

I've Got Rhythm



Outreach Services
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History of the Bongo Drum



www.musicalpros.com

Bongo Drums are a percussion instrument designed with two different sized attached drums. The larger drum is called a hembra (Spanish for female) while the smaller drum is known as the macho (Spanish for male).

During the early 20th century, Afro-Caribbean rhythms largely influenced popular jazz and dance music and soon introduced bongos into the American culture.

Bongo drumming traces its history to Cuban music styles referred to as Changui and Son. The styles were first developed in the late 19th century in eastern Cuba. At first, bongos were fastened and tuned with a heat source. In the 1940s, metal-tuning lugs allowed for easier tuning.

Bongo drums are still an important component of Cuba's Abakua religion religious rites.



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History of the Castanet



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Castanets are pairs of shell-shaped clappers attached together with string. A Spanish dancer grasps a pair in each hand, snapping the clappers together quickly to create rhythmic sounds to complement their dance movements. Spanish dancers do not use castanets in flamenco dancing; stomping of the feet is used to accompany flamenco dancing instead.

The word castanet is derived from the Spanish word *castaina*, meaning chestnut. Other Spanish words for castanets include *pulgaretes* (a word for thumbs) and *platillos* (saucers).

Cultures around the world have created musical instruments similar to castanets. Ancient versions of metal or wood clappers were utilized by Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Arab, and Chinese dancers. Archaeologists cannot identify when such instruments were transported to Iberia (modern day Spain), or if they were created in that area. Evidence indicates that Iberians designed clappers from shells, sticks, bone, and flat stones.



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History of the Conga Drum

The Conga drum is a Cuban and African rhythm instrument played in traditional and cultural music. In Cuba, the instrument is often featured during Carnaval, or Mardi Gras in the United States. Spanish speakers refer to the instrument as the tumbadora.



www.howcast.com

In the early to mid-1900s, the conga drum and its rhythms became popular in the United States when Americans were traveling to Cuba. Pop-culture incorporated the conga drum in "Latin" style music, including the *la conga*. Desi Arnaz featured the conga drum in the *I Love Lucy* show during the 1950s.

The term tumbadora is regularly used among Cubans and refers to the folkloric style "rumba." Conga is the commercial and American term.



www.pmpercussion.com

History of the Cowbell



www.percussionclinic.com

Cowbells date back to 10,000 years ago when farmers dressed animals with bells created from snail shells, wood, iron, brass or pottery. The jingling of the animals' bells would warn off predators and allow farmers to keep track of their flocks in the fields.

Bells were tuned to varying pitches depending on the farmer's needs. The bells of the lead cow would resound deeper while the

distinctive ringing of a calf's bell would inform the farmer of their location.

In 1904, Gustav Mahler featured the cowbell in his *Symphony No. 6* to illustrate the quaintness of living in the country. Richard Strauss highlighted the bell in his *Alpine Symphony*.

By the 1920s, cowbells were introduced into American music and soon after, were featured in Afro-Cuban and Latin American rumbas, cha-chas, and jazz. The cowbell was even used in rock music starting in the 1950s.



www.marcdedouvan.com

History of the Glockenspiel

Today's glockenspiel is composed of two different types of instruments, the traditional glockenspiel with actual bells, and the metallophone.

The traditional glockenspiel contains various sizes of bells. Musicians play melodic phrases featuring the bells. Sometimes more than one musician is needed depending on the size of the instrument. In Germany, town halls and churches play fixed bells, a practice referred to as *Beiern*. Sometimes these bells are played by an automatic mechanism run by a clockwork motor.



www.josephdevon.com



www.lds.org

Cultures of eastern Asia have played metallophones for over 1,000 years. Metallophones were introduced to Europe in the 1700s.

In 1739, Georg Friedrich Handel was the first composer who featured the glockenspiel in his oratorio *Saul*.

The modern keyboard glockenspiel was invented by Auguste Mustel in Paris in 1886.

History of the Guiro



www.musicofpuertorico.com

The Guiro is a signature Puerto Rican instrument used by the Taíno people. The traditional guiro consists of a notched and hollowed-out gourd. Some believe these instruments were brought to Puerto Rico by the Central and South American Arawak Indians.

The guiro is designed from a gourd's carved shell with parallel fluting on the surface. The instrument is played by holding the guiro in the left hand with the right hand grinding the instrument with a scraper. The scraper is known as the "pua." Musicians scrape the guiro up and down to create long and short sounds. The guiro is often played by a singer.

Today's guiros are designed from metal, plastic, and fiberglass while the scraper is created from wood, metal, bamboo, shell, bone, ceramic or plastic.

The guiro was first referenced by Fray Iñigo Abbady Lasierra in 1788 when he mentioned the instrument accompanied dancers.

