

GLOSSARY

- Bow:** Used by string players to make a sound on the violin, viola, cello, and bass. The bow is a wooden frame with horsehair stretched between the ends.
- Brass:** A family of instruments including trumpets, horns, trombones, and tuba. Brass instruments are made of metal. Brass musicians make a sound by buzzing their lips together inside a metal mouthpiece.
- Composer:** A person who writes music.
- Conductor:** The person who leads musicians in rehearsals and directs performances using visible gestures. The conductor helps all the musicians play together and provides inspiration for their interpretation.
- Crescendo:** Sound getting progressively louder.
- Dynamics:** The loudness and softness of musical sounds.
- Excerpt:** A short section of a piece of music.
- Expression:** The ways that a musician adds style and personality to a performance, often to inspire a certain feeling or mood.
- Finale:** The last section of a longer piece of music, often very exciting or dramatic.
- Harmony:** Three or more notes played simultaneously while a melody is playing.
- Mallet:** A special stick used to play percussion instruments.
- Melody:** A series of notes that makes up a musical tune.
- Mouthpiece:** The part of a brass instrument that captures the lips' buzz and transforms it into a musical sound.
- Opera:** A musical play in which all words are sung.
- Orchestra:** A group of musicians playing together, including strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments.
- Percussion:** A family of instruments including drums, timpani, mallet instruments like the xylophone, triangle, and cymbals. All percussion instruments are played by shaking them or hitting them with a stick or mallet or with your hand. The piano is a member of the percussion family because it makes sound when its strings are hit with small mallets.
- Pizzicato:** Plucking the strings of a stringed instrument to make a sound.
- Rhythm:** The patterns of sound and silence within a piece of music.
- Strings:** A family of instruments including the violin, viola, cello and bass. String instruments are played by moving a bow across the metal strings or by plucking the strings with your finger.
- Symphony:** A common form for orchestral music that includes multiple, contrasting sections called movements.
- Texture:** The thickness or thinness of a piece of music, particularly the number of instruments playing at once.
- Tremolo:** A special effect used by string instruments where a long note is divided into many short notes by moving a small amount of the bow very quickly.
- Vivid:** Leaving a strong, clear impression on the senses; vivid music inspires the listener's imagination and produces a clear mental image of place, character, or action.
- Woodwinds:** A family of instruments including flute, oboe, clarinet, and bassoon. Though flutes are now made of metal, they used to be made of wood, like the other instruments in the woodwind family.