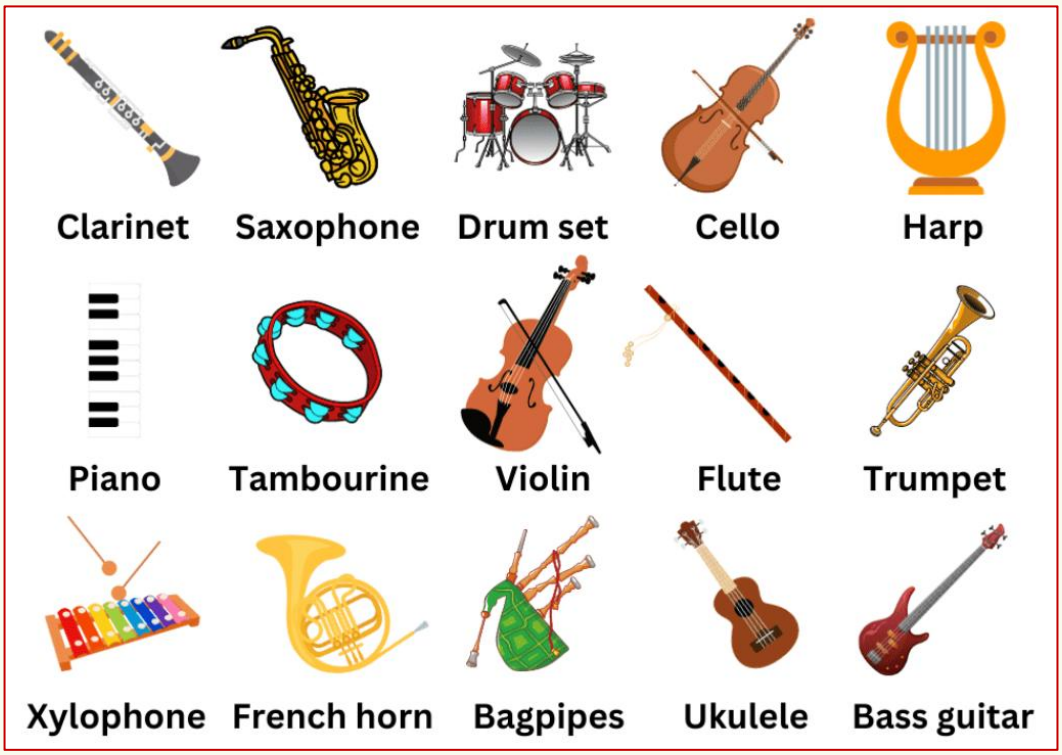
Foreign Musical Instruments



The Concept of Foreign Musical Instruments.

Musical Instruments are tools used to make melodious sounds. Almost anything can be considered a musical instrument. Although, culturally, certain tools have been designed and named specifically for music. Example of musical instruments are shekere, panpipe flute, harp, cello, drums, bassoon, oboe, flute, harmonica, bullroarer, thumb piano, talking drum, viola, cello, guiro, double bass, harp, mandolin piano, xylophones, etc. Music is an aspect of culture, thus the instruments used to make music also vary based on culture.

The concept of **foreign musical instruments** was invented to contrast between the ubiquitous musical instruments and the less common traditional musical instruments. Essentially, we can say that the foreign musical instruments are global musical instruments as

opposed to traditional musical instruments which happens to vary based on culture.

Another hack is that foreign musical instruments are well commercialized and are available in most stores around the world but traditional musical instruments are only available in local markets/stores.

Classifications

An early classification system for musical instruments is the Greek Hellenistic system (c. 323 - 31 BCE). In this system, musical instruments where classified based on the mechanism of sound creation. Three classes/families were named in this system: enkhorda (stringed), pneumatika (wind), kroustika (percussion). The enkhorda family made sounds from vibrated strings. The pneumatika family made sounds from blown air through them. The kroustika family made sounds from being struck by the hand or a stick.

In the 19th century (1800s), the wind category became too big and was then splitted into woodwinds and brass in a system called the Western Orchestral System. Essentially, in the Western Orchestral Classification there are four (4) families/classes: string, woodwind, brass, and percussion.

In 1914, Erich von Hornbostel and Curt Sachs invented the Hornbostel-Sachs system in their publication *Systematik der Musikinstrumente*. This system shares the musical instruments into four (4) families: chordophones, aerophones, membranophones, and idiophones. In 1940, Curt Sachs used the term electrophones to describe instruments like Theremin, which then brought the family of musical instruments to five (5).