Other names of the guiro include the Calabazo, Guayo, Ralladera, and Rascador.



www.tucson-songstress.com

History of the Maracas



www.latinomusiccafe.com

Maracas are a pair of percussion rattles manufactured from gourds. Maracas utilize beads, beans, or small stones to create the rattling. Maracas are an important instrument in Latin and South American music, bands, and orchestras.

In South America, maracas were used by witch doctors who linked music with magic. Maracas were symbols of supernatural spirits that witch doctors summoned by shaking the rattles.

Maracas are featured in the artwork of pre-Columbian Indians including tribes in Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, and Paraguay. The term *maraca* originates from the Araucanian people of central Chile. Maracas are depicted in African folklore, including in West Africa (now Guinea) where native people tell the legend of a goddess who created a maraca from white pebbles.

Today, percussion and rhythm bands utilize maracas in Latin music. Maracas are featured in classical pieces such as Seregi Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* (1935) or Leonard Bernstein's *Jeremiah Symphony* (1942).



en.wikipedia.org

History of the Shaker and Rattle



www.pinterest.com

Shakers and rattles are percussion instruments originally created from hollow gourds with dried seeds inside.

African tribes would make shakers featuring stringed beads around the outside. These decorated shakers added importance to their cultural and social practices.

Native Americans utilized rattles in significant ceremonies as well as drums, rasps, and bells. Their rattles were designed from gourds and animal bones. A hole was hollowed out in the bone and dried corn, fruit pits, seeds, small nuts, and pebbles were inserted. Some Native American tribes even used turtle shells.

Native Hawaiians utilized shakers in the storytelling dance known as the "hula." Hulas are used to preserve the Hawaiians oral history and religion. Colorful feathers adorned their shakers.

Today, shakers are used in Cuban, Jazz, and Blues music and are a signature instrument in Latin music and marimba.



www.gandharvaloka.co.nz

History of Sleigh Bells



www.pinterest.com

The ringing sound of sleigh bells is associated with Christmas, holiday music, and Santa Claus' magical reindeer. Sleigh bells, or jingle bells, are members of the percussion family. Today, they are produced from sheet metal with a small clapper in the inside which creates the jingling sound.

In ancient times, bells were displayed on horses, mules, and camels in Sumer, Babylonia, Assyria, and Egypt. The Pagans used jingle bells to ward off bad luck and evil spirits. Sleigh bells were also attached to horses to signal and warn an approaching vehicle or sleigh.

The first sleigh bell factory in the United States was opened in 1810 by William Barton in Hampton, Connecticut. East Hampton was referred to as "Belltown" because it manufactured so many bells.

The tune *Jingle Bells*, or *One Horse Open Sleigh*, is one of the most famous and most recorded songs in the world. The song was written in 1857 by James Lord Pierpont for the Thanksgiving holiday.



www.steveweissmusic.com

History of the Tambourine

Tambourines are handheld percussion instruments with a wooden, round frame. Attached to the frame is parchment with bells inserted into the rim. When the musician strikes or shakes the tambourine, the bells jingle and produce music.



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Tambourines were used for hundreds of years in ancient cultures. However, the structure of the instrument has remained mostly unchanged. Tambourines were utilized in Mesopotamian, Grecian, and Roman civilizations. Tambourines were important in ancient religious practices, and are featured in Middle Eastern folk music.

In the 13th century, Crusaders took tambourines home to Europe. During the Middle Ages, traveling musicians, gypsies, and entertainers favored the instrument. Tambourines were used in military bands of the 19th century. The Bible refers to the tambourine as the "timbrel" or "tabret" and it is a symbol of celebration.



english.svenko.net

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was one of the first western composers to feature the tambourine in his compositions. Pytor Tchaikovsky included the tambourine in his "Arabian Dance" from *The Nutcracker Suite*.

History of the Tom Tom Drum



www.antiquehelper.com

Tom tom drums are traditional drums in Eastern and Native American cultures. Tom tom drums were utilized for signaling between tribes and to warn comrades of impending danger. These drums are beaten with the hand.

Today, tom tom drums are standard in drum sets. The drums are usually cylindrical in form and have one drumhead, located on the top part of the drum. Most drum kits have two to three tom toms attached to the top part of the bass drum.

Tom toms were utilized by both Chinese and Native Americans for music, religious ceremonies, and communication.



www.buzzle.com

History of the Triangle



www.percussionclinic.com

The triangle is a percussion instrument comprising of a steel rod curved into the shape of a triangle with one open corner. The triangle is dangled from a loop and hit with a steel rod.

The instrument is known for having an indefinite pitch and is used mainly for its rich and full nonharmonic overtones. Some

musicians play more than one triangle. The sound of a single stroke on the triangle easily penetrates through a full orchestra and is best used modestly.

The triangle was first used in Europe during the 14th century. The instrument often featured jingling rings until the early 1800s.

Triangles were important to the Turkish Janissary music which was popular in Europe during the 1700s. By the 19th century, the instrument entered into classical orchestral works, such as in Franz Liszt's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major* (or the *Triangle Concerto*).



www.studio-one.expert