

Introduction to the Bassoon

The bassoon is a woodwind instrument. This means that sound is produced by blowing into a reed or over a hole. The woodwind family includes the flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, and bassoon. The bassoon is the lowest of the woodwind instruments.

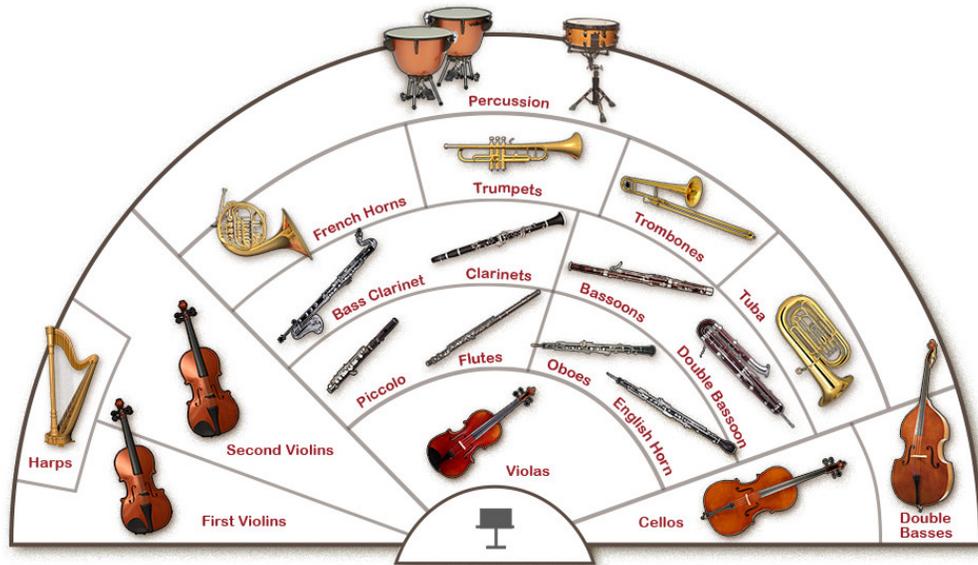


The steps to create a bassoon reed

The bassoon is a very complicated instrument that has many pieces and buttons that all work together. It is made of maple wood and is so large it comes apart into seven pieces. The player uses all 10 fingers to press buttons, and some fingers even press multiple buttons at once. See the diagram for the names of each part!



The bassoon is primarily an orchestra instrument. Sometimes called the chameleon of the orchestra, it plays with many different instruments to change the character, or timbre, of a particular musical moment. It also has a large range, meaning it can play both very low and very high.



Can you find the bassoon in the orchestra?

The bassoon also plays in small ensembles, such as the woodwind quintet, and as a solo instrument. Even though it was originally made to play classical music, it now plays a wide range of music, including jazz, waltzes, tangos, and so much more!



The woodwind quintet includes flute, oboe, French horn, bassoon, and clarinet