

# Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

SCHOOLS RESOURCE PACK

# Peter and the Wolf



COME PLAY WITH US

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# PETER AND THE WOLF



Peter and the Wolf is the story of a boy, Peter, who encounters many animals on his adventure in to the woods. This 'symphonic tale' is told by a narrator and accompanied by an orchestra.

Each character in the story is represented by its own musical motif - a recurring musical idea - played by a different instrument of the orchestra.

## Which animals appear in this story?

Peter encounters a bird, a duck, a cat, and a wolf. Other characters include his Grandfather and the two Hunters.

### ACTIVITY Group Actions

Divide the class in to groups (max 7), each one representing a different character in the story. Ask each group to come up with their own action or movement sequence that suits their musical motif. Have a listen to this performance of the piece in class, and encourage the groups of students to perform their action each time their character appears.

Peter and the Wolf recording: <http://www.mso.com.au/education/resources/>

Suggested for F - 3

## STORY OUTLINE:

- One morning, Peter walks through his gate in to the meadow. He meets a bird who chirps “all is quiet”. A duck comes waddling through the gate for a swim in the pond.
- The bird and the duck begin to quarrel, saying: “What type of bird are you if you can’t fly?” “What type of bird are you if you can’t swim?”
- Peter shouts “Look out!” as a cat creeps through the grass, attempting to catch the bird.
- Peter’s Grandfather comes in to the meadow. He is upset that Peter had gone out without his permission. “The meadow is a dangerous place!”. He takes Peter back in to the house and locks the gate.
- A big grey wolf appears. Frightened, the cat jumps up the tree on another branch to the bird. The wolf begins to chase the duck, and soon enough, swallows her whole!
- Peter, having seen all of this, grabs a rope from the house, climbs up the fence and in to the tree. He asks the bird to fly around and distract the wolf. While she is doing so, Peter catches the wolf by its tail, with his lasso.
- Just then, two hunters come out of the woods, following the wolf’s trail. Peter pleads with them not to shoot, but to help him take the wolf to the zoo instead.

### **When was the very first performance of the music?**

Prokofiev was invited to write the piece in 1936 by the director of the Moscow Children’s Musical Theatre. Intended as a child’s introduction to the orchestra, Prokofiev finished composing and orchestrating the entire work in less than two weeks! In his diary, he recorded: “For me, the story was important only as a means of inducing the children to listen to the music.”

The premiere of *Peter and the Wolf* was on the 2nd May 1936 in Moscow, Russia.

### **Interesting fact:**

The composer considered the first performance of *Peter and the Wolf* to be a bit of a flop. In Prokofiev’s words, “... [attendance] was poor and failed to attract much attention”.

Despite this, Prokofiev’s orchestral parable has now become one of the most famous orchestral pieces, and is a renowned work of music education. Millions of people all over the world have learned to recognise the distinct sounds of instruments associated with the story’s characters, and to appreciate the way in which characters can also be identified by clearly defined musical themes.

# SERGEY PROKOFIEV



The creator of *Peter and the Wolf*, Sergey Prokofiev, was a Russian composer and pianist, who is regarded as one of the major composers of the 20th century.

## About The Composer

Prokofiev was born in 1891 in Sontsovka, Ukraine, which was then part of the Russian Empire. His father was a farmer, and his mother was a talented pianist. She began teaching music to Prokofiev from when he was three years old.

By the age of five, he had already written his first piano composition, called 'Indian Gallop'. At the age of nine, he composed his first opera, 'The Giant'. When he was only 13 years old, he entered the St Petersburg Conservatory to study piano and composition. Prokofiev was also a talented chess player, and one time, beat the future world chess champion.