Brass Instruments (Aerophones)

Brass Instrument are wind instruments that are basically blown without a reed mouthpiece and use changes in air pressure in their valves to produce different musical notes. Essentially, the pitch on the brass instrument is dependent on the pressure of the air blown from the player's throat into the valves of the instrument.

Brass Instrument mustn't be made from brass to be considered a brass instrument.

Below are some examples:

Trumpet



Trombone



Cornet



French horn



Tuba



The bulge



Woodwind Instruments (Aerophones)

Woodwind Instruments are wind instruments that do not have valves, but instead are a column of air. Essentially, the air is blown into a colon with or without a reed.

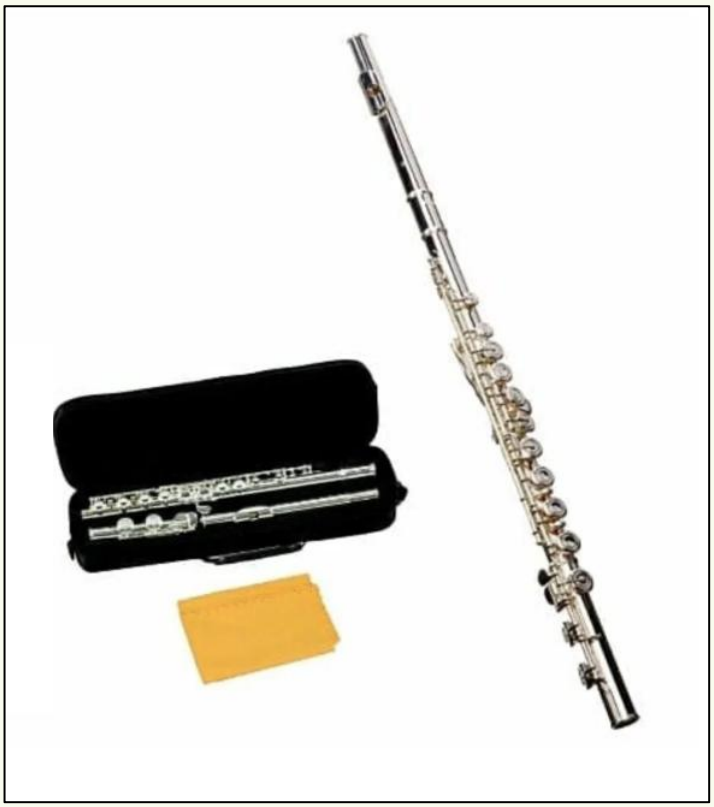
A woodwind instrument mustn't be made from wood to be called a woodwind instrument.

Below are some examples:

Recorder



Concert flute



Piccolo flute



Clarinet



Alto saxophone



Soprano saxophone



String Instruments (Chordophones)

String Instruments are instruments that produce sounds from the vibration of strings. The strings could be plucked, bowed, stroked, or strummed to make sounds.

Below are some examples:

Acoustic guitar



Electric guitar



Violin



Percussion Instruments (Idiophones, Membranophones)

Percussion Instruments are instruments that produce sounds from being struck, shaken, scraped or hit together. We can group them into drums (membranophones) and non-drums (idiophones).

Below are some examples:

Drums



Tambourine



Maracas



Cymbals



Learning to Play the Instruments to Make Music

When it comes to playing musical instruments to make music, we can put the instruments into two groups: Rhythm group and Melody group.

The **Rhythm group** comprise mainly of a class of percussion instruments that are non-pitched, e.g. drums, cymbals, triangles, maracas, shakers, etc. They are used to create the rhythm/beat of the music. They are unable to play musical scales (tonic solfa). Essentially, they are easier to play. When it comes to choosing an instrument for starting to practise to play rhythm, the tambourine and maracas are affordable enough for a start. Check out the link to see how tambourines are practiced to make rhythm.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAYibD5FE6U

The **Melody group** comprise all the instruments that play the tonic solfa (musical scales). While the rhythm group creates the danceable side of the music, the melodic side creates the emotional/feeling side of the music. When it comes to choosing an instrument for starting to practise to play melody, the recorder flute is an absolute best followed by the harmonica. Check out the link to get started on using the Recorder to play basic melody (tonic solfa):
https://presmaltra.com.ng/academics/recorder-flute.php