

Collection of music related jokes:
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Entry Exam For The BBC Symphony Orchestra

Clarinets:

Q: What is the difference between a clarinet and an onion?

A: Nobody cries when you chop an clarinet into little pieces.

Q: Is there any difference between the sound of a clarinet and that of a cat in heat?

A: Of course there is, but only if the cat's in good health.

Q: Why do clarinetists place their cases on the dashboard?

A: So they can park in handicapped spaces.

Q: How many clarinetists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Just one, but he'll go through a whole box of bulbs before finding just the right one.

Q: What do a clarinet and a lawsuit have in common?

A: Everyone is relieved when the case is closed.

Q: What's the difference between a clarinet's and a saxophone's hospital use?

A: The saxophone is used to lull crying babies to sleep and the clarinet to wake coma patients.

Q: What's the purpose of the bell on a bass clarinet?

A: Storing the ashes from the rest of the instrument.

Q: What do you call a bass-clarinetist with half a brain?

A: Gifted.

Q: What do you get when you remove half a bass clarinetist's brain?

A: An even more gifted contrabass clarinetist.

Q: What's the definition of a nerd?

A: Someone who owns his own alto clarinet.

Conductor:

Q: What's the difference between a conductor and a stagecoach driver?

A: The stagecoach driver only has to look at four horses' asses.

Q: Why did they bury the conductor 20 feet into the earth?

A: Because deep down he was a nice guy.

Q: What's the difference between a dead conductor in the road and a dead snake in the road?

A: There are skid marks in front of the snake.

Q: Why are conductor's hearts coveted for transplants?

A: They've had so little use.

Q: What's black and brown and looks good on a conductor?

A: A Doberman.

Q: What do you have when a group of conductors who are up to their necks in wet concrete?

A: Not enough concrete.

Q: How many conductors does it take to change a light bulb?

A: One, but, then again, who's really watching?

Q: What is the difference between a bull and an orchestra?

A: The bull has the horns in front and the ass in back.

Q: What's the difference between a band director and a bag of fertilizer?

A: The bag.

Q: Did you hear about the plane load of conductors en route to a festival?

A: The good news, it crashed. The bad news, there were three empty seats.

Q: What is the difference between God and a conductor?

A: God knows he's not a conductor.

Q: What is the definition of an assistant conductor?

A: A mouse trying to become a rat.

Q: What is the difference between alto clef and Greek.

A: Some conductors actually read Greek.

Q: If you drop a conductor and a watermelon off a tall building, which will hit the ground first?

A: Who cares?

Q: If you were in a room with Hitler, Stalin, and a conductor and had a gun with only two bullets, what should you do?

A: Shoot the conductor twice.

One of the members of the symphony calls the front office asking for the conductor. The receptionist informs him that the conductor is dead. The next day, he calls again, asking for the conductor. The receptionist replies, "I told you yesterday, the conductor is dead". The musician calls on the next day, again asking for the conductor. The exasperated receptionist says, "Look, why do you keep calling here? I'm telling you, the conductor is DEAD!! To which, the symphony member calmly replied, "I just really enjoy hearing you say that!".

In the beginning, there were only wind instruments in the orchestra. Then, they noticed that many of the people were too stupid to play wind instruments, so they gave them large boxes with wires strapped across them. These people were known as "strings". Then they noticed that some people were too dumb to play strings, so they were given two sticks and were told to hit whatever they wanted. These people were known as "percussionists". Finally, they noticed that one percussionist was so dumb, he couldn't even do that, so they took away one of his sticks and told him to go stand in front of everybody. And that was the birth of the first conductor.

A blind rabbit and a blind snake bump into each other in the forest. The rabbit said, "Watch where you are going. Can't you see that I am blind?" The snake replied, "No. I can't see that you are blind because I am blind myself." Then the rabbit got a brilliant idea. "Why don't we feel each other and guess what the other is?" The snake accepted this proposal and went first. The snake said, "Let's see -- your furry with long ears and a cotton tail - you must be a rabbit." "Very good," said the rabbit. "Now it's my turn. You are cold, slimy, spineless and have no ears. You must be a conductor."

Double reeds:

Q: How do you get 5 oboes in tune?

A: Shoot 4 of them.

Q: What's the definition of a minor second?

A: Two oboes playing in unison.

Q: What do you call an oboist who is deaf?

A: Principal.

Q: How many oboists does it take to change a light bulb.

A: One, but by the time he gets done shaving the tip, you won't need it.

Q: Did you hear about the successful hunter's secret to attracting so many ducks?

A: He paid an oboe player to go along with him and play.

Q: How do you get an oboist to play A flat?

A: Take the batteries out of his electronic tuner.

Q: What's the difference between an oboe playing in tune and Star Trek?

A: Star Trek could actually happen one day.

Q: Why do bagpipe players march when they play?

A1: To try to get away from the noise.

A2: It's harder to hit a moving target.

Q: What does one bagpipe player never say to another?

A: "Hey man, what key's it in?"