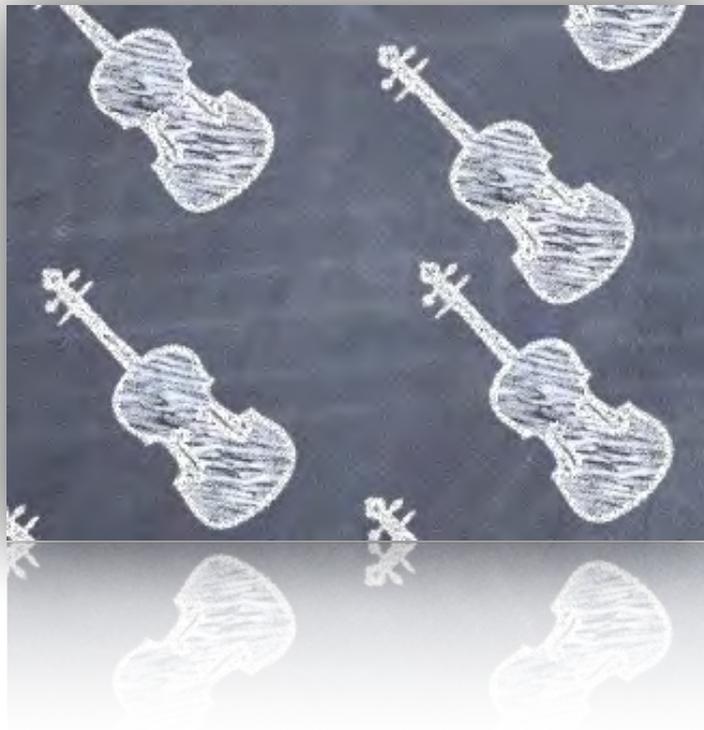
Prokofiev traveled and lived in America and France, all the while composing many symphonies, operas, ballets, film music and instrumental music. Prokofiev returned to Russia in 1932. During this time, he produced some of his most famous works including *Peter and the Wolf* for orchestra and narrator, and the score for his ballet *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Cinderella*.

Sergey Prokofiev Died in Moscow on the same day as Stalin, March 5, 1953.

## CONSIDER THIS Favourite Music

What is your favourite song or piece of music? Do you know who performs it? Do you know who composed the music? Quite often, music is played by someone different to the person who wrote it. See if you can find out who the composer of your favourite piece is, and find some other music written by the same person.

Suggested for 2 - 4



## ACTIVITY You're the Composer

A film producer has phoned, and requested that you compose some music for a story. Is there a story that you can imagine adding music to? Think about the personalities of the main characters. What words would you use to describe each one's personality? Which instruments would you choose to represent the characters?

Suggested for 3 - 4

## MUSICAL TERMS

**Symphony Orchestra:** A large group of musicians that play symphonic pieces (compositions). A Symphony Orchestra will usually have between 70 - 100 musicians. An orchestra is divided into four sections Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion.

**Composer:** A person who creates, (composes) music. Some famous composers include Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Mahler, Stravinsky and Prokofiev. Composers have written pieces for orchestra for over 400 years.

**Conductor:** The person who directs an orchestra. The conductor stands out the front of the musicians, and often uses a baton to indicate timing and guide the musicians on how to play (loud, soft, fast, etc).

**Concertmaster:** The leader, or 'first chair' of the violin section. The concertmaster decides when to begin tuning before a performance, and will signal this to the oboe player, who plays the tuning note. The string section will follow the concertmaster's lead in musical decisions, such as which direction to move their bows. The concertmaster leads the orchestra when they take a bow and exit the stage at the end of a performance.

**Strings:** The largest group in the orchestra that consists of the violin, viola, cello and double bass. Orchestral string instruments are made of wood and have four strings. A sound is made by moving a bow, that is made from wood and horse hair, across the strings. The String section are situated in the front, closest to the conductor.

**Woodwind:** A family of instruments that include the flute, clarinet, oboe and bassoon. They are situated in the middle of the orchestra, behind the strings. Before the invention of the metal flute, all of these instruments were made out of wood, which is why they are called Woodwind. A sound is made by blowing in to the mouth-piece of the instrument. Clarinets, oboes and bassoons use reeds, thin pieces of wood, that vibrate to make a sound.

**Brass:** The Brass family are the loudest in the orchestra! They include Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone and Tuba. Like woodwind instruments, brass use the breath to make a sound. The brass section sit behind the woodwind, near the back of the orchestra.

**Percussion:** The percussion family have the largest variety of instruments in the orchestra. These include Bass Drum, Timpani, Xylophone, Triangle, Cymbals, Gongs, Chimes and other instruments that make a sound by being hit, shaken or scraped. The percussion section are situated at the very back of the orchestra.

