

Seattle Pacific University

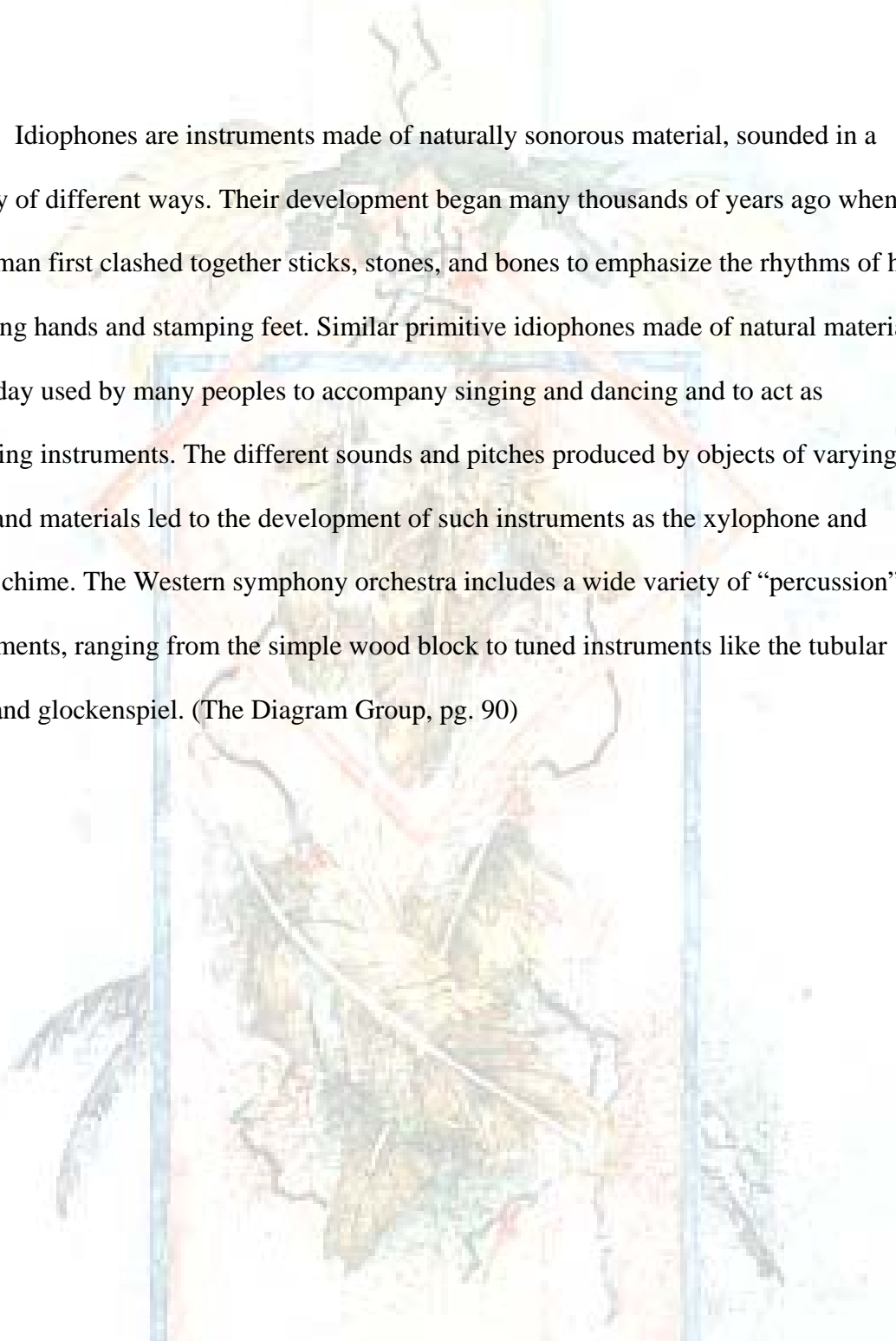


Ethnic Instruments Catalog

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Idiophones

Idiophones are instruments made of naturally sonorous material, sounded in a variety of different ways. Their development began many thousands of years ago when early man first clashed together sticks, stones, and bones to emphasize the rhythms of his clapping hands and stamping feet. Similar primitive idiophones made of natural materials are today used by many peoples to accompany singing and dancing and to act as signaling instruments. The different sounds and pitches produced by objects of varying sizes and materials led to the development of such instruments as the xylophone and gong chime. The Western symphony orchestra includes a wide variety of “percussion” instruments, ranging from the simple wood block to tuned instruments like the tubular bells and glockenspiel. (The Diagram Group, pg. 90)





Castanet

This idiophone is mainly used when Spanish flavor is called for in a piece. There are many types of castanets. This particular one is handheld.

