

NLO Shorts: An Introduction to the Orchestra



The Percussion

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!

1. Draw a diagram showing where the five main sections of the orchestra sit. [1]
2. What is the most common percussion instrument called? What is its range? (You can answer in note-names or by drawing a staff. Hint: use the YouTube subtitles if you're not sure which notes are being played!) [3]
3. Listen carefully to the extract from Julius Eastman's *Femenine* (1:44). How many different pitches does the vibraphonist play? [1]
4. How did Benjamin Britten achieve the sound of raindrops in *Noye's Fludde* (2:58)? [3]
5. Listen carefully to the extract from Stevie Wonder's *Superstition* (3:50). Name two percussion instruments played either by the drummer, or the backing singers. [2]

Extension: listen carefully to the fourth movement from Olivier Messiaen's *Et exspecto resurrectionem mortuorum* (<https://youtu.be/3f4qdJHatNM> 18:25–25:08). Do you like or dislike this music? Give at least three music-specific reasons justifying your answer.