

What do Orchestrators Do?

The ~~orchestrator~~ is someone who ~~takes the composer's piano sketches~~ (usually on a six- to twelve-stave page) ~~and assigns the melody line and harmonic accompaniment to the instruments of the orchestra~~ (i.e., violins, flutes, oboes, trumpets, etc.). The composer's sketch is a shorthand version of the full score that the orchestrator will generate from the notes given from the composer. Orchestrators write out all the different orchestral instrument parts on a full score of about twenty to thirty staves.

Composer's Piano Sketch

The image shows two systems of handwritten musical notation. The first system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 3/4 time. The treble staff contains a melody line with a slur over the first two measures and another slur over the last two measures. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The second system also consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, continuing the melody and accompaniment from the first system.

Flute part (done by music copyist)

The image shows two systems of handwritten musical notation for a flute part. Both systems consist of a single treble clef staff. The first system contains a melody line with a slur over the first two measures and another slur over the last two measures. The second system continues the melody line with a slur over the first two measures.