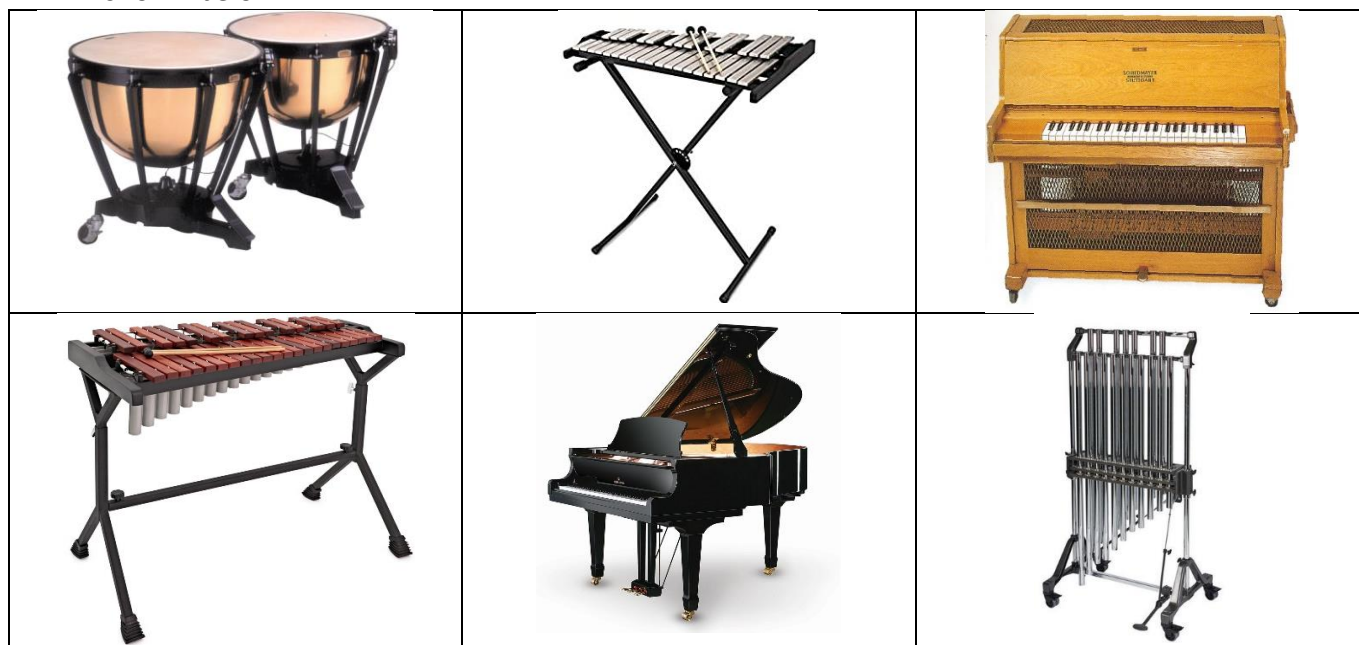


Exploring the Percussion Section

Name _____

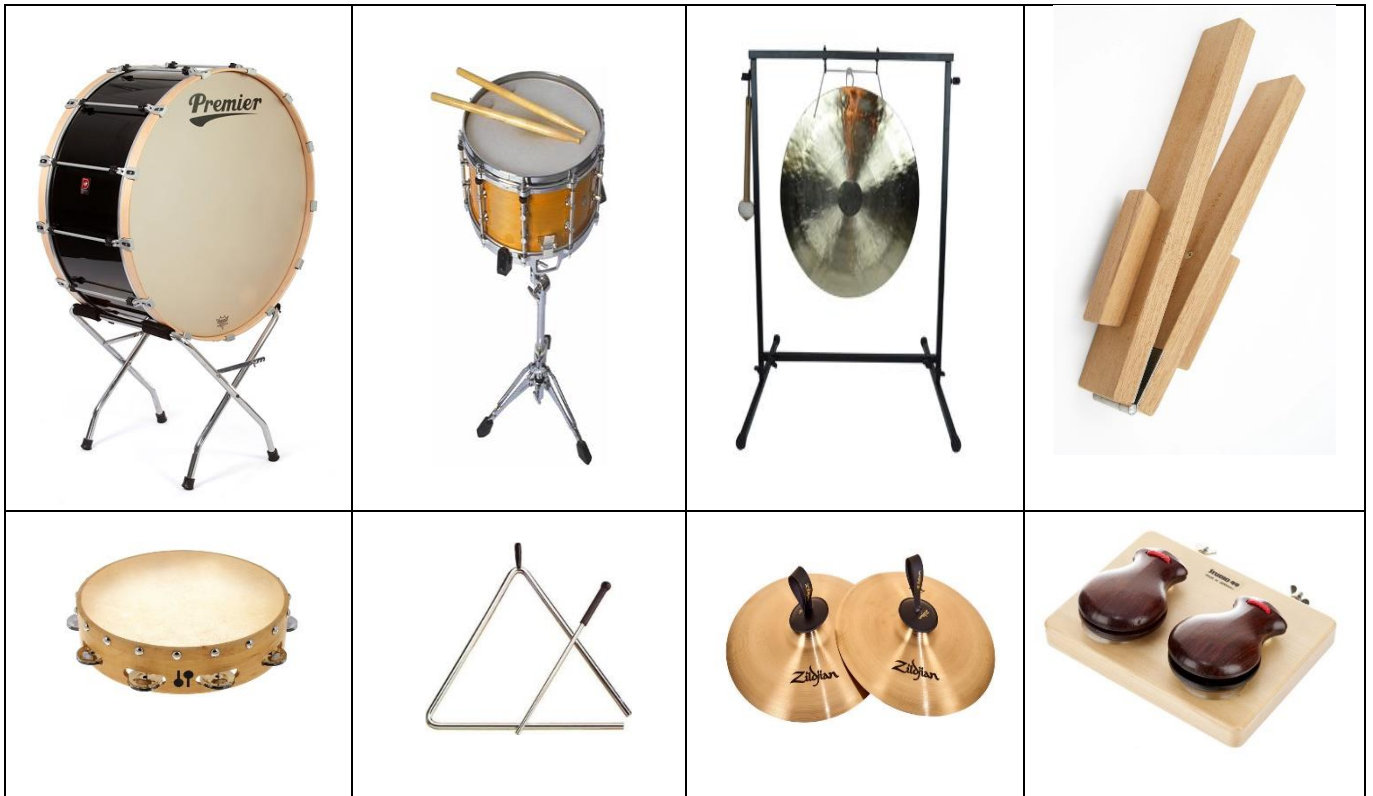
Form _____

1. How are sounds produced on percussion instruments?
2. Percussion instruments can be divided into two groups: **TUNED** or **PITCHED PERCUSSION** and **UNTUNED** or **UNPITCHED PERCUSSION**. What is the difference between these groups?
3. The instruments below all belong to the **TUNED PERCUSSION** group and found in the percussion section of an orchestra. Give the correct name for each of the tuned percussion instruments shown below:



4. Listen to 5 extracts of music for solo **TUNED** percussion instruments – each extract matches one of the tuned percussion instruments above. Write down the correct order in which you hear the instruments being played.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
5. The piano belongs to the **PERCUSSION** family or section of the orchestra, even though it has strings inside, which are stretched across a metal frame. Why does the piano belong to the percussion and not the strings section?

6. There are many instruments which belong to the **UNTUNED PERCUSSION** group and found in the percussion section of an orchestra. Give the correct name for each of the untuned percussion instruments shown below:



7. Listen to 8 extracts of music for solo **UNTUNED** percussion instruments – each extract matches one of the tuned percussion instruments above. Write down the correct order in which you hear the instruments being played.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

8. Listen to three different pieces of music for orchestra which features percussion instruments. Write down as many percussion instruments that you can hear in each piece. Afterwards, write next to each instrument whether it belongs to the **TUNED** or **UNTUNED** group of percussion.

Extract 1 - 'Fandango Asturiano' from <i>Spanish Caprice</i> – Rimsky-Korsakov	Extract 2 - Polka, from <i>The Age of Gold</i> – Shostakovich	Extract 3 - Overture: <i>Tam O'Shanter</i> – Malcolm Arnold

Exploring the Percussion Section









ANSWERS

- How are sounds produced on percussion instruments? **Sound is made by striking, shaking, crashing, banging or hitting the instrument, often with 'beaters'.**
- Percussion instruments can be divided into two groups: **TUNED** or **PITCHED PERCUSSION** and **UNTUNED** or **UNPITCHED PERCUSSION**. What is the difference between these groups?