Q: Did you know the Irish invented the bagpipes as a joke?

A: The Scots haven't gotten it yet.

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?

A: To get away from the bassoon recital.

Q: What are burning oboes used for?

A: To set bassoons on fire.

Q: What's the difference between a bassoon and a trampoline?

A1: Bassoons are more fun to jump on.

A2: You take your shoes off to jump on a trampoline!

Q: Why don't bassoonists ever catch a cold?

A: Even viruses have pride.

Q: How many bassoonists does it take to eat a possum?

A: Two. One to eat, one to watch for traffic.

Q: How many English horn players does it take to change a light bulb?

A: One, but he gyrates so much he'll fall off the ladder.

An explorer was traveling through the wilds of deepest, darkest Africa with a few native porters and guides. Far

off in the distance, he hears drums pounding. Well, the explorer is naturally concerned, so he consults his guides. They reassure him, "There is nothing to worry about. When the drums stop, it's time to worry." This didn't make him feel much better, but he kept going. Gradually the drums got louder and he asked his guide again. "When the drums stop, it's time to worry" was the response he got again. Eventually the drums got so loud, the explorer would have sworn that they were right next to him. Then all of a sudden, they stopped. With a trembling voice, he asked his guide what would happen now. With an equally trembling voice, the guide answered, "oboe solo".

A conductor calls the doctor to find out what to do after the oboist swallows her reed. The doctor replies, "Have you tried muted trumpet?"

Playing bagpipes is a lot like throwing a javelin blindfolded - you don't have to be very good at it to get people's attention.

Flutes:

Q: How many flute players does it take to change a light bulb?

A1: Just one, but she'll break 10 bulbs before she realizes they can't be pushed in.

A2: Just one, but he'll spend \$5,000 on a Sterling silver bulb.

A3: None, they will get their boyfriend to do it.

Q: How do you put a sparkle in a flutist's eye?

A: Shine a flashlight in her ear.

Q: What key is the alto flute pitched in?

A: G -- I really don't care, either!!

Q: How do you get two piccolo players to play in unison?

A: Shoot one.

Q: What is the definition of perfect pitch in a piccolo?

A: When you throw it in the toilet and it doesn't hit the rim.

Q: What's the difference between a piccolo and a dog whistle?

A1: If you have good ears, you can hear a dog whistle.

A2: A dog whistle irritates only one species.

A3: Tuning.

A4: In marching band, the dog whistle is dangerous, while the piccolo is merely useless.

A5: People with dog whistles usually know how to play them.

A6: You can't tune a piccolo.

Two musicians were walking down the street and one says to the other, "Who was that piccolo I saw you with last night?" The other replies, "That was no piccolo, that was my fife."

French horn:

Q: How many French horn players does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Just one, but he'll spend two hours checking the bulb for alignment and leaks.

Q: Why is playing an French horn solo like wetting your pants?

A: Both give you a warm feeling, but no one else cares.

Q: Why is the French horn the most divine instrument?

A: Man blows into it, but God only knows what comes out.

Q: How do you make a french horn sound like a trombone?

A: Take your hand out of the bell and lose all sense of taste.

Q: How do you make a trombone sound like a French horn?

A: Put your hand in the bell and miss lots of notes.

Q: What do you get when you cross a French horn player with a goal post?

A: A goal post that can't march.

Q: How many hornists does it take to play split lead?

A: One.

Conductor: "Back to bar one." French hornist, "My part doesn't have numbers."

A girl went out on a date with a trumpet player, and when she came back her roommate asked, "Well, how was it? Did his embouchure make him a great kisser?" "Nah", the first girl replied. "That dry, tight, tiny little pucker; it was no fun at all." The next night she went out with a tuba player, and on her return the roommate asked the same question. "Ugh!", the girl exclaimed, "Those huge, rubbery, blubbery, slobbering slabs of meat; oh it was just gross!". The next night she went out with a French Horn player. "How was this one?" asked the roommate. "Well", the girl replied, "his kissing was just so-so; but I loved the way he held me!"

Genera:

Q: How many bluegrass musicians does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: Two. One to screw it in, and one to complain that it's electrified.

Q: How many folk musicians does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Seven; one to change and the other six to sing about how good the old one was.

Q: How many punk rocker does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Two. One to screw in the bulb and the other to smash the old one on his forehead.

Q: Why did the punk rocker cross the road?

A: Because he stapled himself to the chicken.

Q: What happens when you play a country record backwards?

A1: You get out of prison.

A2: Your wife comes back to you.

A3: Your pickup truck is returned.

A4: Your dog comes back to life.

Q: How many country & western singers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Three. One to change the bulb and two to sing about the old one.

Q: What does it say on a blues singer's tombstone?

A: "Well... I didn't wake up this mornin'!"

Q: How many jazz musicians does it take to change a light bulb?

A1: None. Jazz musicians can't afford light bulbs.

A2: "Don't worry about the changes. We'll fake it!"

Q: What does New Age music sound like when played backwards?

A: New Age music.

