

The Percussion Family Of Instruments

The instruments which are in this section of the orchestra are played by hitting, shaking, scraping or rubbing them.

Depending on the instrument, they can be played with sticks, brushes, mallets or the musicians hands.

- 1) snare drum: was first used in the military. It has two drum heads with metal wires called snares stretched across the bottom head. These snares give the drum its rattling sound.

- 2) conga drum: has one leather head stretched across the top of the drum shell. There is a hole in the bottom of the drum to let the sound out. It is played with the musicians hands.

- 3) Tympani (kettle drums): there are usually four tympani in the orchestra. The tympani is one of the only drums which can be tuned to an exact pitch and upon which a melody can be played. This tuning is done with the use of a pedal located at the bottom of the drum. The pedal tightens or loosens the drum head. The tympani are played with soft woolen mallets.

- 4) xylophone: is one of the pitched percussion instruments. Its wooden bars are tuned to an exact pitch so that the musician can play a melody on them. The xylophone is played with rubber or wool mallets.

Instruments

Metallophone



throughout

A musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: quarter note G4, quarter note G4, quarter note G4, quarter note G4, quarter note G4, quarter note G4, quarter note G4, quarter note G4.

Finger cymbal or quiet bell



throughout

A sequence of rhythmic marks: a vertical line, followed by three pairs of slanted lines (cymbal marks), a vertical line, three pairs of slanted lines, a vertical line, three pairs of slanted lines, a vertical line, three pairs of slanted lines.

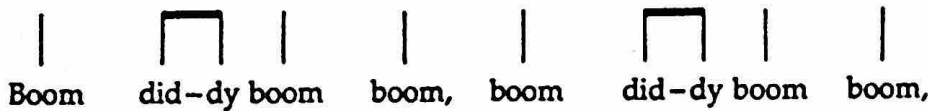
Drum (softly)



throughout

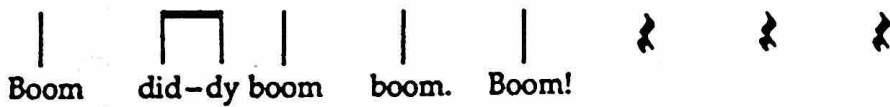
A sequence of vertical lines representing drum hits: a vertical line, a vertical line, a vertical line, a vertical line, a vertical line, a vertical line, a vertical line, a vertical line, a vertical line, a vertical line.

During the chorus, the drum can play the rhythm pattern of the words.



Boom did-dy boom boom, boom did-dy boom boom,

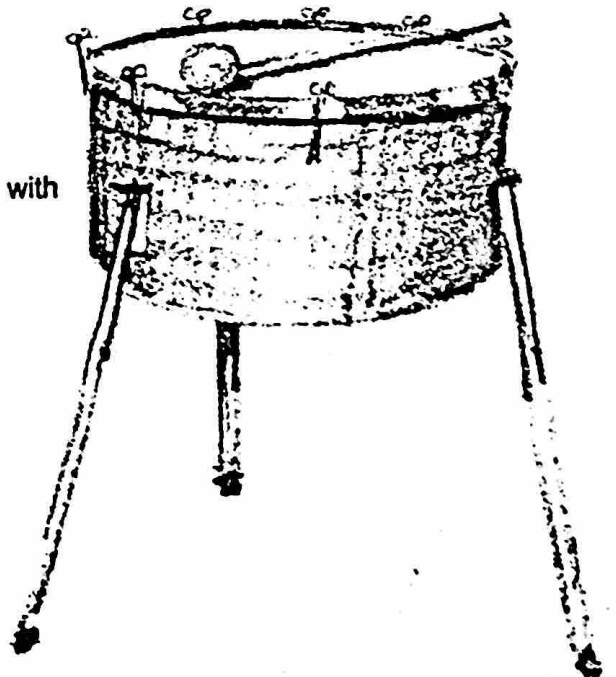
A sequence of rhythmic marks: a vertical line, a square arch, a vertical line, a vertical line, a vertical line, a square arch, a vertical line, a vertical line.



