Thesaurus of Orchestral Instruments

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Introduction

The classical orchestra has been at the heart of the musical development in the western world for over 500 hundred years now, and has been the main means of expression for some of the greatest artists who have ever lived. Musicologists define the orchestra as a musical ensemble whose core components consist of string instruments with more than one player playing each part (Burkholder, 2010). However, since the orchestra’s inception as we now know it in the late 15th century, it has consisted of a legion of distinct instruments, used to express the ever-changing styles of music throughout history (Burkholder, 2010). As time has progressed to the modern era however, some instruments—like the violin—have changed only minutely, and still remain a major component of any orchestra. However, others—such as the Oboe d’amore—are all but extinct, or have otherwise evolved into their modern predecessors with the advent of novel technologies.

With such a plethora of different instruments having existed throughout the life of the orchestra, musicians at all levels are presented with a tremendous task when attempting to identify certain instruments, in order to understand their uses, histories, and capabilities. Therefore, musicians will find the Thesaurus of Orchestral Instruments extremely helpful in easily identifying the major instruments of the orchestra for the purposes of composing, arranging, transcribing, and historical study.

However, before proceeding to the thesaurus itself, it should be strongly noted that this thesaurus has been constructed for the purposes of university-level students studying music. Individuals who are only beginning their studies in music, and therefore may not have a firm understanding of basic musical terminology or principles, may find this thesaurus to be unhelpful or confusing. Finally, only those more obscure instruments, which one may not commonly encounter, will include detailed descriptions within the Scope Notes, as it would be unnecessary for more common instruments to be defined.
Scope and Principles

It is important to note why certain instruments were included, and others not, for the *Thesaurus of Orchestral Instruments*. In order to avoid a thesaurus containing far too many instruments, which will only further convolute an already difficult task, the compiler of the following thesaurus has only chosen instruments that are *standard* in the orchestral repertoire of western *art music*. Simply put, a user of this thesaurus will only find instruments that hold, or have held, a significant role within the orchestra. What users will not find though, are instruments rarely found in the orchestra, or have no connection with western art music. For example, African/American folk instruments such as the Banjo will be absent from this thesaurus.

Instruments that exist in a variety of keys (e.g., B♭, A, etc.) will be presented with the key *before* the instrument name to simplify alphabetical searching, for example: B♭ Clarinet, *not* Clarinet in B♭. If an instrument is available in multiple keys, then each will be listed separately. If a key is not explicitly provided beside the instrument name or within the *Scope Notes* (SN) — definition of a term — then the user can assume that the instrument is in concert pitch.

Finally, in order to deal with the seemingly infinite number of percussion instruments, the orchestral percussion section has been limited solely to those that are only commonly used within the orchestra. Percussion instruments will also be sorted by means of sound production (i.e., Idiophones, Membranophones, and Other) within the *Hierarchical Structure*, unlike the other instrument families. Finally, as stated earlier in the introduction, every single percussion instrument will *not* be thoroughly defined within the *Scope Notes*. Such excessiveness will only muddle the clarity of the searching and identification process; take the drum set for example. This instrument is so widely known that it would be redundant to offer a detailed description.
Usage Guides:

Two separate displays, Hierarchical and Alphabetical, will be used in the *Thesaurus of Orchestral Instruments* in order to clearly represent all standard instruments of the orchestra in the most effective means possible. A breakdown of each and its proper use can be found below with examples. *Non-preferred terms*, or terms one should avoid when searching, will only be provided within the alphabetical display in italics. *Preferred Terms*, or those whose use are encouraged when searching, will be provided in both.

The instruments contained within this thesaurus are divided into five separate categories of instrument families: Brass, Electric, Percussion, Strings, and Woodwinds. Within each family, instruments are further classified in *score order*—or from highest pitched to lowest—within the hierarchical display where applicable. In instances where score order is irrelevant, such is the case with unpitched instruments like the snare drum, instruments will simply be listed alphabetically. For example, unpitched percussion instruments will obviously be presented alphabetically; brass instruments on the other hand will begin with trumpets and end with tubas as one would find in a musical score.
Hierarchical Display Usage Guide:

The hierarchical display illustrates the relationships of terms (i.e., orchestral instruments) by the use of a hyphen (-) to indicate either their broadness or narrowness in comparison to terms around them. Thus, the more hyphens a term has, the narrower it will be. Please refer to the example below for further help. **Non-preferred** terms will not be contained within this list.

