

The instruments of the orchestra

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to Angela Colbers

The wind instruments

At the back of the orchestra the wind instruments have found a place (**play winds, 5 sec**). Some wind instruments have been made of wood (**show**) and others are made of metal (**show**). Just like the string instruments the different wind instruments vary in size from very small (**show piccolo**) to big (**show tuba or contrabassoon**).

With string instruments, the vibrating string is the source of the sound, with wind instruments different ways are used to force the air to vibrate. At the flute mouthpiece (**show flute**) with the lips some airflow from breathing-out is directed towards a rather sharp edge causing some sound. With the so-called reed instruments (**show reeds**) a thin reed is forced to vibrate, and with the brass instruments a slight air flow between the lips causes vibration (**show brass mouthpiece**).

Then, *very important*, after the mouthpiece a piece of tube is mounted. And the air column inside that tube might vibrate as well, the so-called *resonance*. That only happens when the vibrations in the mouthpiece are at a pitch that is able to resonate in the specific length of air column. A much louder and more defined sound is then generated (**play trumpet mouthpiece separately and mounted**). That resonance happens at a *short* tube for *high pitch* (**play piccolo**) and at a *long* tube for *low pitch* (**play tuba**).

The clarinets

The clarinet is a single-reed woodwind instrument (**show clarinet**). Like with the saxophone a piece of reed is fixed on a mouthpiece and when blowing a slight flow of air along the reed that will vibrate (**clarinet blows the mouthpiece**). When the mouthpiece is mounted onto the resonance tube of the clarinet distinct tones can be played. The tube of the clarinet is equipped with a lot of holes and keys allowing the clarinet to play very advanced and virtuoso performances (**clarinet plays a series of scales**).

Like the flutes and oboes, the clarinets are members of a family of instruments and the clarinet family has the largest pitch range of all wind instrument families. There is a piccolo clarinet, the “normal” clarinet, the alto clarinet, the bass clarinet, the contralto clarinet, contrabass clarinet, together forming the clarinet choir (**show the different sizes of clarinets**).

The clarinet not only plays important parts in the orchestra, it has distinct roles in jazz music, gipsy and klezmer music and military bands. The clarinet sound has a wide dynamic range, it can play loud and aggressive as well as soft and smooth. The sound color of the clarinet ranges from a sentimental slobbering in the lower pitch range to a brutal yapping in the high range; a broad range of sounds, very attractive to every composer. (**Now the clarinets will play a duet and/or a trio, depending on the availability**).

Andante ♩. = 70

Clarinet in B \flat 1

Musical notation for Clarinet in B \flat 1, measures 1-4. The staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B \flat) and a 6/8 time signature. The dynamics are marked *mf*. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a long note in measure 3.

Clarinet in B \flat 2

Musical notation for Clarinet in B \flat 2, measures 1-4. The staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B \flat) and a 6/8 time signature. The dynamics are marked *mf*. The part features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth and sixteenth notes.

5

Musical notation for Clarinet in B \flat 1 and 2, measures 5-8. The notation continues from the previous system, showing the interaction between the two parts.

11

Musical notation for Clarinet in B \flat 1 and 2, measures 11-14. The notation continues from the previous system, showing the interaction between the two parts.

Andante ♩. = 80

Clarinet in B \flat 1 *mp*

Clarinet in B \flat 2 *mp*

Bass Clarinet *f*

8 *mp*

8 *mp*

8 *f*

15

15

15

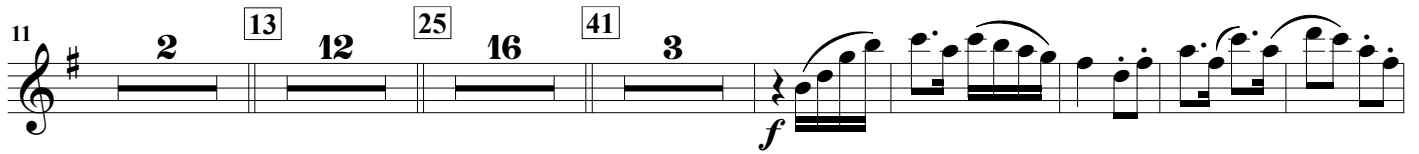
Finale

Allegro maestoso, ♩ = 112

Clarinet 1 in B \flat



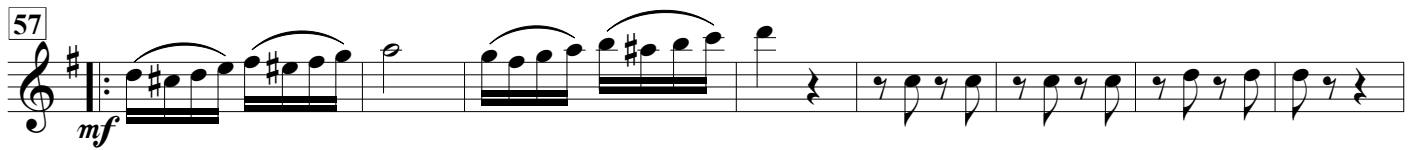
11 2 13 12 25 16 41 3



49 3




57 mf



65 f



72 1. 2.



78 Slow blues, ♩ = 72 p 82



86 p 98



100 p 7



Allegro maestoso, ♩ = 112

113 114 mf



119



126 f

