

The instruments of the orchestra

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to Angela Colbers

The wind instruments

At the back of the orchestra the wind instruments have found a place (**play winds, 5 sec**). Some wind instruments have been made of wood (**show**) and others are made of metal (**show**). Just like the string instruments the different wind instruments vary in size from very small (**show piccolo**) to big (**show tuba or contrabassoon**).

With string instruments, the vibrating string is the source of the sound, with wind instruments different ways are used to force the air to vibrate. At the flute mouthpiece (**show flute**) with the lips some airflow from breathing-out is directed towards a rather sharp edge causing some sound. With the so-called reed instruments (**show reeds**) a thin reed is forced to vibrate, and with the brass instruments a slight air flow between the lips causes vibration (**show brass mouthpiece**).

Then, *very important*, after the mouthpiece a piece of tube is mounted. And the air column inside that tube might vibrate as well, the so-called *resonance*. That only happens when the vibrations in the mouthpiece are at a pitch that is able to resonate in the specific length of air column. A much louder and more defined sound is then generated (**play trumpet mouthpiece separately and mounted**). That resonance happens at a *short* tube for *high pitch* (**play piccolo**) and at a *long* tube for *low pitch* (**play tuba**).

The clarinets

The clarinet is a single-reed woodwind instrument (**show clarinet**). Like with the saxophone a piece of reed is fixed on a mouthpiece and when blowing a slight flow of air along the reed that will vibrate (**clarinet blows the mouthpiece**). When the mouthpiece is mounted onto the resonance tube of the clarinet distinct tones can be played. The tube of the clarinet is equipped with a lot of holes and keys allowing the clarinet to play very advanced and virtuoso performances (**clarinet plays a series of scales**).

Like the flutes and oboes, the clarinets are members of a family of instruments and the clarinet family has the largest pitch range of all wind instrument families. There is a piccolo clarinet, the “normal” clarinet, the alto clarinet, the bass clarinet, the contralto clarinet, contrabass clarinet, together forming the clarinet choir (**show the different sizes of clarinets**).

The clarinet not only plays important parts in the orchestra, it has distinct roles in jazz music, gipsy and klezmer music and military bands. The clarinet sound has a wide dynamic range, it can play loud and aggressive as well as soft and smooth. The sound color of the clarinet ranges from a sentimental slobbering in the lower pitch range to a brutal yapping in the high range; a broad range of sounds, very attractive to every composer. (**Now the clarinets will play a duet and/or a trio, depending on the availability**).

Andante ♩. = 80

Clarinet in B \flat 1 *mp*

Clarinet in B \flat 2 *mp*

Bass Clarinet *f*

8 *mp*

8 *mp*

8 *f*

15

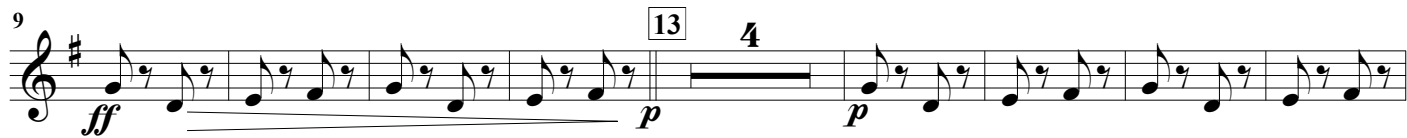
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15

Finale

Allegro maestoso, ♩ = 112


Bass Clarinet 

9 

21 

31 

41 

57 

68 

78 **Slow blues**, ♩ = 72 

87 

95 

104 

Allegro maestoso, ♩ = 112

113 

124 