### Sample Hierarchical List

- Woodwind Instruments
  - - Single Reed Woodwind Instruments
    - - - Clarinets
      - - - - Ab Soprano Clarinet
      - - - - Eb Clarinet

More hyphens indicate greater specificity of a term.
Alphabetical Display Usage Guide

As the name suggests, the Alphabetical Display lists all terms, both non-preferred (in italics) and preferred, alphabetically from A-Z. This display also contains important terminology that is used to label and describe the term for the user. Related Terms (RT), which indicates a semantic relationship between two terms that is not hierarchical, will generally be avoided in the thesaurus to avoid redundancy of terms. It is important to note that not every entry in the thesaurus will contain all terminologies; they are only utilized when it is necessary to do so. Please refer to the list of terminology below for a description and example of each. A sample entry of an instrument from the thesaurus will also be included to exemplify the use of the alphabetical display.

- **Scope Note (SN)** - a symbol used to define and/or describe a term.
- **USE** - a symbol used to indicate a **non-preferred term** (i.e., terms that should not be used when searching), and provide a more appropriate **preferred term** to be used instead.
- **UF** - symbol used to indicate a **preferred term** (i.e., term that should be used when searching) and its associated **non-preferred term**.
- **Broader Term (BT)** - a symbol indicating a more general term.
- **Narrower Term (NT)** - a symbol indicating a more specific term.
- **Related Term (RT)** - a symbol denoting terms associated with a preferred term. This does not indicate a hierarchical relationship, but rather a semantic one.

**Sample Alphabetical Entry**

Double Reeded Woodwind Instruments
- **SN**: Instruments whose sound is produced when two reeds set against one another vibrate as an air stream is blown through them.
- **BT**: Reeded Woodwind Instruments
- **NT**: Oboe; English Horn; Bassoon; Contrabassoon
Hierarchical List

- Brass Instruments
  - - Slide Brass Instruments
  - - - Trombones
  - - - - Soprano Trombone
  - - - - Alto Trombone
  - - - - Tenor Trombone
  - - - - Bass Trombone
  - - - - Contrabass Trombone
  - - Valved Brass Instruments
  - - - Horns
  - - - - E♭ Alto Horn
  - - - - F Alto Horn
  - - - - F Horn
  - - - - E♭ Mellophone
  - - - - F Mellophone
  - - - - B♭ Wagner Tuba
  - - - - F Wagner Tuba
  - - Trumpets
  - - - A Piccolo Trumpet
  - - - - B♭ Piccolo Trumpet
  - - - - E♭ Trumpet
  - - - - D Trumpet
  - - - - C Trumpet
  - - - - B♭ Trumpet
  - - - - E♭ Cornet
  - - - - B♭ Cornet
  - - - Flugelhorn
  - - - - E♭ Bass Trumpet
  - - - - B♭ Bass Trumpet
  - - - Tubas
  - - - - B♭ Euphonium
  - - - - F Tuba (Bass)
  - - - - C Tuba (Contrabass)
  - - - - B♭ Tuba (Contrabass)

- Electric Instruments
  - - Electric String Instruments
  - - - Electric Bass Guitar
  - - - Electric Guitar
  - - - Electronic Keyboard Instruments
- Electronic Organ
- Electric Piano

- Percussion Instruments
  - Idiophones
    - Pitched Idiophones
    - Almglocken
    - Anvil
    - Crotales
    - Flexatone
    - Gong
    - Handbells
    - Tubular Chimes
    - Unpitched Idiophones
    - Woodblock
    - Claves
    - Castanets
    - Maracas
    - Vibra Slap
    - Cabasa
    - Guiro
    - Cymbals
    - Triangle
    - Cowbell
  - Unpitched Idiophones
    - Sleigh Bells
    - Bell Plate
    - Wind Machine
    - Thunder Sheet
    - Wind Chimes

