

The instruments of the wind ensemble

An introduction for a young audience

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aan Angela Colbers

The double bass

In fact, the double bass is a wooden box with some stick at one end, dressed up with a few strings. The string is firmly stretched and connected to the wooden box. In this way the surface that can vibrate is largely increased, resulting in more sound production as compared to a single vibrating string. When on a particular instrument notes from the lowest to the highest pitch sound at even or comparable loudness, the instrument is called of good quality.

There are different ways to make sound with the strings; by drawing the bow across the strings (**bass plays arco**) or plucked with the fingers, that is called pizzicato (**bass plays pizz.**). In particular for playing with the bow, a choice of techniques has been developed for playing notes in different ways, making intriguing sounds.

With the tuning pegs at the top of the instrument the strings can be tuned to the proper pitch. By stopping the strings to the fingerboard with the fingers of the left hand the sounding length of the strings can be regulated. In this way on one string different notes can be played (**bass plays scales**).

(Now the double bass plays the piece below).

Adagio ♩ = 56

Double Bass

mf

6

rit. a tempo

11 pizzicato

rit.

Finale

Allegro maestoso, ♩ = 112

3 min.