Definitions of some musical styles

JAZZ -- Five men on the same stage all playing different tunes.

BLUES -- Played exclusively by people who woke up this morning.

WORLD MUSIC -- A dozen different types of percussion all going at once.

OPERA -- People singing when they should be talking.

RAP -- People talking when they should be singing.

CLASSICAL -- Discover the other 45 minutes they left out of the TV ad.

FOLK -- Endless songs about shipwrecks in the 19th century.

BIG BAND -- 20 men who take it in turns to stand up plus a drummer.

HEAVY METAL -- Codpiece and chaps

HOUSE MUSIC -- OK as long as it's not the house next door.

Disco is to music what Etch-A-Sketch is to art.

General:

Q: What's the difference between a musician and a mutual fund?

A: The mutual fund eventually matures and earns money.

Q: What Beethoven is doing today?

A: Decomposing

Q: Why did Mozart kill his chickens?

A: Because they always ran around going "Bach! Bach! Bach!"

Q: Why was the music theorist drunk?

A: He tried to use a fifth with his tonic.

Q: What do you get if you run over an army officer with a steam roller?

A: A flat major.

Q: How many music critics does it take to change a light bulb?

A1: Music critics don't know how, but rest assured they'll find something wrong with the way you do it.

A2: None. They work in the dark.

Q: How many sound men does it take to change a light bulb?

A: One, two, three, one, two, three.

Q: How many record producers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Two, one to tell the engineer to do it, the other to say "I don't know, what do you think?"

Q: Do you know how many musicians it takes to screw in a light bulb?

A: No, but hum a few bars and I'll play it.

Q: What do you call a guy who dies and goes to heaven but has to enter through the kitchen?

A: A musician.

Q: How do you call a baritone player?

A: Euphonium.

"Excuse me... How late does the band play?" "Oh, about half a beat behind the drummer."

Two men were at a bar and one said, " Hey, I had my IQ checked and it was 175, The other responded " That's a coincidence so is mine, what do you do for a living?" " I'm a physicist." was the reply. Again came "that's a coincidence so am I." This was overheard at a nearby table and these two compared IQ's at 160 and were surprised that they were both brain surgeons. At another nearby table one man despondently said to the other "Did you hear that? I had my IQ checked and it was only 52." The other said, rather enthusiastically, "That's a coincidence. So is mine. What instrument do you play????"

Music is the only sensual pleasure without vice.

Knock, knock. Who's there?

Knock, knock. Who's there?

Knock, knock. Who's there?

Phillip Glass.

After silence, music comes closest to expressing the inexpressible.

Wagner is the Puccini of music.

Wagner's music has beautiful moments but some bad quarters of an hour.

One day the musicians for a rather large recording session were assembling at a studio. Everyone had their headphones on, the session was close to getting underway and the producer of the session came over the talk-back system and said "Okay I need to have total silence! Just then the drummer on the session played a big Barum dum Crash! To which the record producer replied, "Okay who did that?"
I'm tired of all this sax and violins on public television.

June the harpist and Sam the trombonist went out to a discotheque. Sam's car wouldn't lock, but Sam knew the owner, so they locked their instruments in their office. Having too much to drink, they went back to rehearsal without their instruments. June told the conductor, "I left my harp in Sam's friend's disco."

Bach had 22 kids because he had no stops on his organ.

Richard Wagner's music is better than it sounds. - Mark Twain

A critic is like a eunuch - he knows exactly how it ought to be done.

Percussion:

Q: What do you call someone who hangs around with musicians?

A: A drummer.

Q: What did the drummer get on his I.Q. test?

A: Drool.

Q: How many drummers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None. There's machines that can do that now.

Q: What's the difference between a drummer and an electric drum machine?

A: You only have to punch the information into the machine once.

Q: Did you hear about the bass player who locked his keys in the car?

A: He had to break the window to get the drummer out.

Q: How can you tell a drummer is walking behind you?

A: You can hear his knuckles dragging on the ground.

Q: How do you get a drummer to play an accelerando?

A: Ask him to play in 4/4 at a steady 120 bpm.

Q: What were the drummer's last words?

A: "Hey, guys, check out this song I wrote..."

Q: What's the most important thing about being a drummer?

A: Timing.

Q: How do you tell if the stage is level?

A: The drummer is drooling out of both sides of his mouth.

Q: What do you call a drummer without a girlfriend?

A: Homeless.

Q: Why do drummers have a half ounce more brains than horses do?

A: So they don't disgrace themselves during a parade!

Q: How can you tell if a drummer is knocking on your door?

A: He rushes.

Q: How do you know if there is a percussionist at the door?

A: The knocking gets slower.

If thine enemy wrong thee, buy each of his children a drum.

Johnny says to his mom: "I want to be a drummer when I grow up." Mom: "But Johnny, you can't do both."

There once was a timpanist who dreamed that he was playing in "Messiah" and when he woke up he was playing in "Messiah".

