



Wigan Music Service Whole Class Instrumental Lessons at Home

STRINGS



Listen Up!

William Tell was originally written for an orchestra. Because orchestras can be very expensive to hire, or they might not fit into the space available (could your whole class perform a concert in your living room and fit an audience in as well?!) musicians come up with a version of the piece written for a different set of instruments. This is called an **arrangement** of the tune.

Here are some examples of arrangements of William Tell:

<https://youtu.be/CsGhI0oYA9I>

Which family of instruments are used in this first arrangement?

https://youtu.be/bFYsFR_uzuY

This arrangement is played on the marimba; which family of instruments does the marimba belong to?

<https://youtu.be/-JhdJJq9-3I>

Which of these 3 arrangements are your favourite?

Can you find a different arrangement of William Tell, or your favourite tune? It could be a Disney song, a pop song, or a theme tune.


Do you think they sound as good and effective as the original?

Make Some Music

Now we are going to use our first finger to make our version sound more like the real tune:

Blue notes are first finger on the D string (called low E). Green notes are open A (no fingers)

If you don't have your instrument, you can sing the correct notes.



Violin

Viola

Violoncello

If you don't read music, here it is with just the numbers/letters.

1 1 1 1 1 1 A A A



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Investigate



We are going to investigate **pitch**.

Pitch is about high and low sounds. If we hear a high sound (like a scream) it could be described as “a high-pitched scream.” If we hear a low sound (like a rumble) it could be described as “a low rumble.”

Here’s a video explaining how pitch works.

https://youtu.be/yMLTF_0PAQw

When you press your first finger down on a string, what happens to the pitch of the note compared to the pitch of the open string (with no fingers pressing?)

Which stringed instrument can play the highest pitched notes?

Which stringed instrument can play the lowest pitched notes?

More Fun

Found Sounds

How many everyday items in your house make a **HIGH PITCHED** or **LOW PITCHED** sound when you gently tap them with a pencil or wooden spoon?

Try tapping a saucepan,

A radiator,

The kitchen cupboard

The wheelie bin

A door handle

A Jam Jar (tap gently!)

Try this out on as many objects as you can around the house.

Make a list of the objects that sound **HIGH PITCHED** and a list of the objects that sound **LOW PITCHED**.

Which object makes the **LOWEST** pitch when you tap it?