- Keyboard Instruments
  - Celesta
  - Glockenspiel
  - Harpsichord
  - Marimba
  - Piano
  - Vibraphone
  - Xylophone

- Membranophones
  - Pitched Membranophones
  - Timpani
  - Unpitched Membranophones

- Bass Drum
- Drum Set
- Snare Drum
- Tambourine
- Tom-tom
- Other Pitched Percussion Instruments
- Slide Whistle
- Other Unpitched Percussion Instruments:
  - Whip
  - Ratchet
  - Sandpaper Blocks

- String Instruments
  - Bowed String Instruments
    - Violin
    - Viola
    - Cello
    - Contrabass
  - Fretted String Instruments
    - Acoustic Guitar
    - Classical Guitar
    - Lute
  - Harps
  - Double Action Harp
  - Troubadour Harp

- Woodwind Instruments
  - Reedless Woodwind Instruments
    - Flutes
      - Piccolo
      - Concert Flute
      - G Alto Flute
      - E♭ Flute
      - Bass Flute
  - Reeded Woodwind Instruments
    - Double Reed Woodwind Instruments
      - Oboe
      - English Horn
      - Bassoon
      - Contrabassoon
  - Single Reed Woodwind Instruments
    - Clarinets
      - E♭ Clarinet
      - D Clarinet
      - C Clarinet
      - B♭ Clarinet
      - A Clarinet
--- - E♭ Alto Clarinet
--- - Basset Horn
--- - Bass Clarinet
--- - E♭ Contra Alto Clarinet
--- - B♭ Contrabass Clarinet
--- Saxophones
--- - B♭ Soprano Saxophone
--- - E♭ Alto Saxophone
--- - B♭ Tenor Saxophone
--- - E♭ Baritone Saxophone
Alphabetical List

A

A Clarinet
-SN: Darker tone than the B♭ Clarinet
-BT: Clarinets

A Piccolo Trumpet
-SN: This instrument is actually the B♭ Piccolo Trumpet with the lead pipe extended. Retracting the lead pipe will place the Piccolo Trumpet back into the key of B♭.
-BT: Trumpets

Acoustic Bass Guitar
-SN: This is not to be confused with the Electric Bass Guitar.
-BT: Fretted String Instruments

Acoustic Guitar
-UF: Folk Guitar
-BT: Fretted String Instruments

Almglocken
-SN: Tuned cowbells.
-BT: Pitched Idiophones
-RT: Cowbell

Anvil
-BT: Pitched Idiophones

Alto Trombone
-BT: Trombones

B

B♭ Bass Trumpet
-SN: Lowest of the trumpets and possessing a duller sound than them as well, this instrument is only called for in certain pieces such as Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring.
-BT: Trumpets

B♭ Clarinet
-SN: Most commonly used of the clarinets, the soprano voice. Also available in varying sizes and keys.
-BT: Clarinets

B♭ Contrabass Clarinet
-SN: Although it is a woodwind instrument, it is made of metal tubing turned in on itself much like a brass instrument.
-BT: Clarinets

B♭ Cornet
-SN: Smaller than the traditional trumpet, the cornet is constructed with both a cylindrical (first third of tubing) and conical bore (last two-thirds of tubing), giving the instrument a more mellow tone.
-BT: Trumpets

B♭ Euphonium
-SN: Highest pitched of the Tuba Instruments that can call upon its
lower octaves more gracefully than the lower tubas. Can sometimes be found as the tenor and bass voices due to flexibility between ranges.

