PITCHED PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS WORKSHEET

1. The ______________________________ was the first percussion instrument to gain permanent access to the orchestra.

2. The timpani has been used since the ______________________________ period of music.

3. The timpani produces a variety of __________________, as where most other drums can only produce a sharp or crisp accent without a definite pitch.

4. Generally, four timpani are used within the ______________________________ orchestra.

5. A ______________________________ machine allows them to be tuned while the orchestra is playing.

6. Smaller timpani allow for ______________________________ sounds, or pitches.

7. The timpani and other tuned drums play higher notes if their heads are ______________________________ tightly.

8. If the head is loosened, then the note will be ______________________________.

9. By using different sticks, timpani players are able to get different sounds qualities and ______________________________.

10. Commonly, percussionists will carry a little case with a wide variety of sticks and ______________________________.

11. A percussionist will used these to accommodate for the ample diversity of tonal color required by ______________________________ or composers.

12. The Glockenspiel is also known as orchestra ______________________________.

13. The Glockenspiel contains about ________ steel plates of different sizes that are arranged like a ______________________________ keyboard and mounted in a case.

14. The Glockenspiel produces a very ______________________________ sound.
15. The xylophone is one of the most popular ____________________________ percussion instruments.

16. The xylophone’s plates, or bars, are made of ____________________________ instead of steel.

17. The xylophone is used in both classical and ____________________________ music.

18. Since it is very impractical to have real church bells in an orchestra setting, they are substituted with long ____________________________ tubes of varying lengths.

19. The tubular bells’ tubes are stricken at the top with a small rubber ____________________________.

20. There are times when the piano is used for a more ____________________________ effect rather than a solo role.

21. For the purpose of this class, the piano is also included as a member of the ____________________________ family.

22. The piano’s vast network of little hammers ____________________________ the strings, causing them to ____________________________.

23. The ____________________________ was the largest keyboard instrument from the sixteenth through the ____________________________ century.

24. During the latter part of the eighteenth century, the harpsichord began to lose favor, due mainly to the ____________________________ of the piano.

25. Since keyboard instruments were not able to play volume changes, one keyboard was used for ____________________________ passages and the other for ____________________________ passages.

26. The Celesta is a ____________________________ instrument patented in 1886 by Auguste Mustel of Paris.

27. The Celesta resembles an upright piano.

28. The celesta consists of a set of steel bars that are fastened over wood ____________________________.
29. These resonators are stricken by hammers that are operated from the _________________ by the performer.

30. The celesta has a range of _________________ octaves and its tone is delicate and ethereal.

31. The Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky was one of the first _________________ to write music for the celesta when he wrote his famous Nutcracker Suite.

32. The percussion families of instrument provide a potpourri of musical and _________________ options to the symphony orchestra.

33. The percussion families of instrument’s ample selection of colors and sounds add another dimension to the _________________ of any composition.

UNPITCHED PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS WORKSHEET

1. This section of the symphony orchestra is also known as the “_______________ department” because of its extensive variety of rhythmical instruments and accessories.

2. To qualify as a member of the percussion family, an instrument must produce its sound when it is either _________________ or stricken.

3. Percussion instruments are some of the _________________ of all musical instruments.

4. The percussion family is approaching the importance achieved by the _________________ or _________________ family of instruments because today’s composers are exploring more complex rhythms and unusual sounds.

5. The main function of percussion instruments is to provide a _________________ and keep the rhythm.

6. There are some percussion instruments that are capable of playing _________________ in the orchestra. These are used often and create a very unique sound color.
7. The origin of percussion instruments dates all the way back to men beating out rhythms on hollow tree trunks, or by working with their hunting tools.

8. dates back further than recorded civilization.

9. Musical references to rhythm and percussion-like instruments can be found in art, such as paintings on ceramics or in caves.

10. The role of the percussion family has changed over the.

11. Percussion instruments’ main musical function has been to provide rhythm.

12. However, percussion instruments now play melodic within the symphony orchestra.

13. The instruments in the percussion family do play all the time, because the constant beating sound could create an effect within the orchestra.

14. Composers are particularly careful when they use percussion instruments because of their volume.

15. The use of percussion instruments must contribute to the and articulation of the composition.

16. Prior to the 1900s, composers used percussion instruments to emphasize certain moments in their music.

17. The main role of the percussion was to set the rhythmic for the melodic instruments.

18. The bass drum has heads and it is generally played from the right side.

19. The right side of the bass drum is known as the head.

20. Drummers do not play on the lower head. This part of the bass drum adds to its and resonance.

21. The sound of the bass drum is and .
22. The snare drum is the drum that you are probably most familiar with, as it is part of the drum set used by __________________________ bands.

23. One feature that is common between all snare drums is that they also have __________________________ heads.

24. The upper head is used for __________________________, while the lower one has a stretched set of strings that __________________ when the drum is beaten.

25. The sound of the snare changes significantly if you __________________________ the set of metal strings.

26. The Tambourine is another popular instrument that is part of the percussion __________________________ of the symphony orchestra.

27. When the tambourine is shaken or stricken, it jingles to add a ____________________________ or festive atmosphere to the music being played.

28. There are two types of cymbals: the ____________________________ cymbals and the ____________________________ cymbals.

29. The handheld cymbals are played by __________________________, while the suspended cymbals are stricken with __________________________ mallets.

30. The cymbals have the most __________________________ appeal within the percussion instrument, and perhaps within the entire orchestra.

31. The cymbals’ characteristic sound color create ____________________________ every time that they are played.

32. The woodblock is a small, partially _______________ piece of wood that produces a tic tock sound, like a big clock, when tapped with a _______________ stick or mallet.

33. The Chinese temple blocks sound like ____________________________ horses.

34. The bigger blocks produce a sound that is ____________________________ than the ____________________________ block.

35. The Gong is of ____________________________ origin.

36. The gong is also known as the Tam Tam. This instrument is made of a ______________________ alloy and can be flat-shaped or saucer-shaped.

37. When a musician strikes a tam tam, the resulting sound is like an ____________________________ bomb. At first, the sound is quiet and then opens and expands to a loud, crashing sound.
38. The size of the Tam Tam varies and it can be very _________________________________.
39. The triangle is one of the _________________________ instruments of the percussion family.
40. The sound produced by the triangle is ___________________, clear, and very penetrating.
41. The sleigh bells, castanets, and slap stick are common instruments that are found in the percussion section of a musical _________________________.
42. These instruments make a good set of ________________________________ musical instruments used by percussionists of all musical _________________________. 