

# NLO Shorts: An Introduction to the Orchestra



## The Bassoon

Watch the NLO Shorts videos introducing the instruments of the orchestra. You can find them on the New London Orchestra YouTube channel, or on their website at [bit.ly/NLOShorts](https://bit.ly/NLOShorts). As you are watching the videos, answer the questions below. If you're unsure about spellings, turning on subtitles might help!

1. What is the lowest note on the bassoon? (Answer in note-names or by drawing a staff.) [1]
2. What is a reed made from? What do you do to make a double reed? [2]  
Brass | Cane | Fold | Hammer | String | Mute | Tie
3. What is the other instrument in the bassoon family? How does its pitch relate to the bassoon? [2]  
Higher | Lower | The same | One octave | Two Octaves
4. Listen carefully to the extract from Giuseppe Verdi's *Requiem* (1:53). What is the time signature of this music? [1]  
4/4 | 3/4 | 12/8
5. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which instrument did bassoons often play with? [1]

Extension: listen to the Augurs of Spring from Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* (<https://youtu.be/EkwqPJZe8ms> 4:04–7:13). This music is thought to represent celebratory pagan dance music. With reference to the musical elements, do you think Stravinsky successfully achieves this?