-UF: Baritone Horn
-BT: Tubas

B♭ Flugelhorn

-SN: A valved instrument with a completely conical-bore, giving the instrument a much darker tone than the standard B♭ Trumpet. Used heavily in Jazz and Classical-Jazz Fusion genres.
-UF: Soprano Saxhorn
-BT: Trumpets

B♭ Piccolo Trumpet

-SN: Highest pitched trumpet, and brass instrument within the brass choir. The lead pipe can be extended turning the instrument into an A Piccolo Trumpet. Used predominately for executing extremely high passagework (e.g., Bach’s second Brandenburg Concerto).
-BT: Trumpets

B♭ Soprano Saxophone

-SN: Highest pitched of the saxophones.
-BT: Saxophones

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

-BT: Saxophones

B♭ Tuba (Contrabass)

-BT: Tubas

B♭ Trumpet

-SN: Standard trumpet used in most settings, although the performer may choose to use the C Trumpet instead to facilitate easier fingerings and transpositions, or create a different tone color.
-BT: Trumpets

B♭ Wagner Tuba

-SN: This instrument is the exact same as the F Wagner Tuba, expect it is in the key of B♭.
-BT: Horns

Baritone Horn

-USE: B♭ Euphonium

Bass Clarinet

-SN: Bass of the clarinet family and woodwind choir.
-BT: Clarinets

Bass Drum

-BT: Unpitched Membranophones

Bass Flute

-SN: Lowest of the flutes
-BT: Reedless Woodwind Instruments

Bass Trombone

-BT: Trombones

Basset Horn

-SN. Resembles the E♭ Alto Clarinet, however, it sounds more similar to the A Clarinet; a modern
construction of the clarinet Mozart would have used in his music.
- **BT:** Clarinets

**Bassoon**
- **SN:** Bass of the woodwind choir.
- **BT:** Double Reeded Woodwind Instruments

**Bell Plate**
- **SN:** Steel slab that is suspended from a rope and struck with metal mallets.
- **BT:** Unpitched Idiophones

**Bowed String Instruments**
- **SN:** Instruments that predominately require a bow for sound production.
- **BT:** String Instruments
- **NT:** Violin; Viola; Cello; Contrabass

**Brass Instruments**
- **SN:** Instruments that are constructed from brass. Sound is produced by the vibration of the players’ lips into a mouthpiece, causing the air to vibrate within the metal tubing. Pitch is manipulated by valves, keys, or slides, which alter the length of the metal tubing.
- **NT:** Slide Brass Instruments; Valved Brass Instruments; Horns; Trumpets; Tubas

**C Clarinet**
- **SN:** Brighter tone than the B♭ Clarinet, rarely used.
- **BT:** Clarinets

**C Flute**
**USE:** Concert Flute

**C Trumpet**
- **SN:** Counterpart to the B♭ Trumpet, yet it possess a more brilliant sound than its counterpart.
- **BT:** Trumpets

**C Tuba (Contrabass)**
- **BT:** Tubs

**Cabasa**
- **SN:** A wooden cylinder wrapped in metal chains of balls and shaken to produce sound.
- **BT:** Unpitched Idiophones

**Castanets**
- **SN:** Hollow pieces of wood or plastic that are mounted together and attached to handle so that when shaken they click against one another.
- **BT:** Unpitched Idiophones

**Celesta**
- **SN:** Resembling a miniature piano, this instrument produces sound when a key is pushed and the connected hammer strikes a metal bar mounted above wooden resonators.
- **BT:** Keyboard Instruments
Cello
-SN: The tenor/bass, or lowest pitched instrument within the string quartet.
-UH: Violoncello
-BT: Bowed String Instruments

Clarinet
-SN: Open holed, single reed woodwind instruments. Due to such variances of pitch and size, these instruments can be considered the soprano, alto, tenor, and/or bass voices of the woodwind choir.
-BT: Single Reed Woodwind Instruments
-NT: E♭ Clarinet; B♭ Clarinet; A Clarinet; C Clarinet; D Clarinet; E♭ Alto Clarinet; Basset Horn; Bass Clarinet; E♭ Contra Alto Clarinet; B♭ Contrabass Clarinet

Classical Guitar
-SN: Unlike the acoustic guitar, this instrument uses nylon strings instead of steel, and has 15 frets instead of 12. As a result the instrument has a very distinct timbre.
-UH: Spanish Guitar
-BT: Fretted String Instruments

