

FW Education
SO Programs

KINDERCONCERTS

Puzzle Pieces: An
Exploration of
the Orchestra

STUDY GUIDE

2022-2023

For questions email education@fwsymphony.org | www.fwsymphony.org

DUELING DYNAMICS:

To make music more exciting sometimes composers change the volume of the music they are composing. The word for describing if music is loud, soft, or somewhere in between is DYNAMICS.

1. For loud music, musicians use the word *forte*. Forte is the Italian word for loud. A fancy letter *f* tells musicians to play loudly, or at a forte dynamic level.
2. Have your students make a forte flashcard using the attached templates.
3. They can practice their forte dynamic level by saying the word “forte” in a loud voice.
4. For quiet music, musicians use the word *piano*. Piano means soft in Italian. A fancy letter *p* tells musicians to play quietly, or at a piano dynamic level.
5. Have your students make a forte flashcard using the attached templates.
6. They can practice their piano dynamic level by saying the word “piano” in a soft voice.
7. Play a few musical examples that have dynamic contrast and let your students hold up the correct flashcard to show what dynamic the music is being played.

MUSICAL CONVERSATIONS:

Just like when you are talking with your friends, musicians have a “conversation” to express their musical ideas between each other. Today we are going to learn how to use musical elements in our own conversations:

Musical Element	Emotion	Example
Dynamic: Soft	Whisper	“I have a SECRET”
Dynamic: Loud	Confident	“I KNOW the answer”
Tempo: Slow	Tired	“I’m SO sleepy”
Tempo: Fast	Excited	“I’ve missed YOU”
Pitch: Low	Sad	“I WISH it wasn’t raining”
Pitch: High	Playful	“Let’s go to the PARK”

1. Explain how using different musical elements like Dynamics, Tempo, or Pitch can change the meaning of a conversation.
2. Have the students come up with some of their own emotions or examples to help outline the six different musical elements.
3. Let your student’s practice these differences by letting them practice with imaginary phone calls with a partner.
4. Have a few partner pairs share how they used different musical elements to make deeper meaning in their conversation.

p

PIANO - SOFT

f

FORTE - LOUD

BEFORE THE CONCERT:

- After reviewing the instruments of the orchestra, ask students to draw a picture of their favorite instrument.
- Ask students to draw a picture of an original, made-up instrument. It can be a new string, wind, brass, or percussion instrument. The only restriction is that it must be clear in the drawing how the instrument is to be played.
- Have students draw pictures to illustrate the different pieces of music from the program.
- Practice special audience member skills. Ask students to practice maintaining complete silence for one minute. Before the minute of silence begins, tell students they will be listening for any sound they hear—sounds might include birds, kids laughing, a car passing by, or the ticking of the clock. After the minute of silence is over, ask students to draw a picture of what they heard.



DURING THE CONCERT:

- ◆ **ALWAYS** remain quiet during a performance.
- ◆ **BE** attentive and give the performers your attention.
 - ◆ Be **CONSIDERATE** of others.
 - ◆ **DO** not leave early, please.
- ◆ **ENTER** and **EXIT** in a quiet and organized fashion.
 - ◆ Expect a **FANTASTIC** performance!
- ◆ **GIVE** applause when the conductor enters.
- ◆ **CLAP** at the end of piece, instead of in between movements.
 - ◆ Whistling, yelling, or screaming are not appropriate.
 - ◆ **HAVE** a great time!

AFTER THE CONCERT:

- Have your students write a letter to the conductor and musicians telling them what they thought of the concert!
- Letters may be sent to:
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra
c/o Education
330 E. 4th Street
Suite 200
Fort Worth, TX 76102.
- As a class project, create a poster describing the experience of attending a symphony performance. Have each student contribute their own adjective or memory of the performance. Take a picture and share with us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram! **#fwso**

STRINGS

The string family is the largest section of the orchestra. String instruments are all made of wood. The bodies of the string instruments are hollow inside to allow sound to vibrate within them. The strings on the instrument are most often made of nylon and steel and are played by drawing a bow across them.

