

Orchestra Music

An **orchestra** is an [instrumental ensemble](#), usually fairly large with string, brass, woodwind sections, and possibly a percussion section as well. The term *orchestra* derives from the name for the area in front of an [ancient Greek stage](#) reserved for the [Greek chorus](#). The orchestra grew in size throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but changed very little in composition during the course of the twentieth century.

A smaller orchestra (of about forty players or fewer) is called a **chamber orchestra**.

A full size orchestra (about 80-100 players) may sometimes be called a "**symphony orchestra**" or "**philharmonic orchestra**"; these prefixes do not necessarily indicate any strict difference in either the [instrumental](#) constitution or role of the orchestra, but can be useful to distinguish different ensembles based in the same city (for instance, the [London Symphony Orchestra](#) and the [London Philharmonic Orchestra](#)). A symphony orchestra will usually have over eighty [musicians](#) on its roster, in some cases over a hundred, but the actual number of musicians employed in a particular performance may vary according to the work being played and the size of the venue. A leading chamber orchestra might employ as many as fifty musicians; some are much smaller than that.

Chamber Music

Chamber music is a form of [classical music](#), written for a small group of instruments which traditionally could be accommodated in a palace chamber. Most broadly, it includes any "[art music](#)" that is performed by a small number of performers with one performer to a part. The word "chamber" signifies that the music can be performed in a small room, often in a private salon with an intimate atmosphere. However, it usually does not include, by definition, solo instrument performances.

World chamber music encompasses a variety of musical styles that display cross-cultural agility, solid grounding in classical compositional principles. Proponents of the genre are musical chameleons, equally at home in global traditional music styles, displays of classical virtuosity, jazz improvisation, and populist sensibility. World chamber music translates and transcends unfamiliar musical territory, forging an intimate connection between the audience and the performers.

World... The genre bears a close relationship to world music styles in drawing on the raw authentic musical traditions. The inspiration, energy, and soul of world chamber music arises from the bottomless treasures of global folklore.

Chamber ... The magic of world chamber music lies in its intimacy, both in communication between the musicians and the audience. It is music for listening, thinking, and imagining; it is music that speaks to the mind and the heart; it is music that transports the listeners to a cozy room dimly lit by a fireplace, whether it is performed in a house concert or on the grandest of stages.

Music... World chamber music is music in the best sense of the word - it sparks passion in its sincerity, unearths deepest fears in its melancholy moments, and brings pure joy at its most jubilant.