The string family is made of wood. A string instrument is played by moving a bow across a string.

**Bass**

The bass is the biggest member of the family. The bass plays notes that sound very low.

**Cello**

The cello is a low-sounding instrument that often plays beautiful melodies with the orchestra.

**Viola**

The viola is similar to a violin, but if you look carefully, you’ll see that it’s a little bit bigger – like a big brother or sister!

**Violin**

The violin is the smallest member of the family. It is a very important part of an orchestra, and usually gets to play the melody.
Woodwind Family

Each member of the woodwind family makes its sound by blowing air into it. It is usually made of wood.

The bassoon is the granddaddy of the woodwind family. It is very tall and has a low, dark sound.

The oboe is a smaller member of this family, and can play beautiful solo melodies.

The clarinet is black with bright silver keys, and has a smooth sound.

Some people think that the flute can sound like a bird when it plays high notes. It can have a bright, cheerful sound.
Brass Family

Brass instruments are made of bright, shiny metal and can sound very loud when they want to. This family can make exciting music together!

The trombone has a long slide that makes its notes by moving its slide up and down.

The trumpet is a high-sounding member of this family. It can play loud fanfares, or sweet lullabys.

The tuba is the biggest member of this family, and can play very low notes.

The French horn is a pretty instrument with lots of curls. It has a warm sound that can play beautiful melodies.
A percussion instrument makes its sound when it is hit with something, like a drumstick or a hand.

**Hi-hat**
A hi-hat is made of brass and is hit with a stick. It can make a loud crash sound or a fun rhythm that you can dance to!

**Snare Drum**
The snare drum is a drum that makes a rattling noise when it’s hit with a stick. It is a very popular member of this family!

**Timpani**
The timpani is also known as a kettledrum because it looks like a big pot, or kettle.

**Tom-tom**
A tom-tom is similar to a snare drum, but without the metal rattling noise. It can come in many different sizes.