A drummer, sick of all the drummer jokes, decides to change his instrument. He decides on an accordion and asks to look at some in a music store. The owner gestures to a shelf and says "All our accordions are over there." After browsing the drummer says, "I think I'd like the big red one in the corner." The store owner looks at him

and says "You're a drummer, aren't you?" The drummer, crestfallen, says "Yes, how did you know?" The owner says "That 'big red accordion' is the radiator."

A drummer was hiking in the mountains, and he came upon a shepherd who was tending a large herd of sheep that were grazing in the alpine meadow. The drummer took a fancy to the sheep, and asked the shepherd: "If I can guess how many sheep you have, can I have one?" The shepherd thought this was an odd request, but thought that there was little chance that the man would guess the exact number of sheep, so he said "Sure." The drummer guessed "You have 287 sheep," to the shepherd's astonishment, since this was exactly how many sheep he had. The drummer got all excited and asked "Can I pick out my sheep now?" and the shepherd grudgingly gave his permission. The drummer selected his sheep, bent over, and swung the sheep over his shoulders, to carry home with him. The shepherd then asked "If I guess your occupation, can I have my sheep back?" The drummer was a bit surprised by this, but figured that it was unlikely that the shepherd would be able to guess his occupation, and went along with the deal. The shepherd then guessed "You're a drummer, aren't you?" The drummer was very surprised and asked, "How did you know?" The shepherd responded, "Put the dog down and we'll talk about it."

Saxophone:

Q: What is the difference between a saxophone and a chainsaw?

A: It's all in the grip.

Q: What is the difference between a baritone saxophone and a chain saw?

A: The exhaust.

Q: What do a saxophone and baseball have in common?

A: People cheer when you hit them with a bat.

Q: Why did the lead alto player play so many wrong notes?

A: Because he kept ignoring the key signature -- he thought it was a suggestion.

Q: What's the difference between a lawnmower and a tenor sax?

A: You can tune a lawnmower. And, the neighbors care if you don't return it.

Q: What's the difference between the creationist theory of the origin of life and a tenor sax?

A: The theory doesn't have as many leaks.

Q: How do you make a chainsaw sound like a baritone sax?

A: Add vibrato.

Q: What's the difference between a lawnmower and a soprano sax?

A: You can tune the lawnmower.

Q: If you were lost in the woods, who would you trust for directions: an in-tune tenor sax player, an out-of-tune tenor sax player, or Santa Claus?

A: The out-of-tune tenor sax player! The other two are just hallucinations.

Not being on birth control, the soprano tells the sax player to pull out, to which he replies, "Why, am I sharp?"

Small wonder we have so much trouble with air pollution in the world when so much of it has passed through saxophones.

If you can play low A on a tenor sax by sticking your foot in the bell, how can you play it on a soprano sax?

As a guy walks through a forest, a fairy suddenly appears and offers him a free wish, whatever it might be. So he takes out a pocket atlas and points towards different continents: "See, here, is suffering, there, is hunger and over there, people are tortured. I want all people to be free and healthy! Can you do that?" The fairy sighs and says: "Well, this is nearly impossible, even for me. Is there a chance that you can come up with another wish instead that would make it a little easier?" The guy answers: "As a matter of fact, there is. See, I play the soprano saxophone, and I have such a hard time with the intonation in the upper register. Do you think you could..." "Okay, okay, let's look at your atlas one more time..."

Singers:

Q: How many altos does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None. They can't get up that high.

Q: What is the definition of an octave?

A: An octave can be described as having eight diatonic steps, twelve chromatic steps, or twenty-seven when sung by a tenor.

Q: What is the missing link between the bass and the ape?

A: The baritone.

Q: What is the difference between a Wagnerian soprano and a Wagnerian Tenor?

A: About 10 pounds.

Q: How many sopranos does it take to change a light bulb?

A1: Just one; she just holds it in place, and the whole world revolves around her.

A2: Two. One to change it and one to watch and say, "Don't you think that's a bit high for you, dear?"

A3: None; she thinks it's the accompanist's job.

Q: How many basses does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None. They're so macho they prefer to walk in the dark and bang their shins.

Q: Why do school choruses travel so often?

A: Keeps assassins guessing.

Q: What's the difference between a soprano and a Jaguar?

A: Most musicians have never been in a Jaguar.

Q: Why is the soprano standing outside the door?

A: She forgot the key.

Q: What is the difference between a dressmaker and a soprano?

A: The dressmaker tucks up the frills.

Q: What's the difference between an alto and a tenor?

A: More body hair on the alto.

Q: How do you know that it's the lead singer knocking at your front door?

A: You open the door and he still doesn't know when to come in.

Q: What's the first thing that a female singer does after she gets up in the morning?

A1: Puts on her clothes and goes home.

A2: Looks for her instrument.

Q: What does a girls band vocalist's mother say to her before she goes out?

A: If you are not in bed by 12pm you have to come home.

Q: What's the difference between a female lead singer and a terrorist?

A: You can negotiate with a terrorist.

Q: What is the difference between a soprano and a piranha?

