Name _____ Date _____

Pitch and Volume: How Instruments Change Their Sound

Directions: In most of these questions, a player changes a sound. Decide whether the change makes it higher or lower, louder or softer, or both.

1. Which choice gives the correct meanings of pitch and volume?

A. Pitch is how high or low a sound is, and volume is how loud or soft it is.

B. Pitch is how fast the beat goes, and volume is how long a note lasts.

C. Pitch and volume both mean how loud a sound is.

D. Pitch is how loud or soft a sound is, and volume is how high or low it is.

2. Match each change to what it does to the sound.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ A violinist presses a finger down, so a shorter part of the string vibrates.
2. _____ A guitarist loosens a string by turning its tuning peg.
3. _____ A drummer strikes the same drum much harder than before.
4. _____ A harpist plucks the same string much more gently than before.

Choices for question 2

A. a lower pitch

B. a louder sound

C. a higher pitch

D. a different instrument family

E. a faster tempo

F. a softer sound

3. Someone at a party asks you to turn up the music. Which part of the sound do they want to change?

A. the volume, so it is louder

B. the pitch, so the notes are higher

C. the pitch, so the notes are lower

D. the tempo, so it is faster

4. A singer holds a very high note but sings it very softly. How would you describe that sound?

A. low pitch and low volume

B. high pitch and low volume

C. low pitch and high volume

D. high pitch and high volume

5. Panpipes are a row of tubes of different lengths tied together, and the player blows across the top of each one. Which tube plays the highest note?

A. the longest tube
B. the shortest tube
C. every tube plays the same note
D. the tube in the middle

6. Complete the sentence about the marimba's bars.

Word bank

shorter • longer • softer • louder

On a marimba, the _____ bars play the higher notes, and the _____ bars play the lower notes.

7. A drummer tightens a drumhead by turning the screws around its rim. What happens to the drum's pitch?

A. It goes down.
B. It goes up.
C. It stays the same, but the drum gets louder.
D. The drum stops making any sound.

8. A cellist wants the same note to sound louder. What should she do?

A. Press the bow harder or move it faster across the string.
B. Loosen the string with its tuning peg.
C. Press a finger down to shorten the string.
D. Bow more slowly and lightly.

9. Lea wants to play a violin note louder without changing its pitch. What must stay the same?

A. how loud the note is
B. how fast she moves the bow
C. how hard she presses the bow on the string
D. how long and how tight the vibrating part of the string is

10. Which change would make a drum sound both higher and louder?

A. Loosen the drumhead and hit it harder.
B. Tighten the drumhead and hit it harder.
C. Tighten the drumhead and tap it gently.
D. Loosen the drumhead and tap it gently.