

The Art of Playing Bongos

Setup Procedure

1. Although bongos are traditionally played with the hands in a seated position, they can also be attached to a stand and played with snare drum sticks.
2. The drums should be flat and parallel to the floor. Adjust the stand to bring the top head to approximately waist level or slightly below.
3. The high drum may be placed on either the player's right or left to best accommodate the music.

History

1. Bongos are a small pair of high-pitched drums traditionally played with the hands.
2. They are traditionally played with the hands in a seated position, although they may also be attached to a stand and played with hands, sticks, or mallets.
3. Bongos originated in Cuba, where they provided accompaniment in small musical ensembles.



Rest Position

- The drums should be flat and parallel to the floor. Adjust the stand to bring the top head to approximately waist level if using sticks or slightly higher if playing with hands.
- Traditionally, right-handed players place the larger drum on their right. However, the larger drum may be placed on either the player's right or left to best accommodate the music.



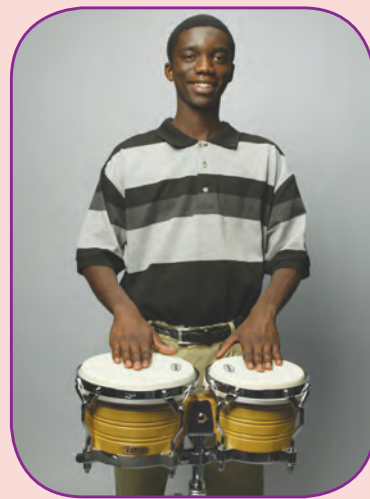
Ready Position

- The shoulders are relaxed with the elbows away from the body and the forearms positioned horizontally.
- The fingers should be stretched and held close together without being stiff as they point towards the center of the drum.



Open Tone Play Position

- For open tones, the proper playing area is at the edge of each drum.
- Use a wrist motion, similar to using sticks on a snare drum, and play with relaxed arms.
- Strike the head flat with one-half the length of the four fingers on each hand.
- The fingers should immediately bounce off the head after each stroke.
- A quick, relaxed motion produces the clearest tone.



Muffled Tone Play Position

- For muffled tones, the proper playing area is near the center of each drum.
- Strike with head with the four fingertips of each hand.
- The fingers should remain on the head, momentarily, after each stroke.

Advanced Care and Maintenance

- Use a cloth to keep the entire drum clean and free of fingerprints, dust, and dirt.
- Keep all objects off of the drum head; it's not a table.
- The average life of a drum head is one year. Replace worn or damaged heads immediately.
- A small dab of lithium grease or lubrication should be applied to the tension rods when the heads are replaced.

The Art of Playing Triangle

History

1. The triangle is a steel rod that is bent in the shape of a triangle, with an open end, and struck with a thin metal beater.
2. It produces a bell-like tone with bright overtones of indefinite pitch.
3. Triangles of various sizes evolved from an ancient Egyptian instrument, the sistrum, and was introduced to the Western orchestra through Turkish military bands of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Advanced Care and Maintenance

- Store the triangle and accessories in a designated area on a shelf or in the percussion cabinet drawer. Avoid placing other objects on top of the instrument.

Rest Position

- The triangle may be clipped to the music stand to accommodate quick instrument changes or during rapid passages played with two beaters.

Ready Position

- The triangle should be suspended from a triangle clip with a thin piece of nylon line.
- Hold the clip comfortably in one hand so that your fingers can be used for muffling.
- Hold the triangle at eye level to easily watch the triangle, conductor, and the music.
- Hold the triangle beater near the end.



Play Position

- Strike the triangle on the side directly opposite the open end or on the bottom.
- Play with a shorter stroke near the tip of the beater for a soft, delicate sound.
- Play with a longer stroke near the center of the beater for a louder, more colorful sound.
- A good triangle has a multitude of playing areas that will yield a variety of tones. Experiment with different playing areas and different size beaters to become familiar with all the sounds available.



Rolls Position

- Rolls are produced by rapidly moving the beater between the sides of one of the closed corners.
- To play a triangle roll, rapidly move the beater between the sides of the bottom closed corner.
- Change the angle of the beater as you roll to produce the most complex tone quality.
- Use a small portion of the corner and play at the tip of the beater to produce a soft roll. Move towards the center of the beater and cover more area as you increase volume.
- Fast, even rolls produce the most resonant sound.



Creative Tools of Music

Review

- Anacrusis**—one or more notes that come before the first full measure
- Chorale**—a slow, “hymn-like” composition
- Dynamics**—musical performance levels of loud and soft
- Forte (f)**—loud
- Key Signature**—flats and sharps placed immediately following the clef, indicating which notes are to be altered throughout the piece
- Legato**—play smooth and connected without interruption between the notes
- March**—music for a parade or procession
- Mezzo Forte (mf)**—medium loud
- Mezzo Piano (mp)**—medium soft
- Phrase**—a musical sentence or statement
- Piano (p)**—soft

- Repeat Sign**—a symbol that indicates to go back and play the section of music again
- Scale**—a series of tones arranged in a set pattern from low to high or high to low
- Staccato**—play the note lightly and detached
- Tempo**—the speed of the beat
- Tenuto**—a symbol that means to play the note full value
- Time Signature**—a symbol placed at the beginning of the staff where the top number indicates the number of beats per measure and the bottom number what kind of note receives one beat
- Unison (Unis.)**—all performers sound the same note

New

- Scale-Degree Numbers**—signify the order in which the pitches occur in a scale

1 Concert B^b Pentascale Warm-Up

2 Rhythm Review

3 March Ionian

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