# THE MELBOURNE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) was established in 1906 and is Australia's oldest orchestra. There are 100 permanent musicians that perform to more than 200,000 people each year in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Most performances are held at its home, Hamer Hall at Arts Centre Melbourne. During the summer, the MSO perform a series of free concerts at Melbourne's largest outdoor venue, the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.



The Orchestra also delivers educational programs and workshops. *The Pizzicato Effect* is an after school community music program where students in grade 3 or above learn how to play violin, viola and cello.

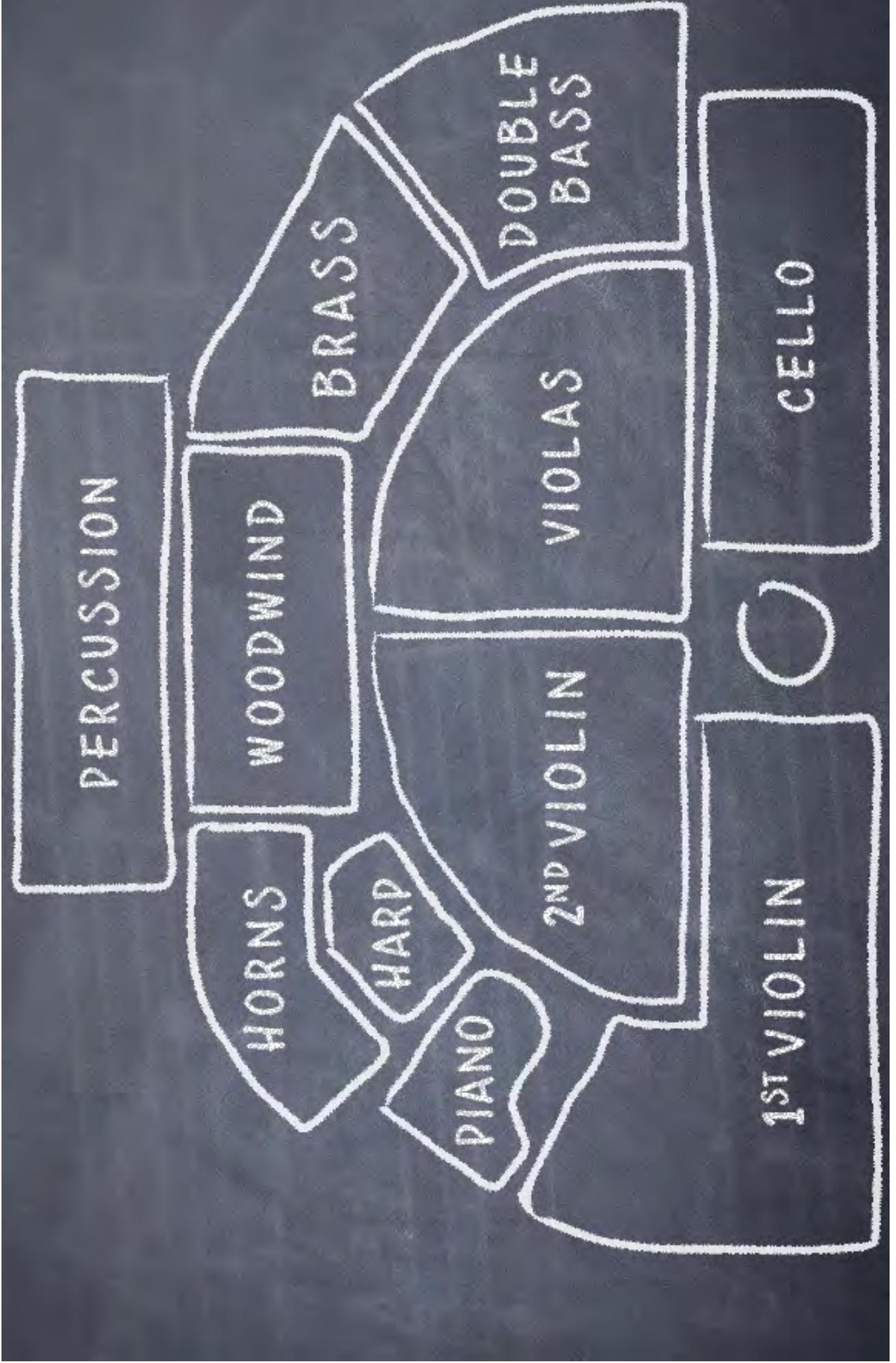
## MSO Learn App

MSO Learn for iPhone and iPad is designed to teach children and adults alike about the inner workings of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and its musicians. The app allows users to learn and listen to each instrument and meet a member of each section of the Orchestra.

