



Orchestra Miami presents *The Purple Palace*

## THE PURPLE PALACE

Music by Bruce Adolphe/ Text by Louise Gikow

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Just beyond the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow is a land named Chromatica.  
is a happy place full of light and color.

But the people of Chromatica weren't always happy. And this is the story of why that was.

At the time, Chromatica was ruled by King Blue and Queen Red. Queen Red was bold and fiery. She had a quick temper and was very impatient. But she was also generous and loving. King Blue was the cooler head of the two. He was the peacemaker, and served as the judge whenever the colors disagreed. And whenever Red lost her temper, Blue was there to calm her down and make peace.

King Blue and Queen Red spent their days happily intertwined in loving harmony.

King Blue and Queen Red were not the only inhabitants of Chromatica. For one thing, King Blue had a son by a former marriage. His son's name was Green.

Green was a good-natured color, and spent his days seeing that the grass and the trees were always clothed properly. He spent a lot of time with his father, who never tired of creating beautiful blue skies under which green leaves could grow.

Green's mother, a cheerful and whimsical color, was the Duchess of Yellow. Yellow was quite close to Red, who was her cousin, and she and the queen spent many a happy evening making beautiful sunsets together.

All the colors knew that Queen Red and King Blue were very much in love, so no one was surprised when they announced that they were going to have a child.

When the baby was born, Queen Red and King Blue were the happiest colors in the Kingdom. They named their child Purple.

Purple was a beautiful color, and she was beloved by all the other colors in the kingdom – particularly by her mother and father. She had everything a royal color could desire, which made her just a little bit spoiled.

And that was how the problem began...

When Purple grew up, her father and mother decided that they would step down from the throne. Purple would be the new queen. The coronation was a glorious affair!

All the colors attended! Purple danced with every eligible color in the kingdom. She bounced with Brown. Purple did the Tango with Turquoise. Purple boogied with Beige!

Purple was attended by her two handmaidens, Violet and Lavender, but they were only pale imitations of her royal, glorious self.

Purple was very young and very taken with herself. "I am the most royal color in the kingdom," she thought happily. "I am the most beautiful color in Chromatica."

"There definitely should be more purple in the world. In fact, the world should be entirely purple!"

So at her coronation, as her first official act after ascending the throne, Purple issued a decree: "I, Queen Purple, declare that from hence forth, everything in the kingdom shall be purple!"

Hearing his daughter's decree that everything in the kingdom must be purple, King Blue turned the color of the sky on a winter's day.

Queen Red flushed, and fainted dead away.

Purple's half-brother, Green, was horrified. "Do you know what you're doing?" he cried.

"You're banishing all the other colors from Chromatica!"

"Who cares?" said Purple. "None of them can hold a candle to my loveliness. I don't need any of them!"

And so, all the other colors had to leave Chromatica, and those who refused to leave were sent to Prism.

Green, who was the last to depart, issued a dire warning. "You will regret this," he told her.

"You will miss us...more than you can imagine."

But Purple didn't listen. "Green's just jealous," she thought. "If Green had inherited the kingdom, it would be green, green, green...nothing but green!"

So Purple got exactly what she wished for: a land of nothing but purple.

There's an old saying: "Be careful what you wish for.. for it just might come true." At first, Purple loved her new land... that is for about a minute. Then she discovered something very disturbing. In fact, she discovered that she couldn't discover anything! That is, she couldn't see anything because everything was purple. She couldn't find her way out of the throne room. She couldn't find her own room, her bed, or her nightgown or toothbrush. In the morning, which she could not see of course, because day and night in Chromatica were the same shade of purple, she couldn't find her plate and bowl, or her breakfast cereal, except by feeling around -- which made a huge mess when she spilled everything after tripping over the breakfast table. And when the now-purple cat tried to lap up the spilled milk, Purple stepped on the poor cat's tail. Of course, she couldn't see it, though she could hear it all right. Purple couldn't see her hand in front of her face -- since her hand was purple and everything around her was purple. She couldn't see her reflection in the mirror, or the wall on which the mirror was hung. In fact, she didn't know if she was inside or outside or coming or going, since everything was purple!