A: The lipstick.

Q: What is the difference between a soprano and a pit bull terrier?

A: The jewelry.

Q: What is the definition of an alto?

A: A soprano who can read.

Q: How do you put a sparkle in a soprano's eyes?

A: Shine a torch in her ear.

Q: How do you make a million dollars singing jazz?

A: Start with two million.

Q: How do you frustrate a soprano?

A: Ask her to read music.

Q: What's the difference between a Wagnerian soprano and a baby elephant?

A: Eleven pounds.

Q: How do you know if an alto is at the front door?

A: She can't find her key.

Q: How do you get an alto into a VW Bug?

A: Grease her hips and leave a twinkie on the dash.

Q: What's the difference between a stuck-up soprano and a stuck-up tenor?

A: Two octaves.

Q: What do a woman in labor and a tenor have in common?

A: They both strain.

Q: What do you call ten baritones at the bottom of the ocean?

A: A start.

If you took all the tenors in the world and laid them end to end, it would be a good idea.

Strings (bass):

Q: Why did the string bass player get angry at the timpanist?

A: Because the timpanist turned a peg and wouldn't tell him which one.

Q: How do you make a double bass sound in-tune?

A: Chop it up and make it into a xylophone.

Did you hear about the bassist who was so out of tune that his section noticed?

Two bass players were engaged for a run of Carmen. After a couple of weeks they agreed to take an afternoon off in turn to go and watch the performance from the front of house. Joe took his break. Back in the pit that evening Moe asked how it was. "Great!", says Joe, "You know that bit where the music goes 'BOOM Boom Boom Boom' - well there are some guys up top singing a terrific song about a Toreador at the same time".

A double bass player arrived a few minutes late for the first rehearsal of the local choral society's annual performance of Handel's Messiah. He picked up his instrument and bow, and turned his attention to the conductor. The conductor asked, "Would you like a moment to tune?" The bass player replied with some surprise, "Why? Isn't it the same as last year?"

Strings (cello):

Q: Why are orchestra intermissions limited to 20 minutes?

A: So you don't have to retrain the cellists.

Q: How do you get a cellist to play fortissimo?

A: Write 'pp, espressivo'.

Q: What's the difference between a cello and a coffin.

A: The coffin has the corpse on the inside.

Q: How do you make a cello sound beautiful?

A: Sell it and buy a violin.

Q: Why is a string bass better than a cello?

A1: The string bass holds more beer.

A2: The string bass burns longer.

A female cellist stayed first chair because she kept her scherzo short.

Strings (general):

The composition of a string quartet: 1 good violinist, 1 bad violinist, 1 really bad violinist who became a violist, 1 cellist who hates all violinists - all getting together to complain about composers.

String players' motto: It's better to be sharp than out of tune.

A bluegrass band is on their way back from a gig South of the border when they get arrested for playing a banjo after dark. The judge quickly sentences them to death. At dawn the next morning the band finds themselves looking at the business end of a firing squad.

"Ready, Aim,..."

"Earthquake!" yells the guitar player which distracts the guards long enough so he can jump over the wall to freedom.

"Ready, Aim,..."

"Flood!" yells the mandolin player who jumps over the wall to freedom.

Now the banjo player is starting to catch on.

"Ready, Aim,..."

"Fire!" yells the banjo player as loud as he can.....

Strings (guitar):

Q: How do you get a guitar player to play softer?

A: Give him a sheet of music.

Q: How do you make him stop playing?

A: Put notes on it!

Q: What do a vacuum cleaner and an electric guitar have in common?

A: When you plug them in, they suck.

Q: What do you call two guitarists playing in unison?

A: Counterpoint.

Q: What is the difference between a guitarist and a Savings Bond?

A: Eventually a Savings Bond will mature and earn money!

Q: Three guitarists collaborated on a book of scales.

A: Each contributed the one he knew.

Q: How many guitar players does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: Six: one to screw it in, and five to say "I can do that!"

Q: What is a hooker's favorite instrument?

A: A guitar -- the G string is thinner.

Q: What a heavy metal guitarist most frequent lie?

A1: I am not too loud!

A2: I have already turned it down!

Q: How many lead guitarists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None - they just steal someone else's light.

Q: What did the guitarist do when his teacher told him to turn his amplifier on?

A: He caressed it softly and told it that he loved it.

Strings (piano/harp):

Q: How can you tell if there is a synthesizer player at your door?

A: You think you hear him knocking but you're not quite sure.

Q: What do you get when you drop a piano down a mine shaft?

A: A flat minor.

Q: What do you get when you drop a piano on an Army base?

A: A flat Major.

Q: Why did they say that the pianist had fingers like lightning?

A: They never struck the same place twice.

Q: Why is an 11-foot concert grand better than a studio upright?

A: It makes a louder noise when you drop it off a cliff.

Q: Why was the piano invented?

A: So that the musician would have a place to put his beer.

Q: How many organists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Two. One to change the bulb, and one to complain that the switch doesn't have any combination pistons.

