

YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE

(A narration intended to replace the original 1946 version)

AFTER TUNING, BEFORE START

**You heard at the start a tuning-up noise
Which ev'ry orchestra enjoys.
Practising in different keys
Lots of flights of bumble bees.
Then the riot turns to quiet
And the maestro says, "Let's try it".
All this metal, wood and string
Suddenly beings to sing -
Chaos turns to ordered glory.
Let's investigate the story,
Meet the characters as well.
First the plot - it's by Purcell
(Who never knew the tune he'd written
Would be taken up by Britten,
Altered, and played far and wide
And renamed the Young Person's Guide).**

**Britten takes each different gang
Who scrape or blow or pluck or bang
The woodwind, and the brass and strings,
Percussion too - and gives them wings.
But first, before we hear each team
The whole lot play the mighty theme.**

THEME A. 10 BARS.

BAR 11.

**The woodwind play their reedy pipes
They're neat and tidy, seedy types.
They take a breath, then purse their lips,
And from their tongues sweet music trips.**

THEME B. 7 BARS.

BAR 8.

**The brass, upon the other hand
Call the orchestra, "The Band".
They read the Sun in lengthy rests
Live in Essex, and wear vests.**

THEME C. 6 BARS.**BAR 7.**

**The strings - a crazy, gipsy bunch
Wild-eyed and frankly out to lunch.
And then the harp - which can instead
Be used to slice a loaf of bread.**

THEME D. 7 BARS.**BAR 8.**

**Percussion do not play that often
So make no attempt to soften
What they do, but lay on thick
Here they give Purcell some stick.**

THEME E. 7 BARS.**THEME F. 9 BARS.****BAR 10.**

**Let's take apart the orchestration -
Let each play a variation.
The flute has asked to have first go
With little brother piccolo.**

VARIATION A. 24 BARS.

**The oboe is a tricky thing
But worth it if you make it sing.**

VARIATION B. 7 BARS.

BAR 8.

**Next, the agile clarinet.
See how agile it can get.**

VARIATION C. 16 BARS.

BAR 17.

**The poor bassoon - it plays with style
But somehow people always smile.**

VARIATION D. 16 BARS.

BAR 17.

**And now the strings - the violin
Alone can sound extremely thin.
But when two lots of them all play
It usually sound okay.**

VARIATION E. 23 BARS.

BAR 24 (PLAYED 3 TIMES)

**Here the viola plays the tune.
This happens once in a blue moon.**

VARIATION F. 18 BARS.

BARS 19 & 20.

**Too big to fit beneath your jaw
The cello rests upon the floor
And plays delicious melodies
From in between the cellist's knees.**

VARIATION G. 22 BARS.**BAR 23**

**And finally the double bass
(Which piccolos think is a waste of space).**

VARIATION H. 46 BARS.**BAR 47.**

**Forty-seven strings and seven
Pedals make a sound like heaven.
Heavenly harps are all very well
But keeping them in tune is hell.**

VARIATION I. 11 BARS.**BARS 12 & 13**

**So loudly does the French horn play
They make it face the other way.**

VARIATION J. 14 BARS.**BARS 15 & 16**

**The trumpet calls the world to war -
It has a lot to answer for.**

VARIATION K. 35 BARS.

BARS 36 & 37 (RPT.) 38, 39, 40 & 41.

**The trombone or tuba's a confident chap -
Of all of the band he is worth most for scrap.**

VARIATION L. 22 BARS.

BARS 23 - 28.

**Percussion deserves a book by itself
Using everything found on the kitchen top shelf
Be it animal, vegetable, mineral or metal.
We'll start with the timps - the drums they call kettle.**

VARIATION M.

**BAR 11 The bass drum and the cymbals jangle
BAR 15 The tambourine and small triangle
BAR 21 The side drum and the Chinese block
BAR 28 The shining xylophone or glock
BAR 33 The castanets and gong
BAR 38 Now
BAR 39 all play along -
BAR 40 all let rip
BAR 41 Or we'll crack the whip!**

13 BARS PERCUSSION

BARS 14 - 21

**So - now that we've dismantled it
Let's reassemble, bit by bit -
We'll play a fugue - a sort of chase,
A grand orchestral relay race.
We'll take a tune and just pass that on
('Cause he won't let us use his baton)
First the piccolo and then the flute.**

BAR 18	Then the oboe follows suit	B
BAR 25	The clarinet takes up the tune	C
BAR 39	And down below it, the bassoon	D
BAR 53	Now the first and second fiddle	E
BAR 64	The poor viola in the middle	F
BAR 70	The cello enters for the race	G
BAR 77	And finally the double bass	H
BAR 94	And as the harp begins to play	
	That's all that I have time to say	
	For soon you wouldn't hear a thing	
	As everyone begins to sing	
	Together - when of course they are	
	One instrument - the Orchestra.	

BAR 101 TUTTI TO END.

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