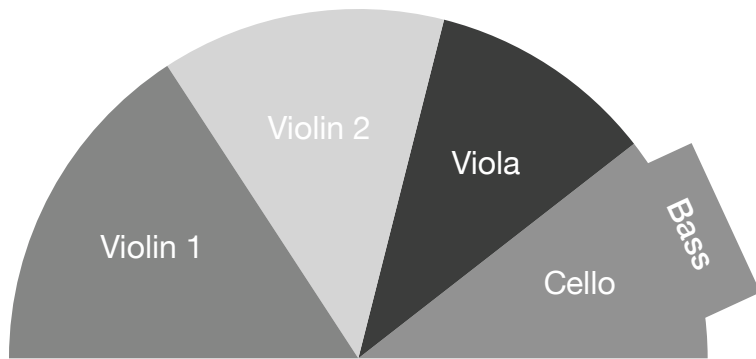
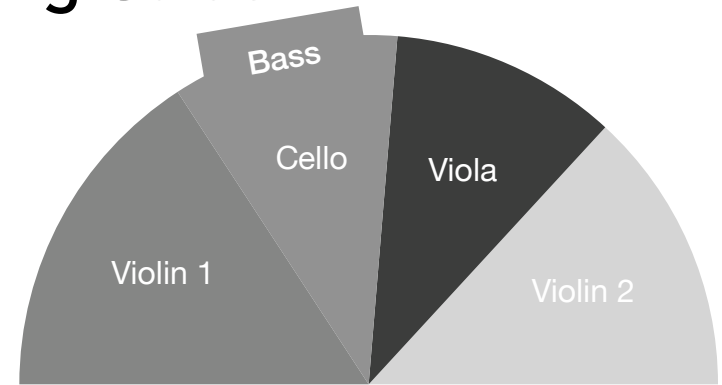


String Orchestra Seating Guide

For Teachers



Modern Seating



Pre-20th Century Seating

Section Arrangement

Modern orchestras and string orchestras typically set up the string section with the violins grouped together on the left with violas and cellos following on the right. You will sometimes see orchestras setup in a more traditional seating with the violins split opposite each other with the cello and viola sections in the middle. In particular, some modern orchestras will setup in this arrangement when performing classical or baroque music. Bases are often located just behind the cello section in either setup.

In an educational setting, it is rare to have the same proportions as a professional orchestra so modifications may be necessary, but generally following one of these setups can be helpful for young orchestras to get used to hearing different sections throughout the orchestra.

Seating Within The Section

Seating in an educational setting typically begins with a list of students by section that may or may not be ranked by ability. Traditionally, stronger players sit toward the front and weaker players further from the conductor, however this is not always conducive to a learning environment. Certain seats within the orchestra are easier to play from due to visibility of and proximity to the conductor. It may be more beneficial to your orchestra to seat stronger players next to weaker players throughout the section. An additional step would be to think about each student in your ensemble individually and place them in the position where they will be most successful.