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Opening extract from  
**First Book about the Orchestra**

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Published by  
**Usborne Publishing Ltd**

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Have you ever heard an orchestra?

It's made up of lots of different musicians, but they all play at the same time to make one amazing big sound.

Before they start, everybody tunes up to get ready. It sounds like this.



Here are some of the wind musicians rehearsing. They play their instruments by blowing into them.



When they play together, it sounds like this.





Now listen to some of the strings.  
You play them with a stick called a bow.



These people are  
playing violins.

These are violas - slightly  
bigger than a violin.

There are bigger stringed  
instruments too. They make  
lower sounds, like this.



These are cellos...

...and these are double basses.



All the musicians have finished rehearsing and it's time for the whole orchestra to play a concert.

The conductor stands at the front to help everyone play at the same time.

The audience goes quiet, he raises his hands, and then...



Scan the code to hear this piece of music all the way through.