

In a far country called Band Land there lived four families of instruments. The county was divided in half by a wide river on which there was a small island. The two main families lived on opposite sides of the river. The first was the woodwind family who lived in a dense wood on a large hill on the left hand side of the river. This family were nature lovers and lived in peace and harmony.

M1 Woodwind ensemble

The Woodwind were separated into four main groups. First there were the Flutes and the Piccolo, who lived high in the treetops with the birds, who they could imitate well.

M2 Flutes and Piccolos

The oboes were different and had mouths made of double reeds which they used to make their own more plaintive songs.

M3 Oboes

The clarinets were a big family of several different sizes. They had mouths of only single reeds, but they were very agile, harmonious and melodic.

M4 Clarinets

The biggest in size of the woodwind, but closely related to the Oboes were the Bassoons who also had double reeds for mouths, and had strong nasal voices. They were rather pompous and thought themselves rather grand.

M5 Bassoons

The other of the two main families was the Brass family who lived in a big city dominated by metal buildings. These were a noisy lot of people who loved to play loud and raucous music. All their mouthpieces were also made of metal shaped like a small cup.

M6 Brass ensemble - brass

The Brass too was divided into four main groups. Firstly there were the trumpets, small but powerful instruments who loved to announce themselves with fanfares.

M7 Trumpets

The most moderate of the groups were the French Horns who could also make fanfares like the trumpets, but were also inclined to sing melodies when the opportunity arose.

M8 French Horns

The Trombones were loud and raucous and loved to show off with their slides to demonstrate their ability to move smoothly between notes.

M9 Trombones noisy

The Trombones didn't often like to let people hear that they could make beautiful noises as well.

M10 Trombones soft

The biggest of the group was the Tuba family. The Bass Tuba was large, fat, and was not often seen to move very much, but he could always be relied on to support the group by providing a firm foundation for the harmony.

M11 Bass Tuba

The Tuba had a smaller brother called the Euphonium, who was far more agile and loved to play melodies and show off his higher notes.

M12 Euphonium

The Brass and the Woodwind families just couldn't get on with each other. The Brass were jealous of the Woodwind's peaceful life and never resisted an opportunity to mock them.

M13 Brass ensemble mocking Woodwind

The Woodwind were frightened of the Brass, and scorned their way of life and ignored them if they could, but if provoked shouted jeers at them.

M14 Woodwind ensemble mocking Brass

On the island in the middle of the river there was a smaller family of Saxophones who came in various sizes.

M15 Saxophone ensemble

The Saxophones were sly folk. They were made of metal like the Brass instruments, but had keys like the Woodwind and single reed mouths like the clarinets. Living in the middle of the two main families they were very adept at blending in with either of them. They could join in the with music of the Woodwind groups.

M16 Woodwind and Saxophones

Or they could join in with the noisy music of the brass, and really let themselves go.

M17 Brass and Saxophones

It is worth mentioning that there was a another family which was very independent of all the others and lived quite some distance away from them. This was the Percussion family who came in as many shapes and sizes as you could imagine. Most of them couldn't sing melodies for themselves, so they concentrated on rhythm. They were the a sort of police force who kept the other groups in order, and kept them moving steadily in their everyday pursuits.

M18 Percussion without Mallets

There was a smaller group in the Percussion family, the Mallets who had keyboards of metal or wood like pianos, and could play tunes if they wanted to, but in a rather brittle and spiky sort of way.

M19 Mallets on their own

There came a time when the relationship between the Woodwind and Brass families became so bad that they declared open war on each other. The Saxophones and Percussion tried to keep the peace, but were not able to stop the fighting.

M20 Cacophony between all the groups

Particularly dismayed by this was a young lady Clarinet and a handsome young Trumpet who had secretly fallen in love with each other.

M21 Duet for Clarinet and Trumpet

When the fighting was at its worst the young Trumpet, in defending his lady Clarinet from attack by his fellow Brass was dropped and received a very nasty dent.

M22 Trumpet being dented

The fighting immediately stopped, and all the families were shocked at what they had done. The young Trumpet was taken to the Brass repairers to see if it was possible to mend him, and all the families waited in agonised suspense.

M23 Waiting to see if repair of Trumpet is possible.

Happily, with great care, it was possible slowly to repair the Trumpet's dent, and eventually he emerged as good as new. His girlfriend, the Clarinet was overjoyed, and the relief of all the families could be heard.

M24 Relief at the repair, and the cadenza of the Clarinet.

The two lovers sang a love song of great happiness and romance.

M25 The love song of the two instruments

All the families were so impressed that they resolved immediately to abandon their differences and seek to produce a grand harmony in which they could all take part together. And this is how Band Land became one united happy family of instruments who thereafter worked and lived together in peace and harmony.

M26 Grand finale.