Q: What's better than roses on your piano?

A: Tulips on your organ.

Q: Why doesn't heaven have a pipe organ?

A: Because they needed the keys in hell to make accordions.

Q: What's the difference between an Uzi and an accordion?

A: The Uzi stops after 20 rounds.

Q: What's an accordion good for?

A: Learning how to fold a map.

Q: What is the definition of a quarter tone?

A: A harpist tuning unison strings.

Q: How long does a harp stay in tune?

A: About 20 minutes...or until someone opens a door.

Q: Why are harps like elderly parents?

A: They're both unforgiving and hard to get in and out of cars.

A note left for a pianist from his wife: Gone Chopin, (have Liszt), Bach in a Minuet.

An accordion is a bagpipe with pleats.

A topless bar tried to have a Polka Night but the accordionist kept getting hurt.

The PLO has taken 90 accordion players hostage, and if their demands aren't met, they'll release one every hour.

A harp is a nude piano.

A Celtic harpist spends half her time tuning her harp, and the other half playing it out of tune.

Strings (viola):

Q: What is the difference between a dog and a viola?

A: The dog knows when to stop scratching.

Q: Why do so many people take an instant dislike to the viola?

A: It saves time.

Q: What is the difference between the first and last desk of a viola section?

A: A semi-tone.

Q: When a 16-inch viola and a 17-inch viola are dropped simultaneously from a 30-story building, which one hits the pavement first?

A: It doesn't matter.

Q: What do a viola and a lawsuit have in common?

A: Everyone is happy when the case is closed.

Q: How do you keep your violin from getting stolen?

A: Put it in a viola case.

Q: What are the requirements for the 2nd round of the International Viola competition?

A: Holding the viola by memory.

Q: How do you make a violin sound like a viola?

A: Sit in the back and don't play.

Q: A violinist and a violist fall off a tall building. Who hits the ground first?

A: The violinist; the violist stops to ask directions.

Q: How many violists does it take to tile a kitchen?

A: Just one but you must slice him very thin.

Q: How do you know if a viola section is at your front door?

A: No one knows when to come in.

One day, the conductor of a no-name orchestra got seriously ill, so they pulled the second to last viola player to conduct for him. Everything went off without a hitch, and the orchestra sounded great! So, for the upcoming concert, they fired their old conductor and let the viola player do it. It was great! They got rave reviews, went on numerous tours all over the world, and became the most famous orchestra in history. Then one day, the viola player told the concertmaster that he would like to go back and play, and could they hire a new conductor. So, the viola player went back to his seat, where his stand partner quickly asked, "Oh, and where have YOU been?"

Johnny comes home from school, and says to his mom, "Mommy, I learned the alphabet today! The rest of the class messed up around F, but I made it all the way through!" Johnny's mom says, "Very good, son. That's because you're a violist." Johnny comes home the next day and screams, "Mommy, Mommy, I counted to a hundred today! Everyone else couldn't get past 60, but I made it all the way to 100!" And his mom says, "Excellent. That's because you're a violist." The next day, Johnny comes home and says, "Mommy, the teacher measured everyone's height in class today, and I was taller than everyone. Is that 'cause I'm a violist?" His mom shakes her head and says, "No, honey; that's because you're twenty-six."

Maestro (to horns) - "Give me the F in tune!" Violist (to Maestro) - "Please can we have the F-in' tune too?"

When "Oetzi," the famous glacier-mummy, was found in the Alps, archaeologists and anthropologists were mystified by the riddle of "Oetzi's" nature, the chief question being: "How did he get under the ice-fields?" Thanks to a joint venture operation by leading music-anthropologists the mystery has found its solution: "Oetzi" must have been a violist. How else could the glacier have caught up with him?

In order to save money, the musicians decided to build their Union Hall themselves. As they proceeded to do the job, gradually the hierarchy of the musicians was reflected in the jobs that they did. The violists found themselves at the bottom of a ditch doing the nastiest of the digging. Above them, supervising, was a trumpet player. One violist turned to another and asked, "How come we're working down here and he's working up there?" "The other responded, "I don't know, but I'll go up there and ask." The violist crawled up to the top of the ditch. "Why are we down there digging while you're up here supervising?" the violist asked the trumpeter. "Because I'm smarter than you," was the reply. "Huh, I don't understand," the confused violist said. "Allow me to demonstrate," said the trumpeter. He walked up to the nearest tree, put out his open hand in front of the tree and said to the violist, "Hit my hand!" The violist reared back with his fist and shot a punch at the trumpeter's open hand. At the last instant, the trumpeter moved his hand out of the way so that the violist's fist went slamming into the tree. "OW!," cried the violist, "I see what you mean." He then returned to the ditch and his friend waiting below. "Well," said the other violist, "did you find out why he's up there and we're down here?" "Yes," said the violist, whose hand was still throbbing, "it's because he's smarter than us." "I don't understand," said his friend. "Let me explain it to you," said the violist. He then took his open hand and placed it in front of his own face. "Now," he said, "hit my hand with your shovel!"

