

LESSON 10

Percussion Instruments

With a name that means, "the hitting of one body against another," instruments in the percussion family are played by being struck, shaken, or scraped. In the orchestra, the percussion section provides a variety of rhythms, textures and tone colors. Percussion instruments are classified as tuned or un-tuned. The percussion section became more important in the 20th Century Orchestra even though percussion was used in earlier periods.