Ghungroo

These bells would normally be worn on one's ankles in India.



Homemade Sistrum

A sistrum is a type of rattle with jingling metal disks threaded on rods. Sistra are found around the world in many shapes and sizes but all do the same thing.



This particular one looks like it came from someone who found an extra board and some loose beer bottle caps lying around the garage.



Khartal

These instruments come from India. They are primarily used as a devotional rhythm instrument.

Simple Rattle

This is one of three basic types of rattles: simple, stick, and cup.

The rattle is found around the world in many different shapes and sizes. These most resemble maracas found in Mexico.



Toy Log Drum

This is a very popular toy sold in music stores everywhere today. It most closely resembles the slit drums of Africa.



Two-Tone Wood Block

This idiophone has hollow ends and each side of the block produces a different pitch when struck. This is a less common version of the traditional “Chinese” block, which is what we think of as a modern woodblock.



Kalamba Shaker – Africa

Possibly made in Kenya.



**Mbira –
Zimbabwe**

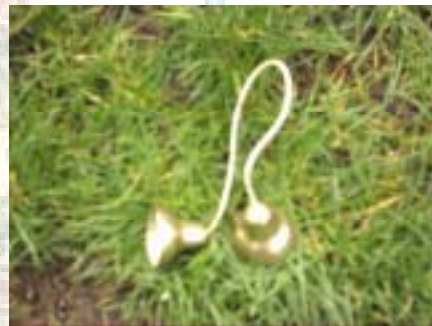
Zimbabwe's mbira shown below is the primary traditional instrument of the Zezuru tribes of the Shona people, and has been played for over 1,000 years at religious rituals, royal courts, and social occasions. It consists of 22 to 28 metal keys mounted on a hardwood soundboard and is usually placed inside a large gourd resonator (deze). The keys are played with the two thumbs plucking down and the right forefinger plucking up.

Mbira. <http://www.mbira.org/>



Steel Drum

The steel drum is popularly considered the national instrument of Trinidad. The development of the steel drum in the 1940s soon led to the replacement of the traditional carnival bamboo stick bands by groups of steel drum players. Within a few years steel bands were established throughout the Caribbean and elsewhere, giving a distinctive new sound to music in a variety of different styles. It is an Idiophone because it is a percussion instrument and it is struck.



Chinese Cymbals

The Chinese cymbals shown above are the instrument's two most common forms. Wide-rimmed cymbals with a small central boss are usually held horizontally and clashed vertically. These are considered idiophones because they are shaken.



Ancient Bronze Rattles

This rattle looks like what can be described as a modern version of an ancient bronze rattle. Each of these ancient bronze rattles can be hit, shaken, or scrapped. They contain bronze pellets that make quite unusual sound when shaken.



Javanese Anklung

A highly refined bamboo rattle. Carefully tuned vertical bamboo tubes slide in a groove in a horizontal bamboo and produce a pleasant sound on striking its rim. Instruments are made in different sizes and are often played in groups. It is an idiophone because it is shaken.



Clappers

The striking together of similar objects is one of the most basic ways of producing a rhythmic accompaniment. Clappers were well known in the ancient world, and Egyptian hand-shaped examples suggest that these instruments were devised as an alternative to clapping the hands. These particular clappers can be shaken as well. Today, clappers of different materials and varying degrees of sophistication are found in many parts of the world. They are considered idiophones because they can be hit together or can be shaken.



Maracas

These Maracas are from Ecuador. Most traditional maracas are made of thin hollow wood. They usually contain dried beans, rice, or pebbles that create the shaker sound. Being that they are shaken, they fall into the idiophone category.