Once there was a viola player who was second chair in the Winnepeg Symphony. He met a genie, who promised him three wishes. For his first wish he asked to be a better musician, and he became first chair. For his second wish, he asked to be an even better musician, and he became first viola in the Berlin Symphony. For his third wish, he wished to be an even better musician, and he ended up playing second violin in the Winnipeg Symphony.

A violist and a percussionist were walking in a park. The percussionist saw a dead crow and said to the violist, "Look, a dead crow." The violist looked up and asked, "Where?"

The Viola Players Golden Rules For Ensemble Playing:

1. Before starting to play, you should tune carefully, from then on, it is alright to play out of tune all evening.
2. If you do not succeed in tuning to the correct pitch, it isn't your fault, it is due to your instrument's timbre.
3. You should all play the same piece (remember what happened last time?)
4. Keep Calm, it's always the others who have the melody and solo parts.
5. If you make a mistake, cast a disapproving look at one of the other players.
6. Stop at every repeat, proceed to discuss at length whether or not to continue.
7. Turn your pages with care, the fourth page seldom works as a continuation of the first.
8. If you lose time turning your page, play fast all the way through to catch up, be sure you do this loudly so they can know to slow down.
9. If all the other players are wrong, and you alone are right... try to play wrong as well.
10. If you rush the eighth notes and slow down on the long ones you will usually come out about right.
11. If you miscounted and have lost your place beyond all hope, boldly announce that you think the others should stop and re-tune.
12. Annotations like #, b, p, f, cresc, decresc, as well as any dots, lines, hashes, or slurs above, below, after, or before are of no consequence, during performance they are often altered, redone, or skipped. In addition, they are merely extras thrown in by the editor to screw you up.
13. When all the other players are done playing, you should refrain from playing what you have left.

Strings (violin):

Q: What is the definition of a major seventh?

A: A violist playing octaves.

Q: What is the difference between the first and last desk of a viola section?

A: A semi-tone.

Q: Why are violas larger than violins? They're not.

A: The violist's head is smaller.

Q: How do you make a violist play vibrato?

A: Write a whole note and put "SOLO" over it.

Q: How can you tell when a violist is playing out of tune?

A: The bow is moving.

Q: Why are violin jokes so short?

A: So violists can understand them.

Q: How is a violinist like a SCUD missile?

A: Both are offensive and inaccurate.

Q: Why does a violinist have a handkerchief under his chin when he plays?

A: Because there's no spit valve.

Q: What do you do if you're short a violinist?

A: Have a percussionist drag his fingernails across a chalkboard.

Q: What's the difference between a fiddle and a violin?

A: No one minds if you spill beer on a fiddle.

Q: Why should you never drive a roof nail with a violin?

A: You might bend the nail.

Q: What do violists use for birth control?

A: Their personalities.

Q: What do a bad airplane mechanic and a violist have in common?

A: Both screw up Boeings.

Trombone:

Q: What's the definition of a gentleman?

A: Someone who knows how to play the trombone and doesn't.

Q: What did Captain Picard say when he entered a jazz club and saw a trombonist on stage?

A: "Computer: End program!"

Q: How do you know if there's a trombonist at your door?

A: The doorbell drags

Q: How can you tell that a kid on a playground is a trombonist's kid?

A: He can't swing and he complains about the slide.

Q: How many trombone players does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Only one, but he'll spend half an hour trying to figure out what position he needs to be in.

Q: What does a trombonist say at his night job?

A: "Would you like fries with that?"

Q: How many bass trombonists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Just one, but he'll do it too loudly.

Q: What is the difference between a bass trombone and a chain saw?

A: It's easier to improvise on the chain saw.

Someone asks a trombonist: "What's the subdominant of F major?" The trombonist is confused: "What??? I thought F major was the subdominant!"

There's this guy who has been stranded on a deserted island, all alone for 10 years. One day he sees a speck on the horizon. He thinks to himself, "It's not a ship." The speck gets a little closer and he thinks, "It's not a boat." The speck gets even closer and he thinks, "It's not a raft." Then, out of the surf comes a gorgeous blonde woman wearing a wet suit and scuba gear. She comes up to the guy and says, "How long has it been since you've had a cigarette?", "Ten years!" he says. She reaches over and unzips a waterproof pocket on her left sleeve and pulls out a pack of fresh cigarettes. He takes one, lights it, takes a long drag and says, Man, oh man! Is that good! Then she asked, "How long has it been since you've had a nice cold beer?" He replies, "Oh, God, it's been at least 10 years!" She reaches over, unzips the waterproof pocket on her right sleeve, pulls out a dry ice pack from around an ice cold beer, hands it to him and watches as he take a long swig and says, "Wow, that's fantastic!" Then she starts unzipping the long zipper that runs down the front of her wet suit and she says to him, "And how long has it been since you've had some REAL fun?" ,the man replies, "Good God, woman!, don't tell me you've got a Trombone in there!".

