

NLO Shorts: An Introduction to the Orchestra



The Cello

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 role does the cello usually play in the texture? [1]
2. What notes are the four strings of a cello tuned to? (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!) [1]
3. Listen carefully to the extract from Igor Stravinsky's *The Firebird* (1:28). What technique does the cellist use? Give two adjectives to describe the resulting timbre. [2]
4. How do *sul ponticello* and *sul tasto* differ physically from normal playing? [2]
5. Listen carefully to the *Prelude* from Johann Sebastian Bach's *Cello Suite No. 1* (2:03). Is this music in a major or minor key? [1]

Extension: Listen carefully to the opening section from the second movement of Florence Price's *String Quartet in G Major* (<https://youtu.be/FHFyiNLWCjc> 0:00–2:00). Do you like or dislike this music? Give at least three music-specific reasons to justify your decision.