Double Bass

REGULAR ORCHESTRA

(25 parts, 17 – 21 staves)

- Flutes I & II (II may swap to piccolo, in which case the part is written on a separate staff)
- Oboes I & II (II may swap to cor anglais, see flutes above)
- Clarinets I & II (II may swap to bass clarinet, see flutes above)
- Bassoons I & II (II may swap to double bassoon, see flutes above)
- Horns I & II
- Horns III & IV
- Trumpets I & II
- Tenor Trombones I & II
- Bass Trombone
- Tuba

- 3 Timpani
- Other percussion
- Violin I
- Violin II
- Viola
- Violoncello
- Double Bass

LARGE ORCHESTRA

(32 parts, 26 staves)

- Flutes I & II
- Flute III or Piccolo
- Oboes I & II
- Oboe III or Cor Anglais
- Clarinets I & II
- Clarinet III or Bass Clarinet
- Bassoons I & II
- Bassoon III or Double Bassoon
- Horns I & II
- Horns III & IV
- Trumpets I & II
- Trumpet III
- Tenor Trombones I & II
- Bass Trombone
- Tuba
- Timpani
- Other Percussion
- Piano (2 staves)
- Harp (2 staves)
- Violin I
- Violin II
- Viola
- Violoncello
- Double Bass

VAST ORCHESTRA (for the ambitious only!)

(50 parts, 45 staves)

- Flutes I & II
- Flute III
- Piccolo
- Oboes I & II
- Oboe III
- Cor Anglais
- Clarinets I & II
- Clarinet III
- Bass Clarinet
- Bassoons I & II
- Bassoon III
- Double Bassoon
- Horns I & II
- Horns III & IV
- Horns V & VI
- Horns VII & VIII
- Trumpets I & II
- Trumpets III & IV
- Tenor Trombones I & II
- Tenor Trombone III
- Bass Trombone
- Tuba
- Timpani
- Other percussion

- Celesta (2 staves)
- Piano (2 staves)
- Harp I (2 staves)
- Harp II (2 staves)
- Harp III (2 staves)
- Harp IV (2 staves)
- Violin Ia
- Violin Ib
- Violin IIa
- Violin IIb
- Viola I
- Viola II
- Cello I
- Cello II
- Double Bass

INSTRUMENT NAMES

ENGLISH	ITALIAN	FRENCH	GERMAN
Flute	Flauto	Flûte	Flöte
Piccolo	Flauto Piccolo	Petite Flûte Piccolo	Kleine Flöte
Oboe Hautboy (<i>older</i>)	Oboe	Hautbois	Oboe Hoboe (<i>old</i>)
Cor Anglais English Horn (<i>rare</i>)	Corno Inglese	Cor Anglais	Englisches Horn
Clarinet	Clarinetto	Clarinette	Klarinette Clarinette (<i>obsolete</i>)
Bass Clarinet	Clarinetto Basso	Clarinette basse	Bassklarinette Baßklarinette (<i>obsolete</i>)
Bassoon	Fagotto	Basson	Fagott
Double Bassoon	Contrafagotto	Contrebasson	Kontrafagott Contrafagott (<i>obsolete</i>)
Horn French Horn	Corno	Cor	Horn
Trumpet	Tromba	Trompette	Trompete
Trombone	Trombone	Trombone	Posaune
Tuba	Tuba	Tuba	Tuba
Timpani Kettledrum	Timpani	Timbales	Pauken
Bass Drum	Gran Cassa	Grosse Caisse	Große Trommel
Cymbals	Piatti Cinelli (<i>old</i>)	Cymbales	Becken
Sidedrum	Tamburo militare	Tambour militaire	Kleine Trommel
Triangle	Triangolo	Triangle	Triangel
Tambourine	Tamburino	Tambour de Basque Tambourin (<i>not found in scores</i>)	Schellentrommel
Tenor Drum	Tamburo rullante	Caisse roulante	Rührtrommel
Glockenspiel	Campanette	Carillon Glockenspiel	Glockenspiel
Xylophone	Xilofono Silofono	Xylophone	Xylophon
Celesta	Celesta	Célesta	Celeste
Bells	Campanelle	Cloches	Glocken
Harp	Arpa	Harpe	Harfe
Violin	Violino	Violon	Geige Violine
Viola	Viola	Alto	Bratsche Viola
Violoncello	Violoncello	Violoncelle	Violoncello
Double Bass	Contrabasso	Contrebasse	Kontrabass Kontrabass (<i>obsolete</i>)