For the first time in her life, Purple found that she was color blind, which means, in Chromatica, that she was blind. She was also starting to get terribly lonely. Purple now began to realize what she had done. She wanted the colors back. She even wanted her pesky half-brother, Green, back. Most of all, she wanted her mother and father back.

The decree had been a horrible mistake- that was clear. Purple was a wonderful color, but without the other colors around, Chromatica had turned into a dull and dreary place. "What a fool I was," Purple thought. She would have blushed red with shame, had there been any red.

Purple sighed, "I feel blue." Not that there was any blue, you understand.

Purple stumbled out into the garden. Of course, she didn't *know* she was *in* the garden...because...well, *you know*. She began to cry. Her tears wet the purple ground. Purple stayed there for a very long time. And then, in the purple soil at her purple feet, she saw something. It was the first thing she had actually seen since her ill-fated decree. It was a tiny stalk of green.

Over the next few days, Purple watched over the little green stalk as it grew. She came back every day to water it – not any easy task when everything is purple, including the watering can. But she didn't give up...although she did get black and blue bonking into the sink and falling over the kitchen chairs. (That is, she didn't get black and blue, she got...purpler.)

And the little green stalk grew and grew. Then, one day, a small *yellow* flower bloomed from the little green stalk. Soon after, a handsome bee visited the flower. It had flown into Chromatica quite by accident, not having heard of the purple decree.

"Bee," Queen Purple said. "Would you grant me a favor?"

"Perhaps," said the bee.

"Would you please," said Queen Purple humbly, "tell all the other colors that they are welcome back in Chromatica? That I miss them very much? In fact, would you beg them to return?"

"I'll tell them," said the bee.

The bee was as good as his word. Soon, colors began flooding back into Chromatica. Queen Purple stood on the slope of her purple mountains. She cleared her throat. "All colors, hues, patterns are free once again to take up residence in Chromatica," she told her subjects. "I am also releasing the colors from Prism. I have learned my lesson. A happy Chromatica is a colorful Chromatica." The colors cheered! "Hip-hip Hooray for Queen Purple," they cried! Happiest of all, Red and Blue returned to join their daughter Purple. Green and Yellow came back as well.

And to celebrate, the five of them -- Red, Blue Purple, Yellow and Green – created a beautiful sunset sky, shot through with a rainbow, which they watched from the purple towers of the Purple Palace.

Queen Purple turned to her family and said smiling, "Purple *is* a wonderful color...as long as the *other* colors are there to set it off! And the colors of Chromatica lived happily ever after.

## **LESSON SUGGESTIONS**

### **Orchestra Layout and Families of Instruments**

See attachments

### **Concert Etiquette**

See attachments

### **Art/Color**

- Divide the students into teams of 2-3. Assign each group a paragraph or section of the story to illustrate. Assign each student a color to use to complete the artwork. Compile the all segments of the story in order to create the entire story book.
- Have students color the “Purple Palace” Color Wheel- attached.
- An excellent lesson plan on Diversity, taught through a box of crayons, is available at: <http://www.tolerance.org/activity/what-can-we-learn-box-crayons>

### **Diversity**

See discussions on Diversity

### **Contributions**

Dr. Janet Duguay Kirsten, a MDCPS music teacher – music advisor and lead consultant on the preparation of this document.

Jeanette Aquino, a parent of a MDCPS third grader and professional illustrator- art advisor and illustrator.

Linda Deighan, a MDCPS teacher –language arts advisor and consultant on diversity segment.