Claves
-SN: Two cylinders of wood, each approximately 6 inches in length that are struck against one another.
-BT: Unpitched Idiophones

Concert Flute
-SN: Reedless soprano of the woodwind choir. Constructed of metal in most cases.
-UH: C Flute
-BT: Reedless Woodwind Instruments

Contrabass
-SN: The bass, or lowest string instrument.
-BT: Bowed String Instruments

Contrabass Trombone:
-SN: Least commonly used within the trombone family as well as the lowest.
-BT: Trombones

Contrabassoon
-SN: Lowest voice of the woodwind choir; sounds an octave lower than the Bassoon.
-BT: Double Reeded Woodwind Instruments

Cowbell
-BT: Unpitched Idiophones
-RT: Almglocken

Crotales
-SN: Tuned symbols.
-BT: Pitched Idiophones
-RT: Cymbals

Cymbals
-BT: Unpitched Idiophones
-RT: Crotales
**D**

**D Clarinet**

-SN: Brighter tone than the B♭ Clarinet, rarely used.

-BT: Clarinets

**D Trumpet**

-SN: A smaller instrument featuring a more compact yet very clean tone when compared to the B♭ Trumpet and C Trumpet. Most commonly used by a performer to give a unique quality to a certain passage of music, or to more easily play passages in the higher register.

-BT: Trumpets

**Double Action Harp**

-SN: The modern concert harp possessing 47 strings, the selection of which is controlled by foot pedals

-BT: Harps

**Double Reeded Woodwind Instruments**

-SN: The sound of these types of instruments is produced when two reeds set against one another vibrate as an air stream is blown through them.

-BT: Reeded Woodwind Instruments

-NT: Oboe; English Horn; Bassoon; Contrabassoon

**Drum Set**

-BT: Unpitched Membranophones

**E**

**E♭ Alto Clarinet**

-BT: Clarinets

**E♭ Alto Horn**

-SN: Contralto member of the horn family, this instrument resembles a tuba more so than the traditional horn in shape; the player’s hand is not placed in the bell when playing; and the sound is more blatant and aggressive than the F Horn’s.

-BT: Horns

**E♭ Alto Saxophone**

-BT: Saxophones

**E♭ Baritone Saxophone**

-BT: Saxophones

**E♭ Bass Trumpet**

-SN: Counterpart to the B♭ Bass Trumpet.

-BT: Trumpets

**E♭ Clarinet**

-SN: Highest pitched of the clarinets.

-BT: Clarinets

**E♭ Contra Alto Clarinet**

-SN: Lowest voice of the clarinet family.

-BT: Clarinets
**E♭ Cornet**
-SN: Smaller version of the B♭ Cornet.

**E♭ Flute**
-SN: Possess attributes of both the Piccolo and Flute.
-BT: Reedless Woodwind Instruments

**E♭ Mellophone**
-SN: This instrument is the same as the E♭ Alto Horn, except it is coiled different upon construction to look more like the F Horn and not a tuba. Major component of marching band music
-BT: Horns

**E♭ Trumpet**
-SN: Counterpart to the D Trumpet.
-BT: Trumpets

**Electric Bass Guitar**
-BT: Electric String Instruments

**Electric Guitar**
-BT: Electric String Instruments

**Electric Instruments**
-SN: musical instruments whose sounds are produced by electrical, rather than acoustical means.
-UF: Electronic Instruments
-NT: Electric String Instruments; Electric Keyboard Instruments;

**Electric Keyboard Instruments**
-BT: Electric Instruments
-NT: Electric Organ; Electric Piano

**Electric Organ**
-BT: Electric Keyboard Instruments

**Electric Piano**
-BT: Electric Keyboard Instruments

**Electric String Instruments**
-BT: Electric Instruments
-NT: Electric Bass Guitar; Electric Guitar

**Electronic Instruments**
-USE: Electric Instruments

**English Horn**
-SN: Larger than the Oboe, producing a darker and mellower sound.
-BT: Double Reeded Woodwind Instruments

