

## Music

### playing

She **plays** the piano very well.  
 I **play** lead guitar in a rock band.  
 The oboe **plays** the main theme.  
 The trumpets **sounded** to mark the queen's arrival.

- a bass, clarinet, guitar, horn, keyboard, sax, trumpet, viola, etc. **player**
- an orchestral **player**

### learning

My sister is **learning** the French horn.  
 I **practise** the clarinet an hour a day.  
 He **studied** piano at the Royal College of Music.  
 My father **took up** the trumpet in his retirement.  
 She **dropped/gave up** the violin when she was fifteen.  
 He **teaches** the flute.

- a music/piano/singing **lesson/teacher**
- band/cello/choir **practice**
- an orchestral **rehearsal**

### composing

### performing

- a concerto, instrumental, violin **soloist**
- a clarinet, jazz **virtuoso**
- a brass, dance, military, rock **band**
- a jazz, string **quartet**
- a pop, rock **group**

- a **solo** album, artist, career, cello, instrument, passage, performance, voice, work
- **unaccompanied** singing, violin

- a bass, saxophone **solo**
- a gala, pop, symphony **concert**
- a concert, gala, virtuoso **performance**
- a live, rock, solo **gig**
- an organ, a piano **recital**

James Levine **conducts** the orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera in New York.  
 the Scottish Symphony Orchestra, **led** by Elizabeth Leighton

### prepositions

on	She sang three songs and I accompanied her on the piano. That was Miles Davis on trumpet.
for	a work for cello, oboe and harpsichord

NOTE that when you are talking about

<b>compose/write</b>	
an accompaniment	an orchestral score
a ballet	parts for harp and bassoon
a concerto	a song
for an instrument/a musician	the soundtrack for a film
music	a string quartet
an opera	a symphony
<p><i>The piece was specially <b>composed</b> for the English Chamber Orchestra.</i></p> <p><i>She loves playing the concerto because it is so well <b>written</b> for the clarinet.</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accordion, African, baroque, chamber, church, classical, dance, live, pop, world <b>music</b></li> <li>• Beethoven, choral, classical, orchestral, organ, piano <b>pieces</b></li> <li>• chamber, choral, classical, instrumental, musical, orchestral, organ, piano, symphonic <b>works</b></li> </ul>	

classical music, the instrument usually has a definite article. In other contexts it is often dropped:

*He plays **the** clarinet.*

*She plays bass guitar.*



*My sister has taken up the tuba.*