### **Links**

San Francisco Symphony [www.sfskids.org](http://www.sfskids.org)

New York Philharmonic [www.nyphilkids.org](http://www.nyphilkids.org)

Boston Symphony Orchestra [www.bsokids.com](http://www.bsokids.com)

Dallas Symphony Orchestra <http://www.dsokids.com/>

Lancaster Symphony Orchestra [www.lancastersymphony.org](http://www.lancastersymphony.org)

[www.classicsforkids.com](http://www.classicsforkids.com)

### **About Orchestra Miami**

Founded in 2006 by Artistic Director Elaine Rinaldi, **Orchestra Miami** is celebrating 14 years of bringing affordable concerts of quality symphonic music to all people in Miami-Dade County. Orchestra Miami’s mission is to provide people with opportunities to experience art, build community and educate through music. Orchestra Miami’s signature programs include its “Beethoven on the Beach” free outdoor concerts, its “Discover Miami Through Music” series, its many collaborations with the Miami Dade County Public Schools and its Family Fun Concert Series. Orchestra Miami consists of a select group of professional musicians, all permanent residents of South Florida, whose collective body is unparalleled in terms of excellence and experience. Led by Founder and Artistic Director Elaine Rinaldi, Orchestra Miami continues to exceed expectations in terms of programming and artistic quality. Please support our mission by making your donation today at [www.OrchestraMiami.org](http://www.OrchestraMiami.org).

**Discussions on Diversity**

Using "The Purple Palace" text as a guide, please answer the following questions.

Who wrote the text of the story "The Purple Palace"?

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Who composed the music for "The Purple Palace"?

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Who is the author of the story "The Purple Palace"?

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In 2-3 sentences, describe the main idea of the story "The Purple Palace".

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How did you feel about Chromatica before Princess Purple became queen?

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Why did Purple send the other colors away?

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How did it make you feel when Princess Purple banished all of the other colors?

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Is it fair when Princess Purple made all the other colors leave?

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What made Purple want to invite the other colors back?

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What is diversity?

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What makes "Chromatica" diverse?

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What is a monarchy?

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What is a democracy?

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Is Chromatica a monarchy or democracy?

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# The String Family

**Violin**  
 G D A E  
 (in fifths)  
 Body length:  
 approx. 14 in.

**Viola**  
 C G D A  
 (in fifths)  
 Body length:  
 15-17 1/4 in.

**Cello**  
 Body length:  
 29-30 in.

C G D A  
 (in fifths,  
 an octave  
 below the  
 viola)

## Violin Bows

Tourte  
ca. 1800

Thomas Smith  
1760-1770

Anonymous  
1694

Marin Mersenne  
1636-1637

**Double Bass**  
 overall length:  
 71-79 in.

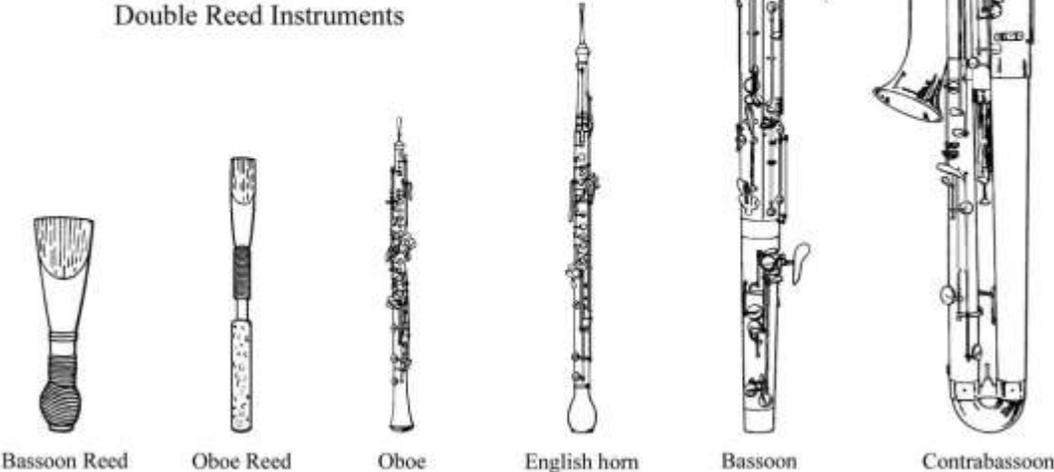
E A D G  
 (in fourths)