**F**

**F Alto Horn**
-SN: This instrument is the exact same as the E♭ Alto Horn, except it is in the key of F.
-BT: Horns

**F Horn**
-SN: Most common of the horn family; a valved brass instrument in the key of F.
French Horn
-UF: French Horn
-BT: Horns

F Tuba (Bass)
-BT: Tubas

F Wagner Tuba
-SN: Used almost exclusively in performances of Richard Wagner’s *The Ring Cycle* and a few other major works. This instrument’s tone is similar to the more common F Horn’s, but varies significantly in physical design.
-BT: Horns

Fiddle
-USE: Violin

Field Drum
-USE: Snare Drum

Flexatone
-SN: A metal triangle mounted to a frame; when shaken two springs with wooden blocks attached strike the metal triangle.
-BT: Pitched Idiophones

Flutes
SN: Reedless Woodwind Instruments that are predominately made of metal, with the exception of the Piccolo. Air is blown over the embouchure slit to produce sound. Players manipulate the pitch with either open or closed tone holes.
-BT: Reedless Woodwind Instruments

Folk Guitar
-USE: Acoustic Guitar

French Horn
-USE: Horn

Fretted String Instruments
-SN: String instruments that possess frets, or raised metal/wooden elements that divide the fingerboard into intervals of semitones, indicating where the player’s fingers should be placed. These instruments are played by plucking, not bowing.
-BT: String Instruments
-NT: Acoustic Guitar; Acoustic Bass Guitar, Classical Guitar; Lute

G

G Alto Flute
-BT: Reedless Woodwind Instruments

Glockenspiel
-SN: Set of metal bars that are struck with mallets.
-UF: Orchestral Bells
-BT: Keyboard Instruments

Gong
-BT: Pitched Idiophones

Guiro
-SN: Hollowed wooden gourd with slits cut into the side that are meant to be strummed with a stick.
-BT: Unpitched Idiophones

Handbells
-BT: Pitched Idiophones

Harp
-SN: Instruments in existence since antiquity from various cultures (e.g., Ancient Greece), the strings run at an angle form the soundboard, and are supported by a frame. These instruments vary greatly from culture to culture in terms of size, range, and materials used for construction.
-BT: String Instruments
-NT: Double Action Hard; Troubadour Harp

Harpischord
-SN: The predecessor of the piano whose sound is produced by quills that pluck strings, triggered by pressing a key; incapable of dynamic subtly as with the piano.
-BT: Keyboard Instruments.

Horns
-SN: Curved brass instruments that use valves to change pitch and whose bore is conical—the bore of the instrument gradually increases from the mouthpiece to the bell—a trait absent with nearly all other brass instruments.
-BT: Valved Brass Instruments
-NT: E♭ Alto Horn; F Alto Horn; F Horn; E♭ Mellophone; F Mellophone; B♭ Wagner Tuba; F Wagner Tuba

Idiophones
-SN: Percussion Instruments whose sound is produced by the entire instrument itself vibrating, usually from being struck with a mallet, or shaken.
-BT: Percussion Instruments
-NT: Pitched Idiophones; Unpitched idiophones

Keyboard Instruments
-SN: Instruments that are constructed in a keyboard layout with clearly defined keys. They may be pushed like buttons, or struck with mallets to produce sound.
-BT: Percussion Instruments
-NT: Celesta; Glockenspiel; Harpsichord; Marimba; Piano; Vibraphone; Xylophone

Kettle Drums
-USE: Timpani
L

Lute
-SN: Used predominately in Baroque and Renaissance music, this fretted string instrument is tear-drop in shape and has strings running parallel to the sound panel, opposed to the normal construction of these sorts of instruments.
-BT: Fretted String Instruments

M

Maracas
-SN: Hollow gourds filled with materials that will create noise when shaken.
-BT: Unpitched Idiophones

Marimba
-SN: Set of wooden bars that are struck with mallets.
-BT: Keyboard Instruments