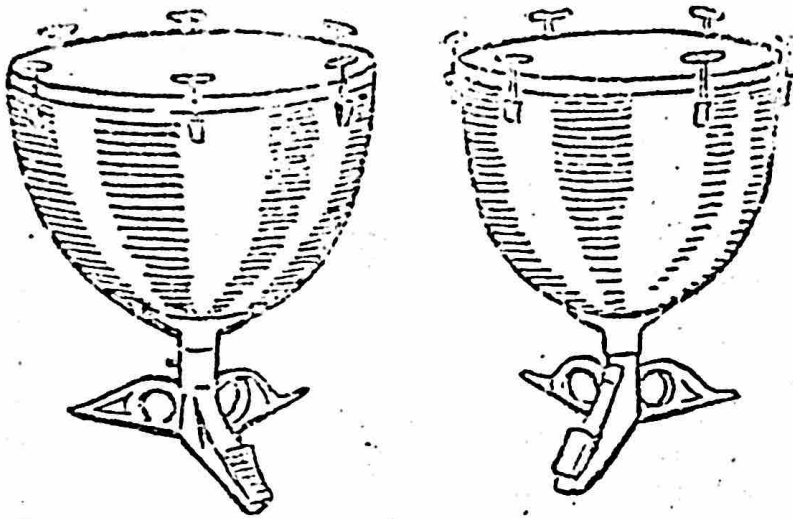
Boom did-dy boom boom. Boom!

A sequence of rhythmic marks: a vertical line, a square arch, a vertical line, a vertical line, a vertical line, three pairs of slanted lines.

This same rhythm pattern of the chorus can be played along with the metallophone part for an introduction to the song.



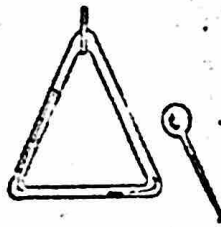
THE PERCUSSION FAMILY



Kettle Drums



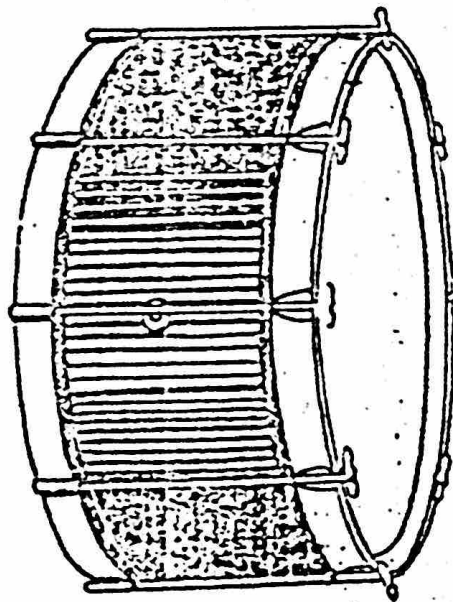
Snare Drum



Triangle



Cymbals



Bass Drum

"I will have to hurry and show you the drums, for it is almost time for the musicians to return from lunch," said Mother. "This is a snare drum and is played with two wooden drum sticks. It is the most commonly used drum." Mother hurried over to a larger drum. "This is a bass drum," she said, "and it is used in military bands. It is played with stuffed soft-headed drum sticks. Here are a pair of twin drums, called kettle drums," she continued.

"Do they sound exactly the same?" asked A.

"No," answered Mother, "one is tuned higher than the other. Kettle drums are the only drums that have a definite pitch."

"What's this?" asked C, shaking some little metal jingles which were placed all around the rim of a small instrument which looked like the head of a drum.

"That is a tambourine and the metal jingles are there to increase the noise it makes when it is played," said Mother. "Musicians drum on the skin with their knuckles and the jingles jingle at the same time."

"I hear a noise," said B, "and it isn't a tambourine."

"It's the musicians; where will we hide?" asked A.

"Jump onto this piece of blank music paper," whispered Mother, and all the notes did just that and were as quiet as little notes should be unless they are being played.

