

# Reading a Score

Music

How a full score is organised, and where to look for what.

*An orchestral score stacks every instrument playing at that moment, in a fixed order.*

1

## Woodwind, at the top

Flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons — highest to lowest within the family.

2

## Brass, below them

Horns, trumpets, trombones, tuba.

3

## Percussion and timpani

Timpani first, then unpitched percussion, then harp and keyboard.

4

## Voices, if any

Soloists above chorus, both above the strings.

5

## Strings, at the bottom

Violin I, Violin II, viola, cello, double bass.

### NAVIGATING

Bar numbers appear at each system, or at rehearsal letters

Rehearsal marks are the standard way to restart in a rehearsal

A cue is a small-print line from another instrument, for counting in

Transposing instruments are written at their own pitch, not concert pitch. The score names the key at the left.