Trombone: a slide whistle with delusions of grandeur.

Trumpet players do it with 3 fingers. Tuba players do it with 4 fingers. But trombonists do it in 7 positions.

Trumpet:

Q: What do lead trumpet players use for birth control?

A: Their personality.

Q: How many trumpet players does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Four. One to do it and three to stand around and brag about how much better they could have done it.

Q: How do you get a trumpet player to play fff?

A: Write mp on the part.

Q: What's the secret trumpet handshake?

A: Shake hands and say "Hi! I'm better than you."

Q: How are trumpets like pirates?

A: They are both murder on the high C's.

Q: Why did the trumpet player play a loud, blaring jazz solo during a slow, soft symphonic movement?

A: Because the part was marked tacit, and he thought it said "Take it!"

Q: What is the difference between a trumpet player and the rear end of a horse?

A: I don't know either.

Q: Why can't a gorilla play trumpet?

A: He's too sensitive.

Three famous trumpet players are up in a airplane. One of them says, "I'll throw out a 100 dollar bill and make someone very happy." The one next to him says, "I'll throw out two 50 dollar bills, and make two people very happy." The other one said, "I'll throw five 20's out the door, and make five people happy." The pilot, who was their conductor, said, "Why don't you all three jump, and make the whole band very happy?"

Tuba:

Q: What is the range of a tuba?

A: Twenty yards, if you've got a good arm.

Q: What's a tuba for?

A: 13/4" x 33/4".

Q: How many tuba players does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Five: One to hold the bulb, one to hold the lamp and three to drink until the room spins.

Q: Why would a tuba player get fired from any office job?

A: He's a low character, below the staff, and he spends too much time resting.

Q: How do you fix a broken tuba?

A: With tuba glue.

Q: An out-of-work conductor got a job as a hit-man. He got an assignment for a kill and was driving down the road when he saw his target on one side of the road and a tuba player on the other side of the road. Who did he kill first and why?

A: The target - business before pleasure.

Q: What's the difference between a 3/4 tuba and a 5/4 tuba?

A: About five yards.

Tuba player: "Did you hear my last recital?" Friend: "I hope so."

Two tuba players walk past a bar. Hey, it could happen!!

Entry Exam For The BBC Symphony Orchestra:

The pass mark is 10% but be careful -- over 45% correct and you are overqualified.

1. Who wrote the following:

- a) Beethoven's Symphony No. 6
- b) Fauré's Requiem
- c) Wagner's Ring Cycle

[5 pts.]

2. Tchaikovsky wrote 6 symphonies including Symphony no. 4. Name the other five.

[5 pts.]

3. Explain "counterpoint" or write your name on the reverse of the paper.

[10 pts.]

4. Which of the following would you tuck under you chin?

- a) a timpani
- b) an organ
- c) a 'cello
- d) a viola

[1 pt.]

5. Can you explain "sonata form"? (Answer yes or no.)

[5 pts.]

6. Which of the following literary works was made the subject of a Verdi opera?

- a) First among Equals -- Jeffrey Archer
- b) Macbeth -- William Shakespeare
- c) Noddy and Big Ears -- Enid Blyton

[5 pts.]

7. Domenico Scarlatti wrote 555 harpsichord sonatas for which instrument?

[5 pts.]

8. Arrange the following movements in order of speed, starting with the slowest first.

- a) Quickly
- b) Slowly
- c) Very Quickly
- d) At a Moderate Pace

[4 pts.]

9. Where would you normally expect to find the conductor during a performance?

[5 pts.]

10. Which of the following wrote incidental music to A Midsummer Night's Dream?

- a) Des O'Connor
- b) Mickey Mouse
- c) Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
- d) Terry Wogan

[5 pts.]

11. Which of the following is the odd one out?

- a) Sir Colin Davis

- b) Andrew Davis
 - c) Sir Peter Maxwell Davies
 - d) Desmond Lynham
- [5 pts.]

12. Arrange the following words into the name of a well known Puccini opera.

Bohème, La

[5 pts.]

13. Within five minutes, how long is Chopin's Minute Waltz?

[5 pts.]

14. From which of the following countries did Richard Strauss come?

- a) Venezuela
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Germany
- d) Japan

[5 pts.]

15. For what town were Haydn's "Paris" Symphonies written?

[5 pts.]

16. Which is the odd one out?

- a) Fantasy Overture Romeo and Juliet -- Tchaikovsky
- b) Romeo and Juliet -- Berlioz
- c) Romeo and Juliet Ballet -- Prokofiev
- d) Ten Green Bottles -- anon.

[5 pts.]

17. From which song do the following lines come?

"God save our gracious Queen, Long live our noble Queen."

[5 pts.]

18. Spell the following musical terms.

allegro

rallentando

crotchet

pizzicato

intermezzo

[5 pts.]

19. Tosca is a character found in which Puccini opera?

[5 pts.]

20. Arrange the following letters to form the abbreviation for a well known British broadcasting corporation.

C, B, B.

[5 pts.]