

NLO Shorts: An Introduction to the Orchestra



The Oboe

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 are the highest and lowest notes on the oboe? (Answer in note-names or by drawing a stave.) [2]
2. An oboist has to do two things to make a sound on their instrument: describe what they have to do. [2]
Reeds | Valves | Mouthpiece | Keys | Cane | Strings | Fingers
3. Listen carefully to the extract from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Symphony No. 29* (1:12). "There are lots of dotted rhythms." True or false? [1]
4. Is a Cor Anglais higher or lower in pitch than an oboe? [1]
5. Listen carefully to the extract from Ruth Gipps's *Symphony No. 4* (2:13). Describe the texture. [1]
Monophonic | Polyphonic | Melody & Accompaniment | Homophonic

Extension: Research the history of William Grant Still's *Symphony No. 1* and write a short essay about what you have found. You might like to consider Grant Still's dates (when he was born & died), when this piece was written, and why it has the subtitle "Afro-American".