The **VIOLIN** is the smallest of the string instruments and can play the highest notes. You play the violin by resting it between your chin and left shoulder. Then you press down on the strings with your left hand to change the pitch, while your right hand moves the bow or plucks the strings.



The **VIOLA** is slightly larger than the violin and plays lower notes. The strings on a viola are also thicker. You play the viola the same way you do the violin.

The **CELLO** is much larger than the violin and the viola. You play it sitting down with the body of the cello between your knees and the neck of the instrument on your left shoulder. The body of the cello rests on the ground and is supported by a metal peg.



The **DOUBLE BASS** is the largest string instrument and plays the lowest notes. This instrument is so large that you have to stand up or sit on a tall stool to play it. Like the cello, the body of the instrument stands on the ground and is supported by a metal peg.

WOODWINDS

Woodwind instruments produce sound when players blow air into them. All of these instruments were originally made out of wood, which is why they are called woodwinds! Today, they are made of wood, metal, plastic, or some combination.

The **FLUTE** is made of metals such as silver, gold, or platinum. You play the flute by holding it sideways with both hands and blowing across a hole in the mouthpiece. You change notes by pressing down on round, metal buttons called keys.



The **OBOE** makes sound when the player blows air through a mouthpiece containing two cut pieces of bamboo that have been tied together called a *double reed*. You play the oboe by holding it upright and pressing down on the keys to change the pitch. The first oboist is also responsible for tuning the whole orchestra before each concert.

The **CLARINET** looks a lot like the oboe, except for the mouthpiece, which uses a single reed. You play the clarinet as you do an oboe, by holding it upright, blowing through the reed, and using your fingers to press the keys and change the pitch.



The **BASSOON** is the largest of the woodwind instruments. Like the oboe, the bassoon uses a double reed. You play the bassoon by holding it upright and blowing through the double reed. The air travels down a long pipe, then makes a U-turn, and goes out the top.

BRASS

Brass instruments got their name because they are made of brass! This family of instruments plays louder than any other in the orchestra. Brass instruments are long tubes that are bent into different shapes and widen and flare out at the end.

The **TRUMPET** is the smallest brass instrument and can play the highest notes of all the brass instruments. You play the trumpet by holding it horizontally, buzzing your lips into the mouthpiece, and pressing down the valves to change the pitch.



The **HORN** is a very long tube that is twisted and curled into an instrument about one foot wide. If you untwisted the tube, it would be 18 feet long! You play the horn by holding it with the bell curving downward and buzzing into the mouthpiece. Your left hand plays three valves. You can change the type of sound by the way you place your right hand in the bell.

The **TROMBONE** is the only brass instrument that does not use valves. Instead, the player moves a curved tube, called a *slide*, back and forth in order to change notes. You play the trombone by holding it horizontally, buzzing into the mouthpiece, and using your right hand to push or pull the slide.



The **TUBA** is the largest and lowest sounding instrument in the brass section. If you uncoiled it, it would be 35 feet long! You play the tuba sitting down with the instrument on your lap and the bell facing up. The you blow and buzz into the mouthpiece and use your hand to press down on the valves which changes the sound.

PERCUSSION

Percussion instruments include any instrument that makes a sound when it is hit, shaken, or scraped.

One of the most commonly used percussion instruments is the **TIMPANI**. They are also called kettledrums. Timpani are big copper pots with drumheads made of calfskin or plastic stretched over the top. The timpani are played by striking the covering with padded sticks called mallets. Timpani are tuned instruments, which means they can play different notes.



Other percussion instruments that are struck by a mallet or stick are the **SNARE DRUM, BASS DRUM, TRIANGLE, XYLOPHONE, GONG, and CHIMES**.

A few other percussion instruments are **CYMBALS, CASTANETS, MARACAS, and TAMBOURINE**.

The **PIANO** is also considered a percussion instrument. You make sound on the piano by pressing down on a key with your finger, which lifts a hammer inside the piano that then strikes a steel string.

