

## What the heck is a "broken consort?"

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A broken consort (also called Morley consort or English consort) is an instrumental ensemble that developed in Europe during the Renaissance. It originally referred to ensembles featuring instruments from more than one family of instruments, as for example a group featuring both string and wind instruments. (A consort consisting entirely of instruments of the same family, on the other hand, was referred to as a "whole consort.")

Or, in other words, an orchestra, a wind ensemble, a jazz band, and, if you're willing to stretch the definition just a smidge, an SA, SAT, SSA, or SATB choir, depending on how one defines "instrument."

And those little goobers in our logo are racketts, aka "a buzz in a box." The rackett was a medieval double-reed instrument that can be viewed as a forerunner of both the shawm and the oboe.