

Percussion

A DAY OF
DRUMS,
DRUMMING,
AND
DRUMMERS!



LOOK! Percussion instruments like these can be played many ways - like hitting with hands, sticks, or a mallet!

What is Percussion?

Percussion instruments are anything that you hit, scrape, or shake to make a noise. This means that almost anything can be used as a musical instrument - even your own body! Sometimes other instruments that are not in the percussion family, like string instruments, are used as percussion instruments depending on how they are played.

How long have drums been around?

Drums and other percussion instruments have been around for as long as humans have - that's more than 8000 years! Drums weren't always used for music either. Many times drums were struck to share messages across great distances. They were also used in religious ceremonies. The snare drum was

used in Europe to send coded messages to soldiers.

What is a Drum Set?

A drumset is a truly All-American instrument! And, REALLY FUN to play! Drum sets began in the late 1800's as a collection of drums, woodblocks, gongs, and cymbals. At this period of time, the Drum Set was called a 'Trap' kit or 'Traps'. Wonder why? Trap comes from the word contraption, which is a collection of various objects, and that is exactly what a drumset

was at that time. The drumset was originally developed so that one person would be able to play many parts at a time, like bass drum, snare drum, and cymbals. Although the drumset was mainly used in brass bands, today you can find a drumset in virtually every genre of music - like Rock, Jazz, Blues, Pop, Big-Band, African, Afro-Cuban, and Electronic. When you see someone playing a drumset, they are playing five things at any given time; Right Hand, Left Hand, Right Foot, Left Foot, and their voice (counting).



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Vince M. Caiafa has been playing drums and percussion since age three. He attended The Hartt School of Music, studying under Benjamin Toth, with focus on Classical Percussion, Hand Drums, World Percussion and Marimba. He later transferred to Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA where he studied mainly under Kim Plainfield and Mike Mangini with a focus on drumset performance. Vince is an active drumset artist in several bands and recording projects in the New England area. He currently teaches drumset and percussion at Music and Arts in East Hartford, CT and is available for private