

Learning Timbre

Instruments are like people in that they each have unique voices. We can identify instruments using their individual sound—their **Timbre (TAM-ber)**—even when they are playing the same notes.

Definition: **Timbre (TAM-ber)** is an instrument's unique voice or sound that makes it different from another instrument

GAME TIME

Guess Who

For this game, you'll need a few people. Grab your parents, siblings, or anyone who's in your house with you.

How to play:

- Make up a funny or nonsense word to say.
- **Decide who will guess. The guesser sits facing away from the others with their eyes closed or blindfolded; the others are the tricksters.**
- Blindfold the guesser or have them close their eyes.
- **The tricksters take turns saying the chosen word while the guesser tries to identify who said it! Tricksters can try to change their voices (say the word really high or really low).**
- Change roles until everyone has been the guesser.

Sounds of the Symphony

For this game, you'll need the internet.

How to play:

- Visit the Timbre Comparison Ode to Joy videos
- **Watch and Listen to one entire group of videos**

| <u>Strings</u> | <u>Woodwinds</u> | <u>Woodwinds (cont.)</u> | <u>Brass</u> | <u>Percussion</u> |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Violin | Flute | Clarinet | French Horn | Timpani |
| Viola | Piccolo | E-Flat Clarinet | Trumpet | Vibraphone |
| Cello | Oboe | Bass Clarinet | Trombone | |
| Bass | English Horn | Bassoon | Bass-Trombone | |
| | | Contrabassoon | Tuba | |

- After watching once, face away from the screen, ask someone else to start the videos of the same group again, and listen. Try to guess the instrument!