

Practicing activity

• Listen and complete the sentences with one word.

- 1 The _____ is amazing. I've never been to a concert in a place like this with all these hills and rocks. And the _____ is performing really well.
- 2 Thank you for coming to the Newtown _____ Festival. Now please welcome one of the greatest _____ players of all time.
- 3 I usually perform _____ songs ... a mix of old traditional songs and more modern stuff like Ed Sheeran. If I give a good _____, then people give money.
- 4 I've played the _____ since I was 12. I also play the trumpet in the school _____.
- 5 I don't like _____ very much, but a friend gave me tickets, and I'm really enjoying it. I think the rest of the _____ is having a good time too.
- 6 The sound of the _____ in the concert hall is fantastic. I've seen the _____ before, but I've never seen him conduct Beethoven.



Listen and match the speakers (1-6) to the photos (a-f).

1

2

3

4

5

6



• **Read and answer the questions below.**

When José Angel Salazar was 14 years old, he became 'the youngest conductor in the world'. Born in Nueva Esparta, Venezuela, José Angel didn't listen to much classical music during his childhood. But when he was eight years old, his father and grandfather took him to a brass band concert, and his life changed forever. He stopped going to karate lessons and learned to play the flute. Soon afterwards, he decided to learn the violin.

In 2011 José Angel auditioned to join the Symphony Orchestra of Nueva Esparta, where he continued studying violin and music theory. The following year he was asked to become the orchestra's conductor. Although conductors usually have their backs to the audience, they are the most important person in an orchestra. Apart from indicating the beat of the music, the conductor interprets how the music is played. He uses different movements, gestures and expressions to communicate with every individual musician.

There are between 70 and 80 musicians in the Youth Orchestra of Nueva Esparta, and more than half of them are older than José Angel.

'It's hard because I have to find the way to communicate, or sometimes tell off kids who are much older than me,' he said in an interview with *The Guardian* newspaper. 'Conducting is a wordless language. I have to convey confidence to the musicians in order to get a confident performance back from them ... I have to co-ordinate my body's movements with the music.' José Angel is also aware of the importance of words for a conductor. 'I'd like to study languages. I don't want to go on tour and have to use a translator. Or if I am interpreting Mahler, there are certain criteria, or feelings, that I'd have a better grasp of if I spoke German.'

1. Why did José Angel Salazar become famous?
2. Who is the most important person in an orchestra?
3. What does José Angel want to do in the future?
4. What is the conductor's task?

5. Why is Jose Angel's story unusual?