

MSO FOR SCHOOLS

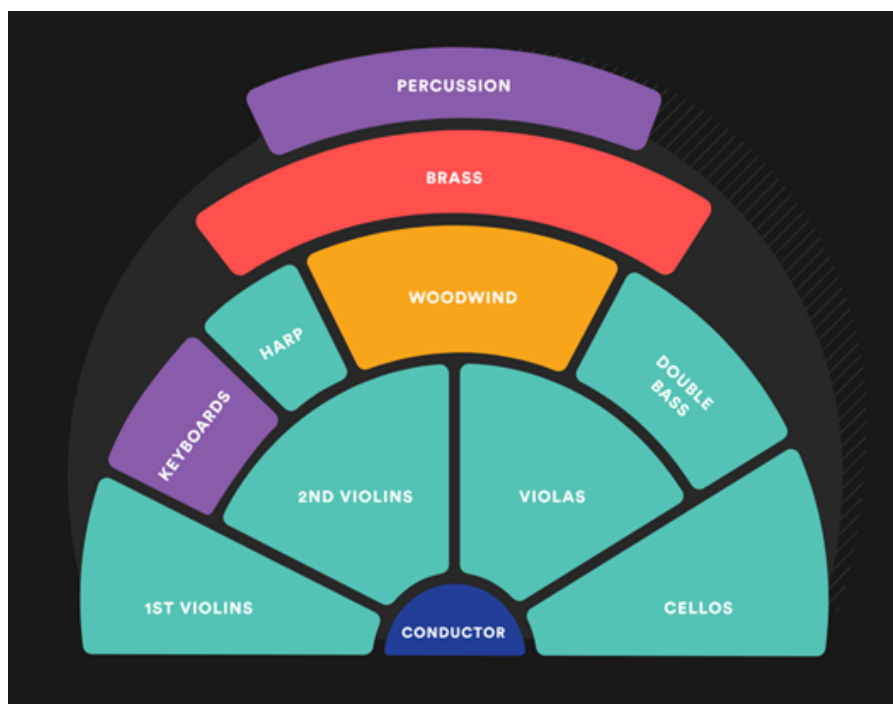
CONCERTS AND REHEARSALS



THINGS TO CONSIDER DURING A CONCERT OR REHEARSAL

The MSO currently has 80 permanent musicians. Many other musicians join us on a regular and casual basis, depending on the requirements of the pieces being performed.

Every piece requires a specific number of instruments which affects the number of players and the types of instruments on stage.



Can you locate the position of the family of instruments?

This chart may provide some clues!

How many players are on stage today?

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

- There are twice as many string players as all the other instruments put together. They are the quietest instruments and sit near the front.
- The loudest instruments sit at the back; these players sit a few rows back from the conductor, in the centre of the orchestra. Brass: trumpets, horns, trombones, tubas and percussion.
- Does the orchestra have any ear protection for players sitting in front of the louder instruments?

HOW DOES THE REHEARSAL OR CONCERT BEGIN?

- What instrument plays the tuning note that everyone uses?
- Who stands up to tell the instruments when it is their turn to tune?
- Is there a particular order in which the instruments are tuned?
- How do you know when the orchestra has finished tuning?
- What happens when the conductor gives some direction to the orchestra? Do they:
 - a) write a note on their score
 - b) play it again
 - c) ignore him
 - d) make a note and keep going
- How do the musicians communicate to each other without using words?
- How do you think a conductor prepares for a rehearsal?
- How is a conductor's role in a rehearsal different to that in a concert?

REFLECTION:

- What do you think the benefits would be of a job as a full-time member of the orchestra?
- What would the disadvantages be?
- What did you think of the music that was being rehearsed or performed today?
- What were your favourite and least favourite parts and why?