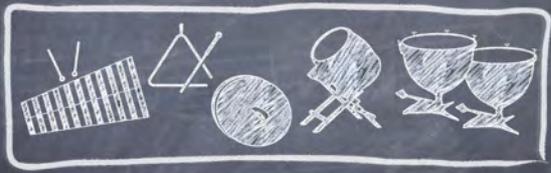
Free download on iTunes!

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/mso-learn/id441422027?mt=8>

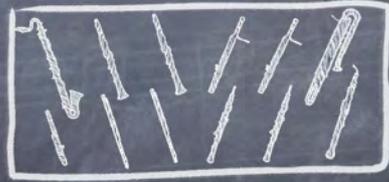
# THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



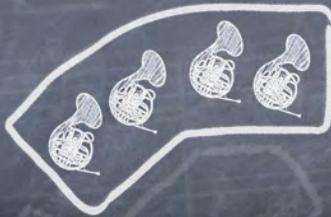
# PERCUSSION



# WOODWIND



# HORNS



# BRASS



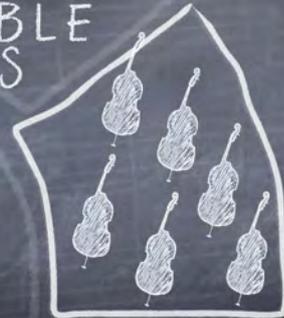
# PIANO



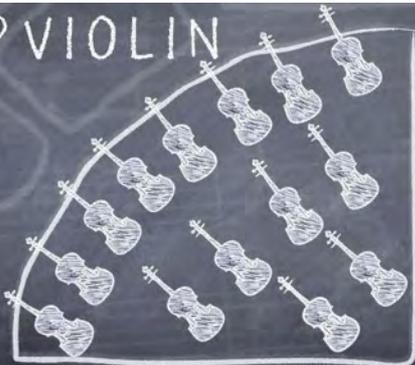
# HARP



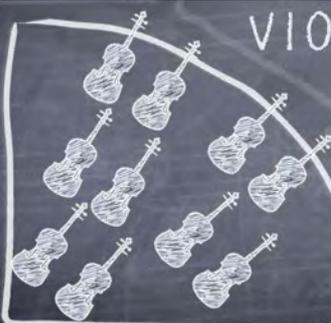
# DOUBLE BASS



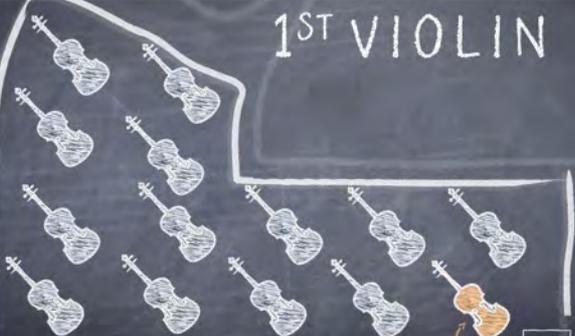
# 2ND VIOLIN



# VIOLA



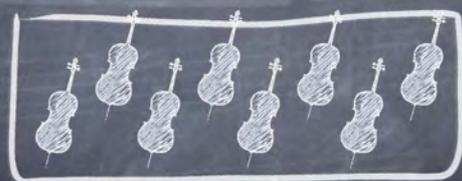
# 1ST VIOLIN



CONCERTMASTER



# CELLO



## Post Performance Questions

*Read through these questions before the performance and use them as a basis for observation, as well as a post-concert reflection.*

### **Recall This:**

1. In the performance, how were the orchestra, conductor and narrator placed on the stage? Draw a diagram.
2. What were the performers wearing?
3. What did the orchestra do at the very start, once they were on stage but before they began *Peter and the Wolf*?
4. What actions do you remember the conductor doing during the performance?