Tuned or pitched percussion can play one or more notes of definite pitch and so could possible play a tune or melody. Untuned or unpitched percussion make sounds of indefinite pitch and can only play rhythms, not melodies or different notes (although some can produce different types of sounds e.g. a tambourine being shaken and hit).
- The instruments below all belong to the **TUNED PERCUSSION** group and found in the percussion section of an orchestra. Give the correct name for each of the tuned percussion instruments shown below:



- Listen to 5 extracts of music for solo **TUNED** percussion instruments – each extract matches one of the tuned percussion instruments above. Write down the correct order in which you hear the instruments being played.
 - Glockenspiel**
 - Timpani**
 - Celesta**
 - Xylophone**
 - Tubular Bells**
- The piano belongs to the percussion section and not the strings, as the sound is produced by hammers which hit/strike the strings.

6. There are many instruments which belong to the **UNTUNED PERCUSSION** group and found in the percussion section of an orchestra. Give the correct name for each of the untuned percussion instruments shown below:

<p>Bass Drum</p> 	<p>Snare Drum (side drum)</p> 	<p>Gong (Tamtam)</p> 	<p>Whip</p> 
 <p>Tambourine</p>	 <p>Triangle</p>	 <p>Cymbals</p>	 <p>Castanets</p>

7. Listen to 8 extracts of music for solo **UNTUNED** percussion instruments – each extract matches one of the tuned percussion instruments above. Write down the correct order in which you hear the instruments being played.

1. **Cymbals**
2. **Side Drum**
3. **Castanets**
4. **Gong (Tamtam)**
5. **Tambourine**
6. **Whip**
7. **Bass Drum**
8. **Triangle**

8. Listen to three different pieces of music for orchestra which features percussion instruments. Write down as many percussion instruments that you can hear in each piece. Afterwards, write next to each instrument whether it belongs to the **TUNED** or **UNTUNED** group of percussion.

<p>Extract 1 - 'Fandango Asturiano' from Spanish Caprice – Rimsky-Korsakov</p>	<p>Extract 2 - Polka, from The Age of Gold – Shostakovich</p>	<p>Extract 3 - Overture: Tam O'Shanter – Malcolm Arnold</p>
<p>Timpani (tuned) Triangle (untuned) Side Drum (untuned) Bass Drum (untuned) Cymbals (untuned) Tambourine (untuned) Castanets (untuned)</p>	<p>Xylophone (tuned) Side Drum (untuned) Tambourine (untuned) Triangle (untuned) Woodblock (untuned) Bass Drum (untuned) Timpani (tuned)</p>	<p>Timpani (tuned) Bass Drum (untuned) Tamtam/Gong (untuned) Cymbals (untuned)</p>