

NLO Shorts: An Introduction to the Orchestra



The Violin

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. How many sections of violins are there in a modern orchestra? [1]
2. Listen carefully to the extract from Richard Wagner's *Prelude to Die Meistersinger* (0:36). What might be a suitable dynamic marking for this music? [1]
Piano | *Mezzo Piano* | *Forte* | *Pianissimo*
3. Which notes are the four strings of a violin tuned to? (You can answer in note-names or by drawing a stave. Hint: use the YouTube subtitles if you're not sure which notes are being played!) [1]
4. Who is the leader of an orchestra and what do they do? [2]
5. Listen carefully to the extract from the *Preludio* to Johann Sebastian Bach's *Partita No. 3* (2:35). What is the time signature of this music? [1]
4/4 | 3/4 | 6/8

Extension: Listen to the first movement from Grażyna Bacewicz's *Concerto for String Orchestra* (<https://youtu.be/OicWbBto2jo>). A concerto is a piece of music that shows off an individual player or ensemble. In light of this, do you think *Concerto for String Orchestra* is an appropriate title? Justify your answer using music-specific language.