

NLO Shorts: An Introduction to the Orchestra



The Bassoon

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. What is the lowest note on the bassoon? (Answer in note-names or by drawing a staff.) [1]

2. Describe how you make a double reed. [2]

3. What is the other instrument in the bassoon family? How does its pitch relate to the bassoon? [2]

4. Listen carefully to the extract from Giuseppe Verdi's *Requiem* (1:53). What is the time signature of this music? [1]

5. In the 17th century, which instrument did bassoons often play with? [1]

Extension: listen to the Augurs of Spring from Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* (<https://youtu.be/EkwqPJZe8ms> 4:04–7:13). This music is thought to represent celebratory pagan dance music. With reference to the musical elements, do you think Stravinsky successfully achieves this?