



BRASS INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA

There are four main brass instruments in the orchestra:

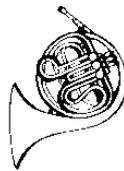
TRUMPET HORN TROMBONE TUBA

THE TRUMPET



The trumpet is the highest pitched instrument in the brass family. It can play softly and the player sometimes puts a mute in the 'bell', but on the whole, the trumpet is a loud instrument.

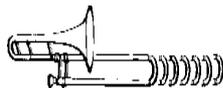
THE HORN (THE 'FRENCH HORN')



The HORN, as a rule has a much more gentle sound than the trumpet. It is a very useful instrument as its tone 'blends' - fits in - with almost any other instrument. It does not play notes as high as a trumpet can, but it has a much bigger range of notes.

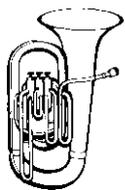
The horn is the curliest of the brass instruments. The player holds the horn by putting one hand in the bell. The player can soften the tone and control the tuning by simply moving the hand in the bell.

THE TROMBONE



Most orchestras have two types of trombone, tenor and bass trombones. There are usually two tenors and one bass. From a distance a tenor and bass trombone look alike, but the bass is a little bigger and can play lower notes. The trombone is easily recognised by its 'slide' - the long brass tube, which slides in and out.

The trombones are the loudest instruments in the orchestra, but they can play softly too.



THE TUBA

The tuba is the bass instrument of the brass family. It is even lower than the bass trombone. The tuba does not play by itself anymore than the double bass does in the stings.

It is a very large instrument, but does not make a very big sound. It is easy to see but hard to hear.

Usually in an orchestra, there are two trumpets, four horns, three trombones and one tuba.

BRASS FAMILY

Brass instruments are simply brass tubes. The player makes the air in the tubes vibrate by blowing in a special way through the mouthpiece.

WRITE OUT THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES AND ADD THE MISSING WORDS. THE ANSWERS ARE ALL ON THE INFORMATION SHEET

- 1) There are four types of brass instrument in an orchestra, _____, _____, _____, and _____.
- 2) The _____ is the highest pitched instrument in the brass family.
- 3) The trumpet player can put a _____ in the bell to make the sound softer and quieter.
- 4) The _____'s tone blends with almost any instrument.
- 5) Most orchestras have three trombones, two _____ and one _____.
- 6) The trombone is easily recognised by its _____.
- 7) The _____ is lower than even the bass trombone.
- 8) The tuba is a very large instrument, but does not make a very _____.