### **In Your Words:**

1. Describe how you felt when you heard the:
  - Flute (Bird)
  - Strings (Peter)
  - French Horn (Wolf)
2. What characteristics of the Duck do you think the Oboe portrayed? Think about how a duck looks, sounds and moves.
3. What words would you use to describe the sound of the Bassoon (Grandfather)?
4. Which was your favourite instrument? What did you like most about that instrument?

Linked to Level 3 - 4 Arts

## Story Questions: Narrative

*These critical questions can act as both a pre-concert guide, and a post-concert activity.*

1. What is the setting for the story *Peter and the Wolf*?
2. How are the characters introduced?
3. Describe two of the characters and their personality traits.
4. Consider the story plot. In dot points, outline what happens at the

Beginning

Middle

End

### ACTIVITY EXTENSION

#### Change of Scene

Peter and the Wolf was written 80 years ago! Using the same characters and a similar plot, could you imagine the story in a completely different setting? In what era would your version take place? What would the landscape look like? What would Peter be wearing in your version? How old is he? Write down some points about how your Peter and the Wolf would be different, and discuss these ideas with your classmates.

\*

For a modern twist on Peter and the Wolf, have a play with the iPhone and iPad App:

***Peter and the Wolf in Hollywood***

<http://www.peterandthewolfinhollywood.com/>

Linked to Level 3 - 4 Arts, English: [ACELA1496]

# Match the instruments to the characters from Peter and the Wolf



## Symphony Orchestra Quiz

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What are the names of the instrument families in a Symphony Orchestra?
  - a. Brass, Piano, Strings, Percussion
  - b. Strings, Woodwind, Brass, Percussion
  - c. Woodwinds, Piano, Drums, Strings
  - d. Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Violins
2. Which instrument will you NOT usually find in an orchestra?
  - a. Bassoon
  - b. Accordion
  - c. Xylophone
  - d. Flute
3. What does a violin bow contain?
  - a. Horse hair
  - b. Snake skin
  - c. Camel hide
  - d. Emu feathers
4. Where are the Woodwinds situated?
  - a. Front
  - b. Middle
  - c. Behind the percussion
  - d. Next to the conductor

5. How many permanent musicians play in the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra?
  - a. 56
  - b. 83
  - c. 100
  - d. 150
  
6. Who leads the musicians in the orchestra?
  - a. Brass section
  - b. Composer
  - c. Bass Drum
  - d. Conductor
  
7. How long have Symphony Orchestras been in existence for?
  - a. Over 400 years
  - b. Since the Palaeolithic era
  - c. Since 1951
  - d. Since the invention of the Flute
  
8. Which is the oldest Symphony Orchestra in Australia?
  - a. Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
  - b. Sydney Symphony Orchestra
  - c. Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra
  - d. West Australian Symphony Orchestra
  
9. How writes the music for the orchestra to play?
  - a. The author
  - b. The composer
  - c. The conductor
  - d. The concertmaster
  
10. What instrument does the orchestra tune to?
  - a. Oboe
  - b. Trumpet
  - c. Timpani
  - d. Flute

## Instruments of the Orchestra

B R Y J L F L F C D I Z C T M Z T T  
L T T V O F U R C O Z B L L L A R U  
K R R F X L P E L U Y A O K O X I B  
B O U V Y U N N A B V S D T M I A A  
C M M V L T V C R L I S R I P M N X  
E B P D O E I H I E O D Z M T J G Q  
L O E F P L O H N B L R Q P L E L P  
L N T P H Z L O E A I U V A C S E E  
O E T K O Q A R T S N M I N S G A A  
O N P I N Z A N K S N L T I M O Z Z  
N C K C E J D S L E O K B A T F S Q  
T O L O B O E N B A S S O O N P L U

Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

FRENCH HORN  
DOUBLE BASS  
XYLOPHONE  
BASS DRUM  
TROMBONE  
CLARINET

TRIANGLE  
TIMPANI  
BASSOON  
TRUMPET  
VIOLIN  
FLUTE

VIOLA  
CELLO  
OBOE  
TUBA

## LINKS:

- Full orchestral recording of Peter and the Wolf: <http://www.mso.com.au/education/resources/>
- Story sheet for Peter and the Wolf: <http://www.dsokids.com/media/10581/Peter-and-The-Wolf-Story-Sheet.pdf>
- MSO Learn for iPhone and iPad. Free download on iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/mso-learn/id441422027?mt=8>