

Chapter 16

RANGE AND TRANSPOSITION CHARTS

FLUTE FAMILY

	Actual sounds	Written	Transposition
Piccolo	(15 MA)	(BVA)	Down an octave
"C" Flute	(BVA)	Same	None
Alto-Flute (in G)		(BVA)	Up a perfect-fourth
Bass-Flute		(BVA)	An octave higher (written in treble clef)

CLARINETS

	Actual sounds	Written	Transposition
E ^b Clarinet			Down a minor-third
B ^b Clarinet			Up a major-second
A Clarinet			Up a minor-third
Alto Clarinet (in E ^b)			Up a major-sixth (written in treble clef)
Bass Clarinet (in B ^b)			Up a major-ninth (written in treble clef)
Contra-bass Clarinet in E ^b			Up an octave and a major sixth (written in treble clef)
Contra-bass Clarinet in B ^b			Up an octave and a major-ninth (written in treble clef)

DOUBLE REEDS

	Actual sounds	Written	Transposition
Oboe		Same	None
English Horn (in F)			Up a perfect-fifth
Bassoon			(Written in bass and tenor clefs)
Contra-Bassoon			An octave higher (BVA BASSA)

STRINGS

	Actual sounds	Written	Highest note with Harmonics	Tuning (open strings)
Violin		(BVA)	(BVA)	
Viola			(BVA)	
Cello				(Cello is also written in the tenor clef)
Double Bass			(BVA)	

GUITAR

	Actual sounds	Written	Transposition
Guitar			An octave higher (written in treble clef)

PERCUSSION

	Actual sounds	Written	Transposition
Xylophone	(15 MA)	(BVA)	An octave lower
Vibraphone		Same	None
Orchestra Bells (Glockenspiel)	(15 MA)		Two octaves lower
Chimes		Same	None
Tympani (Timpani)	32" 28" 25" 23"		(Various sizes are pitched as shown)

PIANO (15 MA) (BVA BASSA)

HARP (BVA) (BVA BASSA)

CELESTA (CELESTE) Actual sounds (15 MA) Written (BVA)

SAXOPHONES	Actual sounds	Written	Transposition
E ^b Sopranino			Down a minor-third
B ^b Soprano			Up a major-second
E ^b Alto			Up a major-sixth
B ^b Tenor			Up a major-ninth (written in treble clef)
E ^b Baritone			Up an octave and a major-sixth (written in treble clef)
B ^b Bass			Up an octave and a major-ninth (written in treble clef)

BRASS	Actual sounds	Written	Transposition
French Horn (in F)			Up a perfect-fifth (written in both clefs)
Piccolo Trumpet (in B ^b)			Down a minor-seventh
B ^b Trumpet			Up a major-second
Flugelhorn (in B ^b)			Up a major-second
Trombone (Tenor)		Same	None
Bass Trombone		Same	None
Tuba		Same	None

The preceding transposition charts show only the optimum ranges for the instruments most frequently encountered. Consideration is not given to the various upward and downward extensions of the following cases:

1. The attachment found on some flutes which extend the downward range by a semi-tone.
 2. Extreme high notes of brass instruments capable of being played by exceptional instrumentalists.
 3. The pedal tones of the tenor trombone extending chromatically downward from the low B-flat to the low "E". These notes can only be sustained, and in requiring preparation cannot be incorporated into moving passages. The entire compass of pedal tones is not possible by all players.
 4. The low "B" and chromatic pedal tones from B-flat downward to a "C" are possible on the bass trombone. Again, preparation is required for each individual note, and not all players are capable of playing the entire range of these notes.
 5. The extension found on some double basses, or the five-string double bass, both capable of playing down to the low "C".
 6. Provisions for altering the tunings (*scordatura*) of guitars, violins, violas, cellos and double basses.
 7. Upward extensions of range on certain woodwinds and saxophones which are accomplished by the use of unorthodox fingerings.
 8. Saxophones equipped with an additional key which adds an additional semi-tone to the downward range.
- ^ Clarinets and bass clarinets equipped with additional key(s) which extend the downward range.

The copyist should be informed by the arranger of any deviations of normal ranges in his scores. Otherwise, any of the above should be questioned by the copyist. Mistakes often occur in instrumental ranges within scores.

BASIC TRANSPOSITIONS FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS (Does not account for additional octave transpositions)

Transposition from concert key:

- B^b Up a major second
- A Up a minor third
- G Up a perfect fourth
- F Up a perfect fifth
- E Up a minor sixth
- E^b Up a major sixth
- D Down a major second
- D^b Down a semi-tone

From transposed parts back to concert key:

- Down a major second
- Down a minor third
- Down a perfect fourth
- Down a perfect fifth
- Down a minor sixth
- Down a major sixth
- Up a major second
- Up a semi-tone