# Reed Instruments of the Orchestra

## Single Reed Instruments



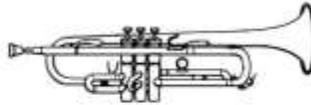
## Double Reed Instruments



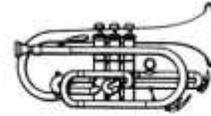
## Brass Instruments of the Orchestra



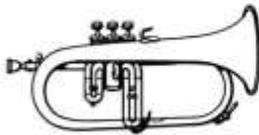
Bugle



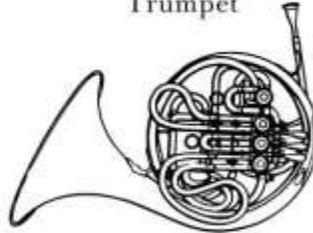
Trumpet



Cornet



Flugelhorn



French horn

### BRASS INSTRUMENT MUTES



Plunger



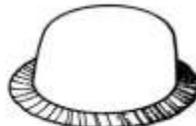
Harmon  
or wow-wow



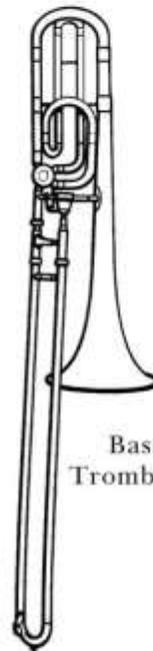
Cup



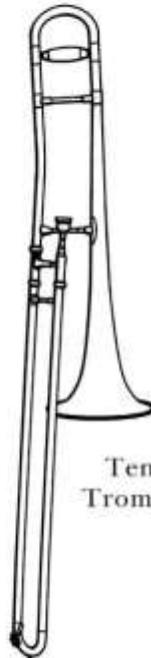
Straight



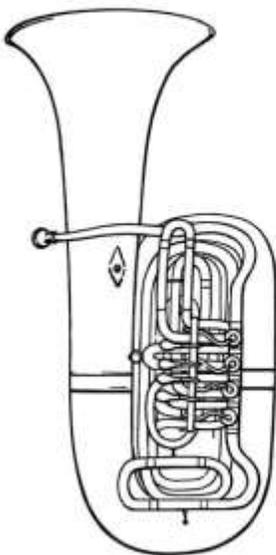
Hat



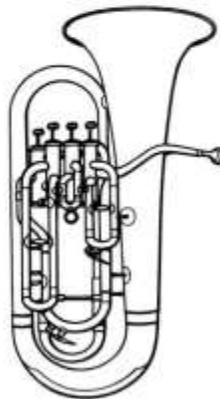
Bass  
Trombone



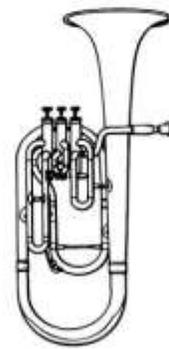
Tenor  
Trombone



Tuba

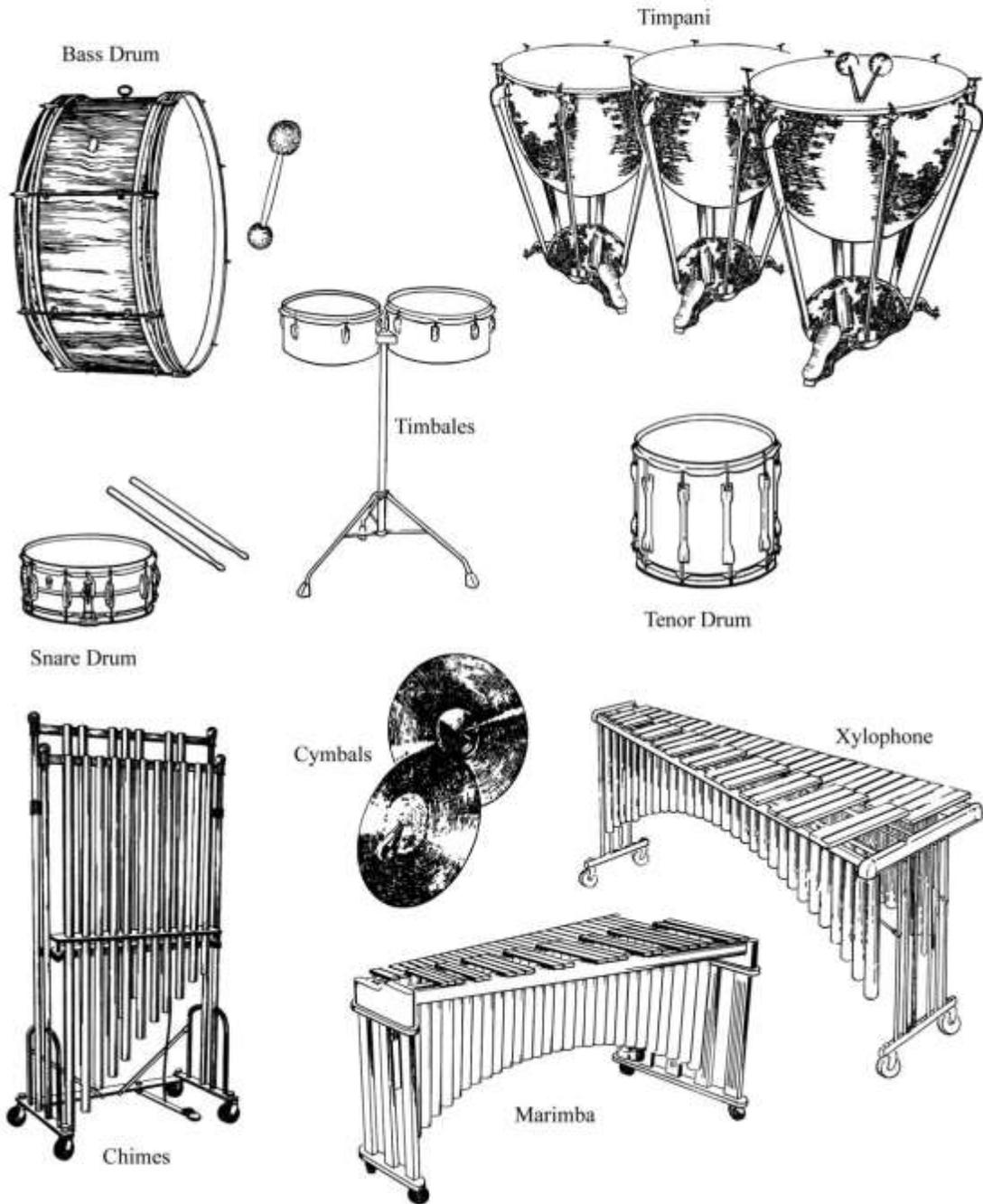


Euphonium

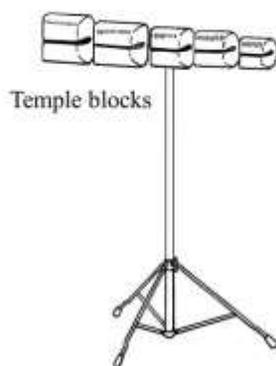
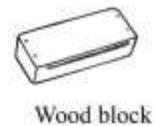


Alto horn

## Large Percussion Instruments of the Orchestra



## Small Percussion Instruments of the Orchestra



## The String Family

These instruments are members of the “String Family” because they are played with strings. Can you believe that back in the time of Vivaldi and Haydn, the strings were made with cat gut? Now, strings are made with metal wire- one long wire tightly wrapped by another. When played with a bow, they vibrate, which is what creates the sound.

- Watch the string players and see how they use the bows.
- What arm do they use for their bows?
- What are they doing with the arm/hand that does not hold the bow?
- Is there another way to play a string instrument? [Teachers- “pizzicato”, i.e. plucking the strings with the fingers]
- Did you hear any “pizzicato” in “The Purple Palace”?

