

The Music of the Pipe Organ

The Pipe Organ is an amazing instrument. Sometimes called the King of Instruments, the organ is like having an entire orchestra at your fingertips. Organists learn to play multiple keyboards with their hands and feet, learn a variety of musical styles, and learn how to manage an instrument that is different in every venue.

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SUMMARY

This lesson introduces the vocabulary of the pipe organ, outlines the different parts of the organ and music from different eras, and talks about the instrument families of the orchestra. Students will learn about the challenges of playing this instrument and about some of the composers who write for this instrument.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Learn about the instrument families of the orchestra
- Learn the vocabulary and parts of the organ
- Compare/Contrast music from the Baroque, Romantic, and 20th-21st Century
- Describe the challenges of playing the organ

Teaching Approach	Teaching Methods	Assessment Type
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts Integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperative Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large or Small Group Instruction 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands-On Learning 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multimedia Instruction 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided Listening 	

RESOURCES

- **King of Instruments Part 3:** The Music of the Organ
- Vocabulary
- <http://www.sfskids.org/classic/templates/instorchframe.asp?pageid=3>

Required Technology

Computer and Screen or Smartboard
Speakers

VOCABULARY

Console: an area of the organ called the console which holds the manuals (keyboards), pedals, and stop controls. In electric-action organs, the console is often movable. This allows for greater flexibility in placement of the console for various activities.

Manual (also called a keyboard): The organ is played with at least one keyboard, with configurations featuring from two to five keyboards being the most common. A keyboard to be played by the hands is called a manual (from the Latin manus, "hand"); an organ with four keyboards is said to have four manuals.

pedalboard: a large keyboard to be played by the feet.

stops: is a component of a pipe organ that admits pressurized air (known as wind) to a set of organ pipes. Its name comes from the fact that stops can be used selectively by the organist; some can be "on" (admitting the passage of air to certain pipes), while others can be "off" (stopping the passage of air to certain pipes).

pipes: the organ has two types of pipes: flue pipes and reed pipes. Flue pipes produce sound through the vibrations of air molecules in the same manner as a recorder or whistle. There are no moving parts in a flue pipe. Reed pipes produce sound by a vibrating brass strip known as a reed. The frequency is determined by length.

ranks: A set of pipes producing the same timbre for each note is called a *rank*

timbre (pronounced TAM bur): also known as tone color, describes the tone or unique quality of a sound.

melody: a pleasing series of musical notes that form the main part of a song or piece of music

rhythm: s the arrangement of sounds as they move through time

tempo: the speed at which a passage of music is or should be played.

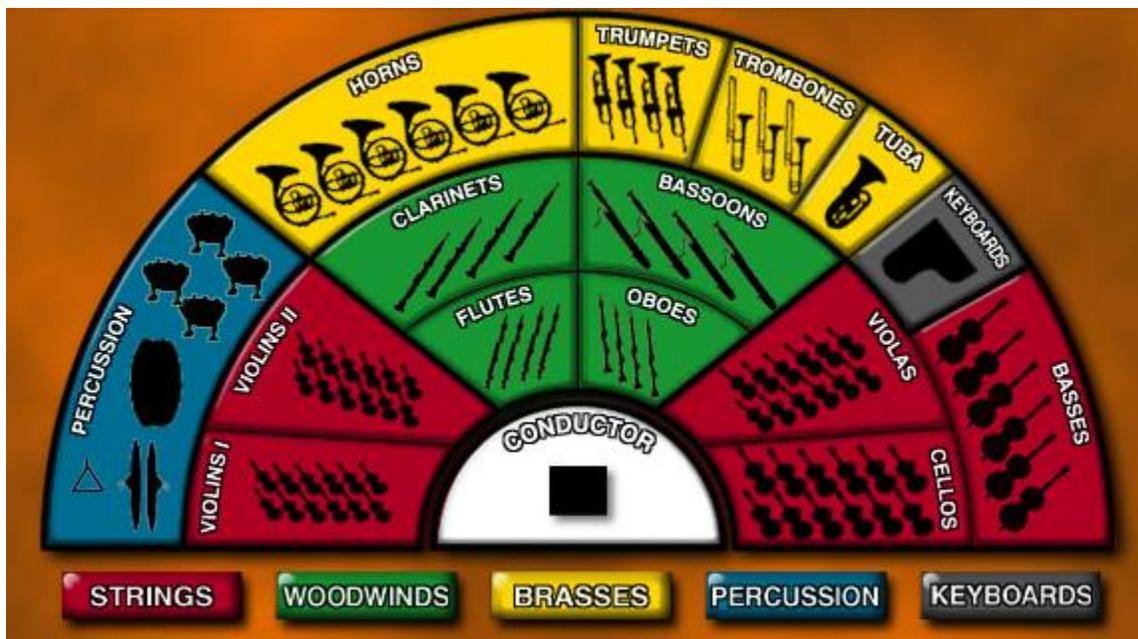
pitch: how low or high the sound is; the frequency of a sound wave determines the pitch: the higher the frequency, the higher the pitch

Baroque: The period in Western European art music from about 1600 to 1750. The music tends to be described as sounding heavily ornamented and exaggerated. Bach and Handel were composers during this era.

Romantic: The period in Western European art music from about 1780-1810. The main characteristics of this music is freedom of form and design. It was more personal and emotional. Composers include Widor and Franck

20th/21st Century: This era was without a dominant style and composers have created highly diverse kinds of music. Modernism, impressionism, post-romanticism, neoclassicism, expressionism, and, later, minimalism were all important movements.

INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA



STANDARDS

National Standards

Grade K-4 Music Standard 6: Listening to, analyzing, and describing music

Georgia Performance Standards (GPS)

MESBO.6.a.: Discuss the basic principles of meter, rhythm, tonality, and instrumentation in selected aural examples.

MESBO.7.c.: Judge the quality of performance in tone, intonation, balance, dynamics, and rhythm.

MESBB.6.a.: Identify and describe compositional devices, techniques, meter, tempo, tonality, intervals, and chords.

MKGM.6.b.: Describe music using appropriate vocabulary (e.g., high, low, loud, quiet, fast, slow).

MESBO.6.b.: Identify melodic and harmonic material in given aural examples.

MESBC.3.b.: Identify basic music vocabulary and symbols representing tempo, meter, dynamics, and other expressive elements.

INSTRUCTION

ENGAGE

1. Review the instrument families of the orchestra
2. Play instrument listening clips
3. Play King of Instruments Part 3: The Music of the Organ
4. Review the vocabulary of the organ

BUILD KNOWLEDGE

1. Have students compare the instruments of the orchestra with organ listening clips.
2. Ask students to pat their heads, rub their stomachs, and stomp their feet at the same time. Note the challenges of coordinating these activities and compare to an organist playing three or more manuals, a pedalboard and managing stops. Coordinate with PE teacher for an activity.
3. Play the King of Instrument examples of Baroque, Romantic, and 20th Century music. How are they the same? What makes them different?

APPLY

1. Review the Vocabulary adding the following term to the discussion:
2. Have students create a rubric with the characteristics of each musical era. Divide the students into groups. Play other pieces from those musical eras and have them decide if it is Baroque, Romantic, or 20th/21st Century. Have each group describe and defend their assignment of a piece of music to an era.

REFLECT

1. Discuss the following questions: