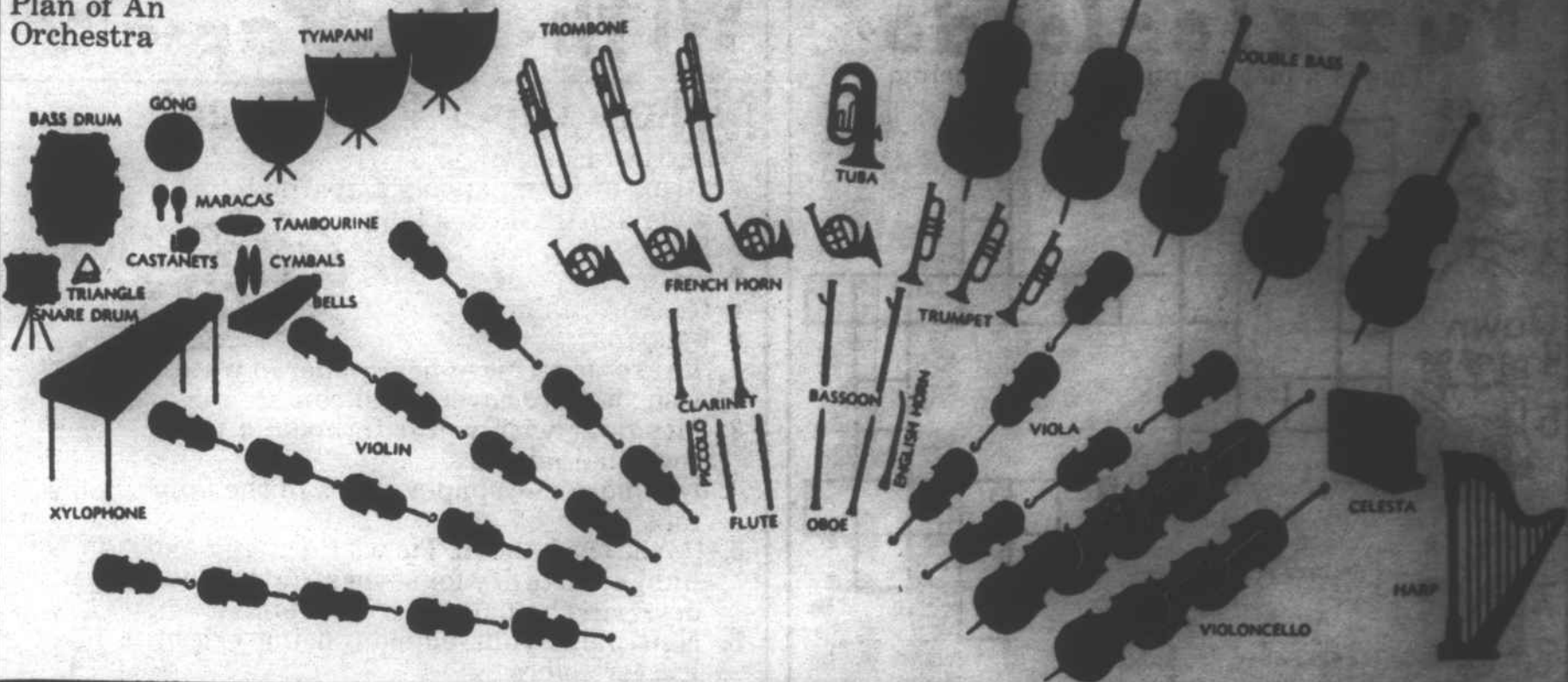


The Unusual Seating Plan of An Orchestra



Make Your Own Music



Many fourth graders in North Carolina learn to play recorders. When the symphony comes to their city, they play along with the orchestra. Recorders are very old instruments. They are not members of the orchestra.

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A Conductor and His Orchestra



Murray Sidlin, Resident Conductor for the National Symphony, shows two Washington, D.C. children how he uses his baton to direct the orchestra.

For Parents 'n Teachers

To Keep You Posted: This Mini Page is designed to be used as a poster. After the children have finished working the puzzles, hang it in a prominent spot for further discussion and study.

Background information: Early man made music by making sounds and imitating what he heard in nature . . . such as bird calls and running streams. Later he began clapping his hands, stamping his feet, striking things together and blowing across or into reeds or horns of animals. He also began beating on animal skins stretched across hollow logs. From these very primitive beginnings sprang today's symphony orchestra.

Page 1: Discuss how the different musical instruments are played. Cut the page apart. Paste each instrument on an index card. Have the children group them according to musical family. Play records that encourage children to listen for the different musical families.

Have the children work with fingerpaints while they express their feelings. Ask them to listen and imagine what colors they hear when a certain instrument is played. For example, a piccolo might be yellow, a tuba brown. Ask the children to listen to symphony music and act out how they feel. Play a modern hit, then a symphony and discuss how they are different.

Page 4: Look at the seating chart. Have the children match the instruments on page 1 with the seating chart on page 4.

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To find out about symphony orchestras and their conductors, The Mini Page talked with Murry Sidlin, Resident Conductor for the National Symphony.

"The National Symphony is made up of nearly 100 people. Many are Americans, but some are Spanish, French, German, Italian and Orientals," he said.

"Our musicians have been to some of the best music schools in the world. Most of them started playing at a very young age," he added.

"Today, most of our members teach students of their own how to play," he said.

Conductors tell the musicians when to play. They must be very good at playing many different instruments. They read music much like we read a book.

Conductors decide how loud or soft the music will be. They decide the tempo or speed. They also decide how the music will be expressed.