## The Reed Instruments, also known as the “Woodwind Family”

The “Woodwind Family” is so named, because for the most part, these instruments are all made of wood, and one plays them by blowing into them, i.e. use “wind”. [Teachers- please note that the Flute & Piccolo are missing from your illustrations.] There is one important component which you need to play the woodwind instruments (except for the flute and piccolo) - the reed. The reed is a small piece of split bamboo, which when inserted into the instrument and blown on, vibrates against the wood to produce a tone. The “double reeds” are so called, because rather than a single thin piece of bamboo, one needs a double piece, a.k.a. a “double reed” to create the sound. Blowing through a double reed is actually VERY difficult!

- Do you see the musicians breathing before playing the instruments?
- Watch the oboe and bassoon players- did you notice if they turn red while playing?

## The Brass Instruments

The Brass Instruments are called such because they are made with brass, a kind of soft metal. Generally, the instruments are all tubes of various size and shape, ranging from small to large. All of these “tubes” are then twisted to create chambers, where the breath flows and produces vibration and sound. In most brass instruments, the pressure is released through the use of “valves” to change pitch. All brass instruments are played by blowing into a “mouthpiece”. The sound of the brass instruments can be changed by using a tool called a “mute”. A “mute” is a tool that one inserts into the “bell” of the instrument, i.e. the part of the instrument where the sound is released. This muffles or “mutes” the sound.

- What kind of sound do you hear from the brass instruments- loud? “Brassy”?
- Did you notice if the trumpet and trombone player use a “mute” in the “Purple Palace”?
- When they used the mute, what kind of sound did it make?

## The Percussion Instruments

There are a wide variety of instruments in the Percussion Family-ranging from drums, to cymbals, to “mallet instruments”. These instruments are called “percussion instruments” because they are “percussive” i.e., played by striking them. There are two kinds of sticks with which one can strike an instrument- a hard stick made of wood, or a “mallet”, which is a wooden stick with one of the tips wrapped in soft fabric, to soften the blow. Mallets can be hard or soft, depending on how tightly wound the fabric is on the stick. The drums and most cymbals are played with the sticks; the vibraphone, xylophone and marimba are played with mallets, which is why they are called “mallet instruments”. There are literally hundreds of percussion instruments- anything you can strike or shake to create a rhythmic sound can become a percussion instrument!

Percussion instruments used in the “Purple Palace”:

- Marimba
  - Chimes
  - Vibraphone
  - Timpani
  - Cymbals
  - Tom-toms
  - Bass Drum
-

# The Ten Rules of Concert Etiquette

(For Students)

MENCAP The National Association for  
MUSIC EDUCATION  
www.musicfriends.org

**1 Refrain from talking**

The first and greatest rule. It also includes whispering during the music.

**2 No singing, tapping fingers or feet**

The musicians do not need your help, and your neighbors need silence. Learn to tap your toes quietly inside your shoes— it's a good exercise to reduce toe fat.

**3 Please have nothing in your mouth, besides your teeth and tongue**

Gum and candy are not allowed.

**4 Do not wear watches with alarms nor jangle jewelry**

You may enjoy the sound, but the added percussion is disturbing to everyone around you.

**5 Do not open and close your purse nor rip open your velcro wallet**

The best plan is to leave purses, etc., back at school or on the locked bus.

**6 Do not sigh with boredom**

If you are in agony, keep it to yourself. Your neighbor just may be in ecstasy, which should also be kept under control.

**7 Do not applaud between movements**

You may think the music is over, but it is not. You don't want to be the only one clapping.

