

NLO Shorts: An Introduction to the Orchestra



The String Family

Watch the NLO Shorts videos introducing the instruments of the orchestra. You can find them on the New London Orchestra YouTube channel, or on their website at bit.ly/NLOShorts. As you are watching the videos, answer the questions below. If you're unsure about spellings, turning on subtitles might help! Some keywords are given to guide your answers to some questions.

1. What is the highest instrument in the string family? [1]

2. Draw a diagram showing how the string section usually sit. [2]

3. Listen carefully to the extract from George Walker's *Lyric* (1:12). What is the time signature of this passage? [1]
4/4 | 3/4 | 12/8

4. Which instruments are in a string quartet? How many of each are there? [2]

5. Name two other chamber ensembles that strings often play in. [2]
Marching Band | Piano Trio | String Quartet | Wind Quintet | Symphonic Wind Band

Extension: You have been commissioned to write a waltz for a standard string chamber ensemble. Write a paragraph explaining which ensemble you would use, what the instruments in the ensemble are, and what their roles would be in the ensemble (for example, think about which instrument would play the melody, the bass line, and any other roles).