

Directions:

Overview

This interactive PowerPoint introduces students to the instrument families of the orchestra through visuals, sound, and video examples. It is designed to be low-prep and highly engaging—perfect for whole-class instruction, centers, or interactive whiteboard use.

Getting Started

Open the PowerPoint in slideshow mode for full functionality.

When prompted, be sure to click **"Enable External Media"** so that all embedded videos will play correctly.

Using the Slides

Each instrument family is introduced with clear visuals and simple explanations.

On the interactive slides, students can click (or tap) on each instrument to hear its sound. After exploring a family, use the "Now Showing" slides to watch short video examples of instruments in performance.

If Videos Don't Play

If a video does not load, click the link provided under the video to open and watch it directly on YouTube.

Interactive Ideas (Highly Recommended!)

This resource works especially well on an **interactive whiteboard**—invite students to come up and tap instruments themselves.

Encourage students to experiment by **tapping multiple instruments**, even while another is still playing. This creates a fun layered effect and helps students hear how instruments sound together—just like in a real orchestra!

Extension Ideas

- Ask students to describe each instrument's sound (bright, smooth, buzzy, etc.).
- Compare instruments within the same family.
- Pause videos to discuss what students notice about how instruments are played.

This presentation is designed to build both recognition and listening skills while keeping students actively involved throughout the lesson.

Continue the learning (for free!) 🎵

Get bonus activities, printables, and exclusive resources for your students:

- *Free Music Alphabet Starter Packet*
- *Free Orchestra Instrument Flashcards*



Click the links above, scan the QR code, or visit:

<https://abigailmettry.com/product-category/free-music-resources/>



This resource supports the **National Core Arts Standards** in Responding, Connecting, and Performing. Students develop listening and analysis skills as they identify instruments by sound and describe musical characteristics (MU:Re7.2), make connections between instrument families and their roles within the orchestra (MU:Ch10.0), and demonstrate understanding through active engagement with interactive sound examples and performance videos (MU:Pr4.2). The structured, hands-on approach encourages students to move beyond recognition toward deeper musical understanding and vocabulary development.



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