

The instruments of the wind ensemble

An introduction for a young audience

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aan Angela Colbers

The bassoons

Like the oboe a bassoon is a double reed woodwind instrument (**show bassoon**).

Only, the resonator tube of the bassoon is much longer and the tube has been folded for convenience purposes. It starts with the metal mount for the mouthpiece and then it goes down through a circular hole in the wooden trunk. Then it is reversed at the lower end and goes upwards through another hole. All together the length of that channel is about 2.5 m, allowing the bassoon to play very low notes (**bassoon plays lower range**). Along the bassoon a series of holes and keys are mounted, allowing the playing of pretty fast notes (**bassoon plays some scales**). In the orchestra the low notes of the bassoons are often used to accentuate the rhythm of the music. And, because of the specific tone color, the bassoon is sometimes used for playing the parts describing grumpy old men.

The bassoon as well is part of a family of instruments but this family is not as big as the clarinets. In fact, only the contrabassoon (**show contrabassoon**) can regularly be found in symphonic repertoire. The contrabassoon sounds twice as low as the normal bassoon (**play the lower range contrabassoon**). These extreme low notes are often used in music for raising a sinister mood in music.

(Now the bassoons will play a duet and/or a trio, depending on the availability).

Adagio ♩ = 56

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2

Contrabassoon

pomposo

mf

f

5 *a tempo*

mp

mp

mf

9

rall.

Finale

Contrabassoon

Allegro maestoso, $\text{♩} = 112$

3 min.

Arie van Hoek

