

Percussion Vocabulary:

Percussion Instrument: Any musical instrument that produces sound when struck, shaken, or scraped. Examples include drums, cymbals, tambourines, and maracas, bongos, djembe.

Beat: The basic unit of time in music. It's the steady, underlying pulse that gives a piece of music its rhythmic structure.

Rhythm: The arrangement of different durations (long and short sounds) and silences in music, creating patterns that give a sense of time and motion.

Tempo: The speed at which a piece of music is performed. It's usually indicated by terms like "adagio" (slow), "moderato" (moderate), or "allegro" (fast).

Meter: The organization of beats into regular groups. Common meters include 4/4 (four beats per measure) and 3/4 (three beats per measure).

Time Signature: The notation at the beginning of a piece of music that indicates the meter. It's written as a fraction, with the top number indicating the number of beats per measure and the bottom number indicating the note value that gets one beat.

Syncopation: The deliberate displacement of accents or beats in music, creating unexpected rhythmic patterns.

Accent: Emphasizing a particular beat or note within a rhythm to give it more prominence.

Ostinato: A repeated rhythmic or melodic pattern that serves as a foundation for a piece of music.

Specific Percussion Instruments:

Drum Kit: A drum kit (also called a drum set, a trap set, or simply drums) is a collection of drums, cymbals, and sometimes other percussion instruments set up to be played by one person. The drummer typically holds a pair of matching drumsticks, and uses their feet to operate hi-hat and bass drum pedals.

Maracas: Percussion instruments consisting of hollow, handheld shakers filled with beads or seeds. They create a shaking or rattling sound.

Tambourine: A circular frame drum with jingles (metal disks) attached to the rim. It's played by shaking, striking, or hitting the jingles.

Glockenspiel: A pitched percussion instrument consisting of metal bars that are struck with mallets to produce distinct notes.

Xylophone: Another pitched percussion instrument with wooden bars. It's played using mallets and produces bright, clear tones.

Hand Percussion Instruments: Hand percussion is a percussion instrument that is held in the hand. They can be made from wood, metal or plastic, bottle stops and are usually shaken, scraped, or tapped with fingers or a stick. It includes all instruments that are not drums or pitched percussion instruments.

Hand Percussion Drums: A hand drum is any type of drum that is typically played with the bare hand rather than a stick, mallet, hammer, or other type of beater. Examples: bongos, djembe, congas, cajon, tambourine.