

About WASO

From the centre of Perth to the furthest corners of the state, we have provided the soundtrack to life in WA since 1928.

As the State Orchestra, Perth's first and finest, WASO is the largest employer of performing artists in Western Australia and reaches two million people with musical experiences each year on stage, in our community, and online.

Our Orchestra is made up of 78 full-time musicians; 51 strings, 12 woodwind, 12 brass and 3 percussion, with over 40 administration and production staff working behind-the-scenes to deliver mainstage and community events almost every week of the year.

From concert halls to classrooms, hospitals to aged care, we bring joy, inspire learning, and nurture participation in our community, because everybody deserves the opportunity to experience live music. Every year, through community and leading industry partnerships, we engage a new generation of young and emerging artists to help secure a bright future for music in Australia.



We celebrate our rich classical music heritage with great artists from all over the world and commission and perform new repertoire to renew and expand it. The Orchestra collaborates widely with major arts companies and independent artists, performing opera to ballet, movies to musicals, jazz to rock. We champion the diversity of music in all its forms, with a team of talented and passionate people who create unforgettable experiences for all West Australians to enjoy.

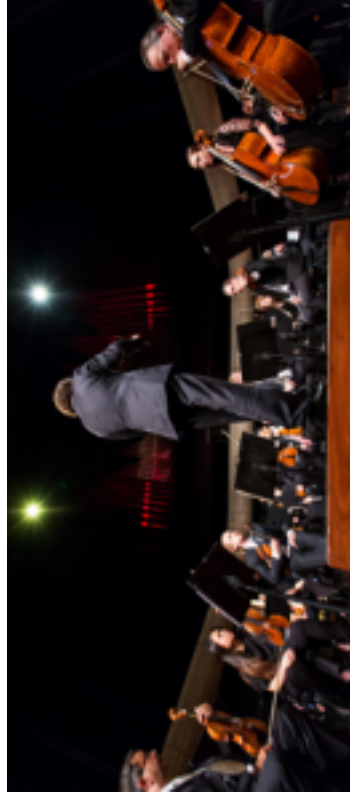
Asher Fisch is Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser of our Orchestra and we are proud to call Perth Concert Hall home.

THE ORCHESTRA



The Strings

The **STRINGS** family has the most players in the orchestra. There are four instruments in this family, the **VIOLIN** is the smallest and highest. The **VIOLA** is the bigger sibling of the violin and is slightly lower. The **CELLO** is larger again sounding most like the human voice. The lowest and largest of the string family is the **DOUBLE BASS**.



The Strings sit closest to the conductor in the orchestra. Their sound is made by making vibrations along the strings. These vibrations are often created by drawing a **bow** across the strings or plucking the strings with their fingers.



VIOLIN



VIOLA

The larger the instruments in the Strings family, the lower their sound. **Violins** and **Violas** make **higher-pitched** sounds. The larger **Cello** and **Double Bass** make **low** rich sounds.



CELLO



DOUBLE BASS

The instruments of the Strings family are all **wooden** and use **strings** to make their sound.

The Woodwinds



The instruments in the Woodwind family from the highest sound to the lowest sounds are: **Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Cor Anglais, Clarinet and Bassoon.**



Just like the Strings, the smaller instruments in the woodwind family are **higher in pitch**. The **bigger** and longer instruments are deeper and **lower in pitch**.

The instruments in the **WOODWIND** family all used to be made of wood however today some of them are also made of metal.
The **OBOE, CLARINET** and **BASSOON** are all made of wood.
The **FLUTE** is made of metal.
The instruments are played by **blowing into or across a mouthpiece**. Keys are pressed down to change notes.



Mouthpieces for some woodwind instruments use a thin piece of wood called a **reed**.
The clarinet uses a single reed; this is one piece of thin wood. The oboe and bassoon use a double reed made of two pieces joined together.
To make a sound on the flute you **blow across** the metal hole in the mouthpiece.



The Brass



TRUMPET

Most brass instruments have **valves** (like buttons). They change note or 'pitch' by pressing the valves and buzzing your lips harder or softer.

The instruments of the **BRASS** family can play louder than any other in the orchestra. The Brass instruments in the orchestra are the **FRENCH HORN**, **TRUMPET**, **TROMBONE** and **TUBA**. The instruments in this family are made of **brass** or **metal**. Brass instruments are essentially long metal tubes with a bell-like shape at the end. The tube is curved and twisted into the instruments.



TROMBONE

Instruments in the Brass family make sound by **blowing into a mouthpiece**.

The sound starts at the lips with brass instruments making a **buzzing sound**. The mouthpiece helps to amplify the buzzing sound made by the lips.



FRENCH HORN

The instruments of the Brass family make a strong musical statement with a very distinct sound. **Trumpets** are characterised by **bright and crisp sounds**. **French Horns** have a more **tender and mellow sound**. **Trombones** have a **powerfulness** to its sound, they have the unique ability to produce **glide sounds**. Tubas are the "**Big Brothers**" of the brass family, making a **deep and rich sound**.

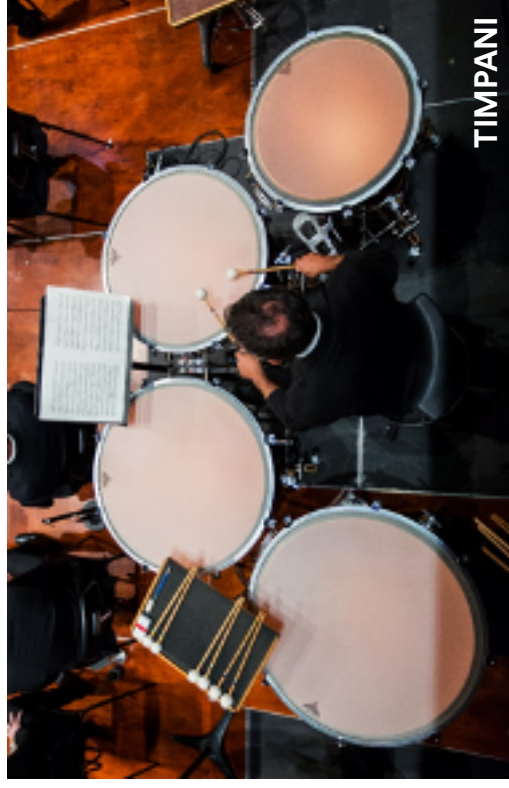


TUBA

The Percussion

The **PERCUSSION** family is the largest in the orchestra. Percussion instruments are any instrument that is **hit**, **shaken** or **scraped** to make its sound.

It takes a lot of practice to be a percussionist to hit an instrument in the right place, at the right time and with the right amount of force.



The most common instruments in the orchestra are **CYMBALS**, **BASS DRUM**, **GONGS**, **TIMPANI**, **XYLOPHONE**, **TRIANGLE** and **SNARE DRUM**.

Unlike most players in the orchestra a percussionist will usually play lots of different instruments in one piece of music.



The Percussion instruments in the orchestra keep the rhythm, make special sounds and add colour. Some percussion instruments can play different notes like the xylophone, this is called **tuned** percussion. Some percussion instruments are **untuned**. This means they do not have a distinct pitch, such as the sound of a drum or cymbals.