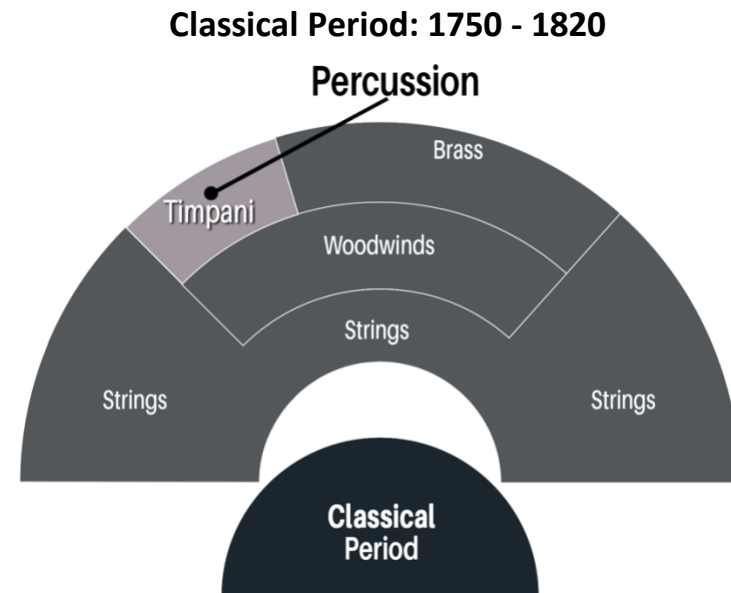
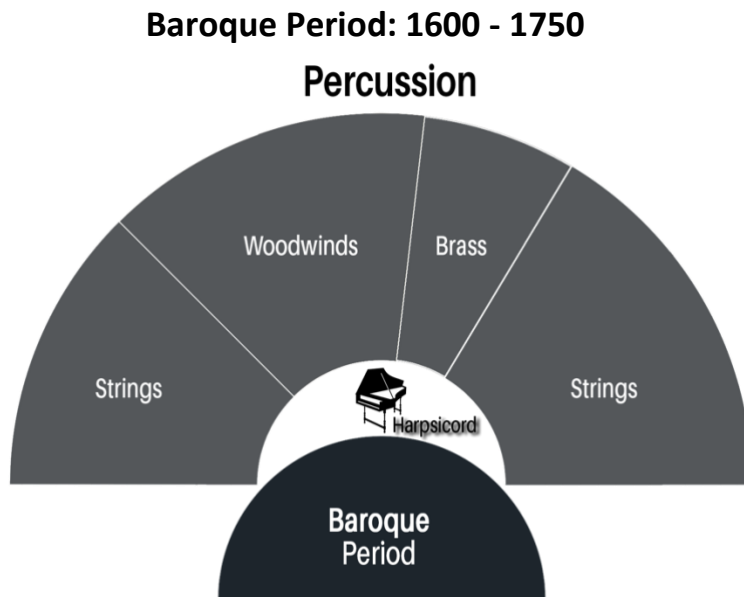


Percussion Orchestra Seating Guide | From the Baroque Period to the Modern Period