Membranophones
-SN: Instruments whose sounds are produced by the vibration of a membrane stretched over a hollow cylinder. This is usually caused by striking the instrument with a mallet or stick.
-BT: Percussion Instruments
-NT: Pitched Membranophones; Unpitched Membranophones

O

Oboe
-SN: The alto voices of the woodwind choir; a double reeded instrument.
-BT: Double Reeded Woodwind Instruments

Orchestral Bells
-USE: Glockenspiel

Other Pitched Percussion Instruments
-SN: Those percussion instruments that cannot be classified as idiophones or membranophones due to their unique characteristics of sound production. They still produce definite tunable pitches.
-BT: Percussion Instruments
-NT: Slide Whistle

Other Unpitched Percussion Instruments
-SN: Those percussion instruments that cannot be classified as idiophones or membranophones due to their unique characteristics of sound production. They do not produce definite tunable pitches.
-BT: Percussion Instruments
-NT: Whip; Ratchet; Sandpaper Blocks
Percussion Instruments
-SN: Instruments whose sounds are primarily produced by either striking or shaking the instrument, causing either a membrane or the entire instrument itself to vibrate.
-NT: Idiophones; Keyboard Instruments; Membranophones; Other Pitched Percussion Instruments; Other Unpitched Percussion Instruments

Piano
-BT: Keyboard Instruments

Piccolo
-SN: Highest pitched of the flutes; can be either wooden or metal.
-BT: Reedless Woodwind Instruments

Pitched Membranophones
-SN: Instruments whose sound is produced by a vibrating membrane; pitches produced are definite and defined within an established tuning scheme.
-BT: Membranophones
-NT: Timpani

Pitched Idiophones
-SN: Percussion instruments that have definite set pitches that are clearly defined within a tuning system.

Ratchet
-SN: A set of wooden gears set upon a handle that allows the player to twirl the instrument, creating a cranking noise as the gears grind by one another.
-BT: Other Unpitched Percussion Instruments

Reeded Woodwind Instruments
-SN: Woodwind Instruments that produce sound by the vibrations of a reed(s) as an air stream is directed through them.
-BT: Woodwind Instruments
-NT: Double Reeded Woodwind Instruments; Single Reeded Woodwind Instruments

Reedless Woodwind Instruments
-SN: Sound is produced without a reed by blowing an air stream over an open embouchure slit, causing vibrations to travel throughout the instrument.
-BT: Woodwind Instruments
-NT: Flutes
Sandpaper Blocks
- SN: The player rubs the two blocks together for special sound effects.
- BT: Other Unpitched Percussion Instruments

Saxophones
- SN: Single Reed Woodwind Instruments that are made entirely of brass, and much like the clarinets, can be considered the soprano, alto, tenor, and/or bass of the woodwind choir due to so many varying instruments. These instruments prevalent in Jazz, and major orchestra works.
- BT: Single Reed Woodwind Instruments
- NT: B♭ Soprano Saxophone; E♭ Alto Saxophone; B♭ Tenor Saxophone; E♭ Baritone Saxophone

Single Reed Woodwind Instruments
SN: Woodwind Instruments that only possess a single reed. Sound is produced as the reed vibrates against the flat face of a mouthpiece.
- BT: Woodwind Instruments
- NT: Clarinets; Saxophones

Sleigh Bells:
- BT: Unpitched Idiophones

Slide Whistle

Soprano Trombone
- SN: Highest pitched instrument of the trombone family.
- BT: Trombones

Soprano Saxhorn
- USE: B♭ Flugelhorn

Spanish Guitar
- USE: Classical Guitar

String Instruments
- SN: Instruments whose sounds are produced by either plucking and/or bowing strings, causing them to vibrate.
- NT: Bowed String Instruments; Fretted String Instruments; Harps

Tambourine
- BT: Unpitched Membranophones

Tenor Trombone
-SN: The most commonly used instrument within the trombone family.
-BT: Trombones