**8 Do not embarrass your teacher nor your school**

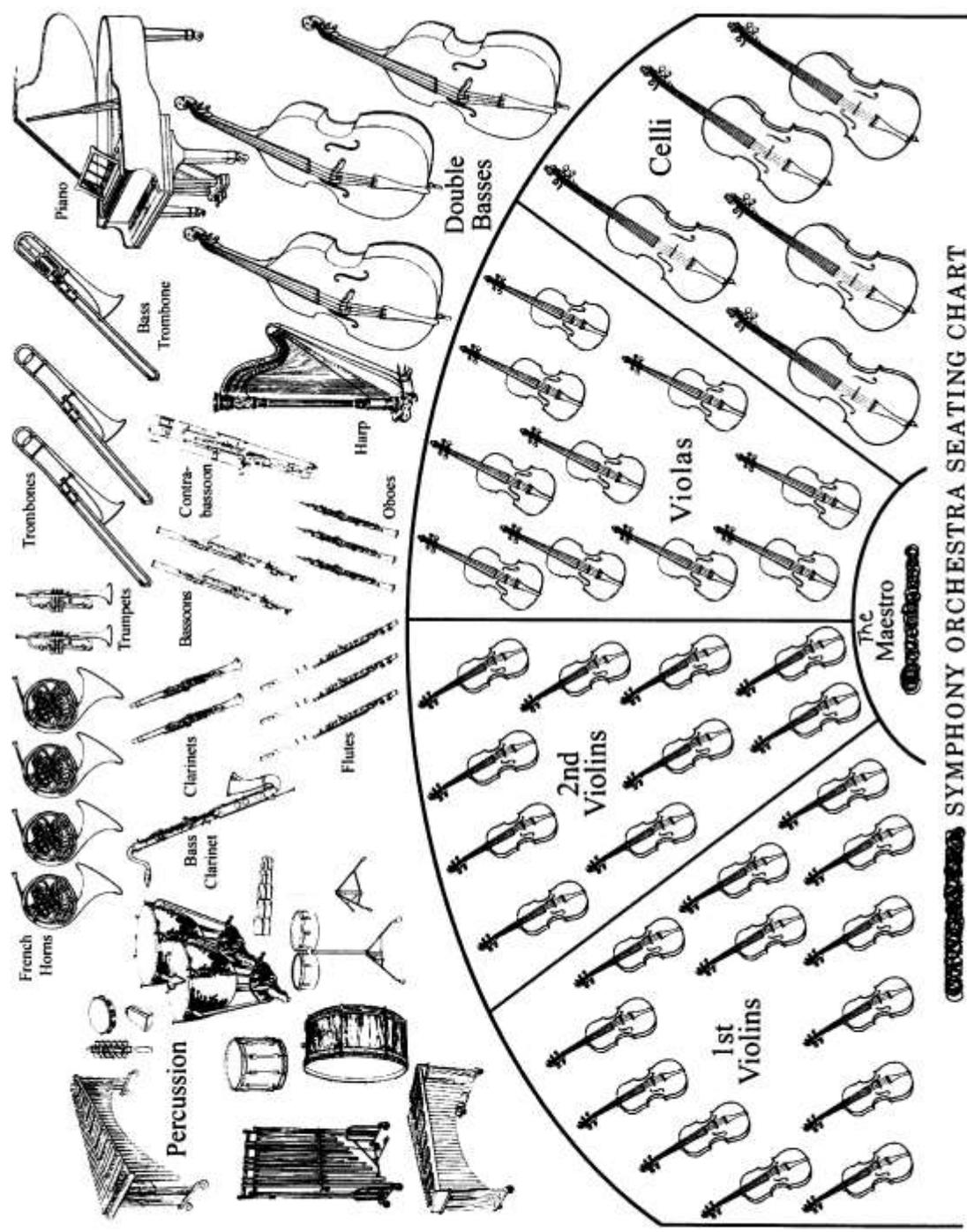
Remember that you are representing your school, and you want to be on your best behavior. There are many eyes looking at you.

**9 Do not read nor play with a toy in your pocket**

To listen means just that. Use the time to turn on a "video screen" in your mind and create a story to the music.

**10 Do not go to the concert thinking you will hate the music**

You may be surprised— millions of people all over the world enjoy classical music, and if you give yourself a chance, you might, too!



**THE MAESTRO** SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SEATING CHART  
Miami

# The Purple Palace



Create the kingdom color wheel by coloring the characters.

**The primary colors**

- 1 The Queen - RED
- 2 The King - BLUE
- 3 The Prince's Mother - YELLOW

**The secondary colors**

- 4 The Princess - PURPLE
  - 5 The Prince - GREEN
  - 6 The guest - ORANGE
-