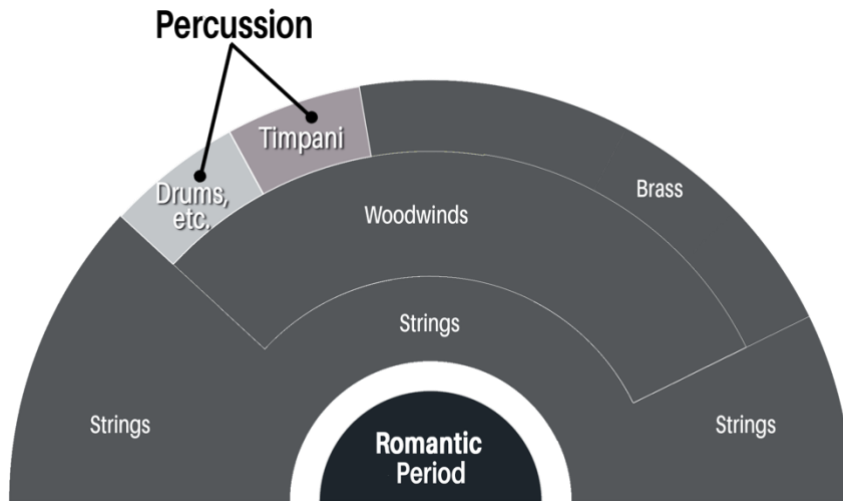
TEACHER GUIDE



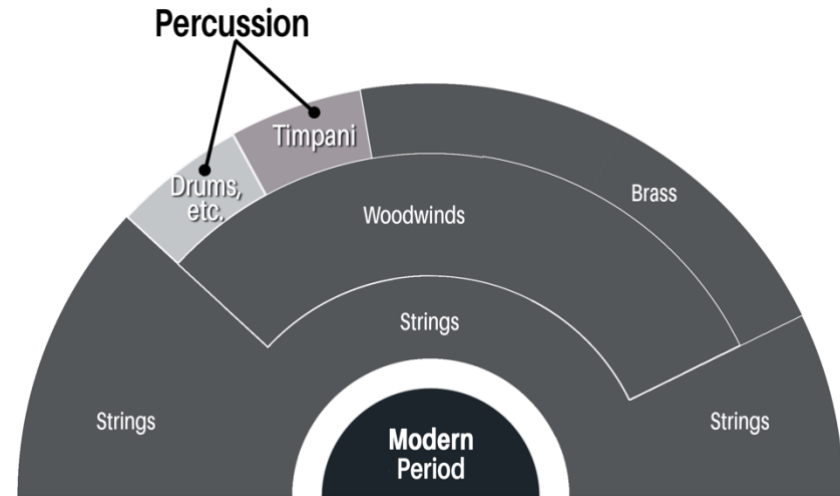
In a **Baroque orchestra**, percussion instruments like timpani were used rarely and mainly for special effects. The main focus was on strings and the basso continuo, which included a keyboard and bass instrument. Woodwinds and brass instruments could be present, but they were not the main part of the orchestra.

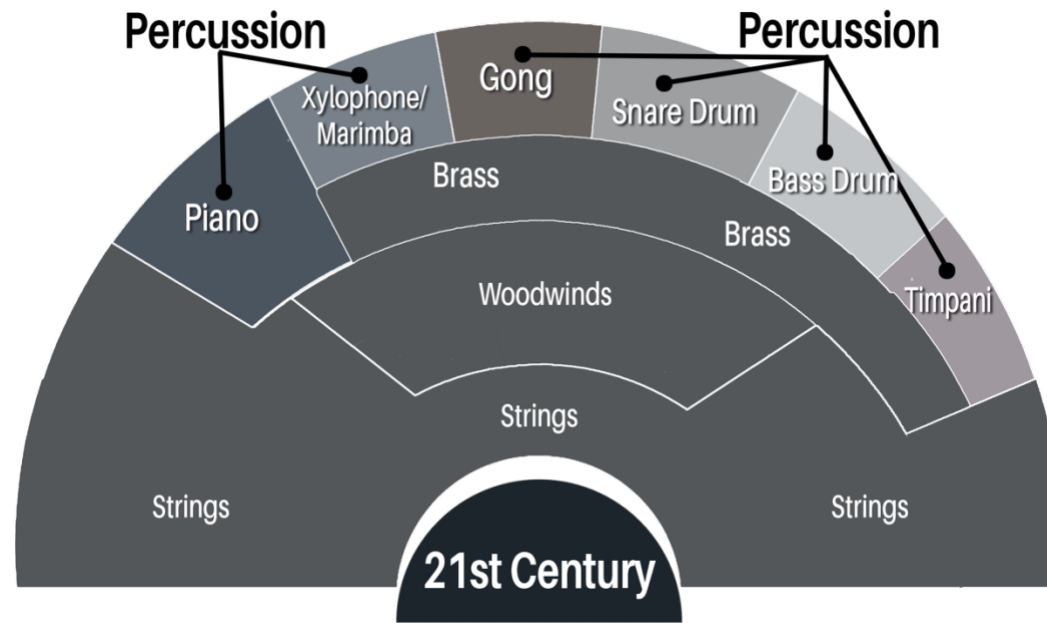
In a typical **classical music orchestra**, the percussion section is usually located at the back of the stage, often behind the woodwinds and brass. This layout can change based on the conductor's choices and the music being played.

Romantic Period: 1820 - 1900



Modern Period: 1890 - 1945





In a **Romantic-era orchestra**, the percussion instruments were usually set at the back of the stage. This helped to keep the sound balanced since percussion can be very loud. Their big size, like the timpani and bass drums, also meant they needed more space at the back.

The **Modern period** (20th Century), the percussion section is found at the back of the orchestra and includes instruments like timpani, snare drum, and cymbals. Each section's placement and instruments are chosen carefully to ensure a balanced and pleasing sound.

In **21st-century orchestras**, the percussion section is usually located at the back of the stage. This is because percussion instruments can be very loud and would overpower other instruments if they were closer to the audience. Percussionists need space to set up their many different instruments, which is easier to manage from the back. They also often stand while playing and being at the back allows everyone to see the conductor and other musicians clearly. Although percussion has become more important over the years, being placed at the back has been common mainly in the **20th and 21st centuries**.