**Thunder Sheet**
-SN: A large sheet of thin metal that is shaken to mimic the sound of thunder.
-BT: Unpitched Idiophones

**Timpani**
-SN: A pitched copper drum covered by a membrane; a standard set of timpani includes 4 drums that can each be tuned to multiple pitches.
-UF: Kettle Drums
-BT: Pitched Membranophones

**Tom-tom**
-SN: A cylindrical drum with no snares.
-BT: Unpitched Membranophones

**Trombones**
-SN: Group of brass instruments identified by their use of slides to manipulate pitch.
-BT: Slide Brass Instruments
-NT: Soprano Trombone; Alto Trombone; Tenor Trombone; Bass Trombone; Contrabass Trombone

**Troubadour Harp**
-SN: Smaller and simpler version of the Double Action Harp. Does not contain foot pedals, and only has 33 strings.
-BT: Harps

**Trumpets**
-SN: The soprano and alto members of the brass choir. These instruments are valved and come in a variety of sizes and keys.
-BT: Valved Brass Instruments
-NT: B♭ Piccolo Trumpet; A Piccolo Trumpet; B♭ Trumpet; C Trumpet; D Trumpet; E♭ Trumpet; B♭ Cornet; E♭ Cornet; Flugelhorn; B♭ Bass Trumpet

**Tubas**
-SN: The bass instruments of the brass choir.
-BT: Valved Brass Instruments
-NT: B♭ Euphonium; F Tuba (Bass); B♭ Tuba (Contrabass); C Tuba (Contrabass)

**Triangle**
-BT: Unpitched Idiophones

**Tubular Chimes**
-SN: Large pitched tube-shaped chimes that are struck with a mallet to produce the desired pitch.
-BT: Pitched Idiophones

**Unpitched Idiophones**
-SN: Instruments that do not have definite pitch; therefore, pitches that may be produced do not fit within a tuning scheme.
-BT: Percussion Instruments
Unpitched Membranophones
-SN: Instruments whose sounds are produced by the vibration of a membrane stretched over a hollow cylinder. Resulting pitches are not defined within a tuning scheme.
-BT: Membranophones
-NT: Bass Drum; Drum Set; Field Drum; Snare Drum; Tambourine; Tom-tom

Valved Brass Instruments
-SN: Brass instruments that use valves to manipulate the length of the instrument in order to produce different pitches.
-BT: Brass Instruments
-NT: Horns; Trumpets; Tubas

Vibra Slap
-SN: Metal rod that strikes a wooden box of metal rivets that are free to bounce around as the box is struck.
-BT: Unpitched Idiophones

Vibraphone
-SB: Metal bars that are struck with mallets to create a sound; the sound can be further controlled and/or sustained with the use of a pedal.
-BT: Keyboard Instruments

Viola
-SN: The alto/tenor, or second highest pitched instrument in the string quartet.
-BT: Bowed String Instruments

Violin
-SN: The soprano, or highest pitched instrument of the string quartet.
-UF: Fiddle
-BT: Bowed String Instruments

Violoncello
-USE: Cello

Wind Chimes
-BT: Unpitched Idiophones

Wind Machine
-SN: A large wooden cylinder that is covered with a loose-fitting canvas-like material. A player cranks a handle attached to the cylinder causing the wood to slide across the other material, causing a wind-like sound.
-BT: Unpitched Idiophones

Whip
-BT: Other Pitched Percussion Instruments
Woodblock
-**BT:** Unpitched Idiophones

**Woodwind Instruments**
-**SN:** Instruments whose sounds are produced by either the vibration of a reed or reeds, or by blowing a stream of air over an open slit, causing vibrations to travel throughout the instrument. Instruments do not have to be constructed from wood to be classified as woodwind, as is the case with flutes and saxophones.
-**NT:** Reedless Woodwind Instruments; Reeded Woodwind Instruments; Double Reeded Woodwind Instruments; Single Reed Woodwind Instruments

**Xylophone**
-**SN:** Metal Bars that are struck with mallets to produce sound.
-**BT:** Keyboard Instruments
Bibliography


