Stringed Instruments



Debbie Croft

PM writing

Information Report & Response

Stringed Instruments

Level 29 Sapphire

Key Learning Area **The Arts**

Theme **Stringed instruments**

Title **Stringed Instruments in an Orchestra**

Text Type *Information Report*

Pages **2–9**

Text Form **Technical information**

Genre **Non-fiction**

Purpose **To present information that classifies living or non-living things**

Text Structure

General Statement: Identifies and classifies the subject *(Page 2)*.

Description: Provides information about the subject's physical appearance and other characteristics *(Pages 3–8)*.

Evaluation: Provides a summary statement about the subject *(Page 9)*.

Language Features

- Nouns (*e.g. instruments, double bass, bow*)
- Pronouns (*e.g. they, it*)
- Adjectives (*e.g. tuned, deeper, harmonious*)
- Present tense verbs (*e.g. are, has, is, straddles*)
- Adverbs (*e.g. individually, Again, together*)
- Adverbial phrases (*e.g. across the strings*)

Title **The String Recital**

Text Type *Response*

Pages **10–16**

Text Form **Adjudicator's report**

Genre **Non-fiction**

Purpose **To give an opinion about a written or visual work, object or event**

Text Structure

Context: States the context of the work, object or event and previews the writer's opinion (optional) *(Pages 10–11)*.

Description: Describes features of the work, object or event *(Pages 12–14)*.

Judgement: Gives a personal opinion based on the description *(Pages 15–16)*.

Language Features

- Nouns (*e.g. performance, excellence, model*)
- Pronouns (*e.g. me, I, she, you, we*)
- Adjectives (*e.g. high, nimble*)
- Sensing verbs (*e.g. realise, feel*)
- Adverbs (*e.g. brilliantly*)
- Adverbial phrases (*e.g. a long way*)
- Time and sequence words (*e.g. today*)

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Stringed Instruments

By Debbie Croft



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Stringed Instruments in an Orchestra

There are four types of stringed instruments that make up the string section in an orchestra. They are the violin, the viola, the cello and the double bass.

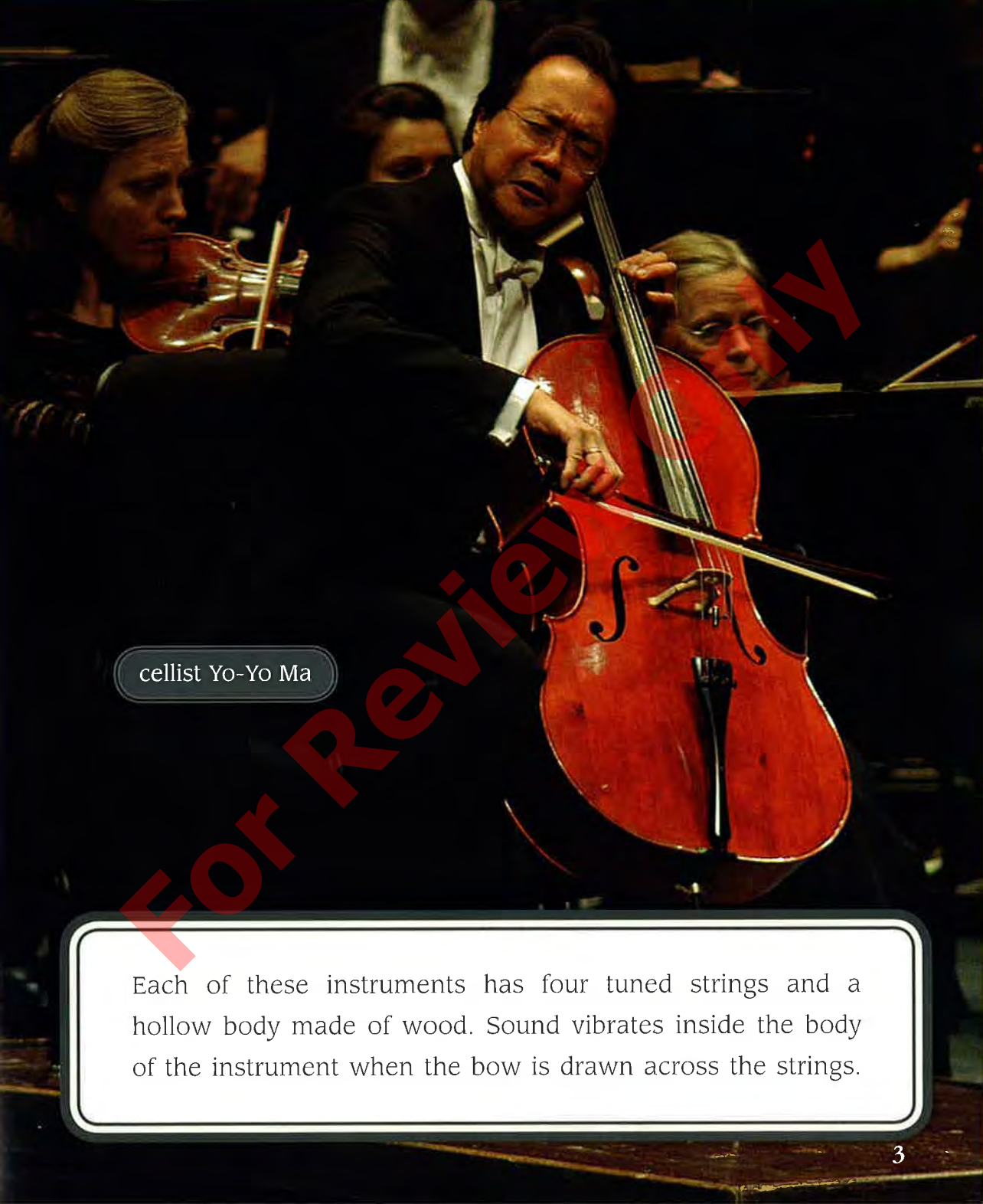


violin and viola

cello

double bass

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cellist Yo-Yo Ma

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Each of these instruments has four tuned strings and a hollow body made of wood. Sound vibrates inside the body of the instrument when the bow is drawn across the strings.



The strings on the instrument are made of nylon, steel or gut, and extend along the body and neck. They are secured to small pegs that are individually tightened or loosened to tune each string. The handle of the bow is made of wood, and the strings are real horsehair.

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The violin is the smallest in size and has the highest pitch of the four instruments. One end of the violin rests under the violinist's chin. The neck of the instrument is supported with one hand. The fingers of this hand are placed in different positions along the strings. This changes the pitch of the notes when the bow is drawn across the strings.



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The viola is very similar in appearance to the violin, except that it is larger and therefore produces a deeper sound. It is also played with a bow, in a similar way to the violin.

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Next in increasing size is the cello. Because of its larger size, the cellist sits on a chair and straddles the instrument while its base rests on the floor. Again, the bow is drawn across the strings to produce notes of varying pitch.



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