Name _____

Score _____

Date _____

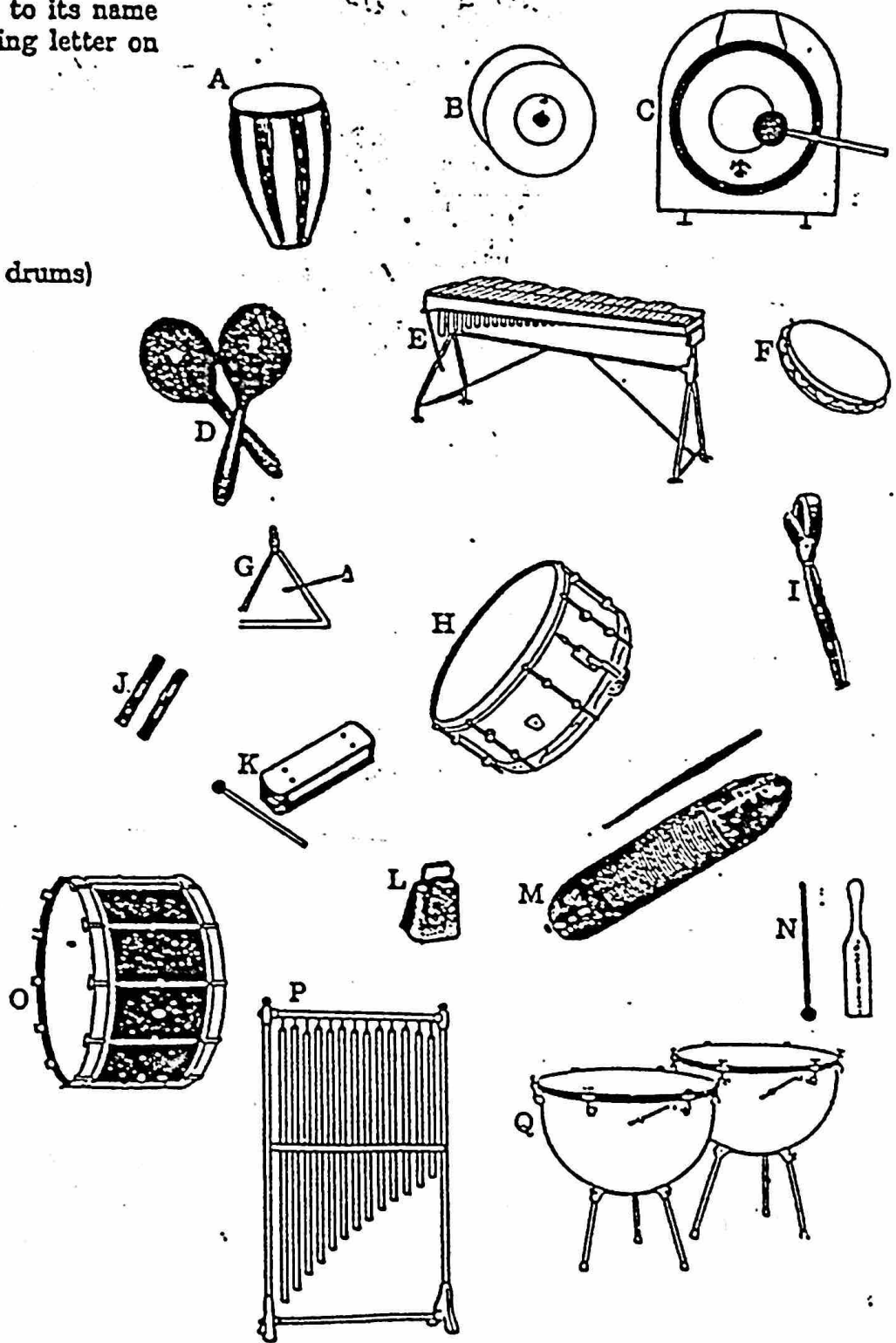
Class _____

8. KNOW YOUR STRIKERS AND SHAKERS

(XIII-8)

Match each instrument to its name by writing the identifying letter on the blank.

- ___ 1. cymbals
- ___ 2. gong
- ___ 3. bass drum
- ___ 4. snare drum
- ___ 5. timpani (kettle drums)
- ___ 6. triangle
- ___ 7. xylophone
- ___ 8. stick castanet
- ___ 9. tambourine
- ___ 10. tone block
- ___ 11. clave
- ___ 12. chimes
- ___ 13. guiro
- ___ 14. conga drum
- ___ 15. cow bell
- ___ 16. maracas



Score _____

Class _____

(XIII-8)

RS

