Five Categories of Musical Instruments

Classification system devised in India in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} or 4\textsuperscript{th} century BC.
What is an instrument?

- Anything with which we can make music?
- Rhythm, melody, chords,
- Pitched or un-pitched sounds...
- Narrow definitions vs. Extremely broad definitions
Tone Colour or Timbre

(pronounced TAM-ber)

• Refers to the sound of a note or pitch, not the pitch itself.
• Different instruments have different timbres.
1. Aerophones

- Wind instruments, anything using air
- Aerophones are generally either:
  - **Woodwind** (Doesn’t have to be wood i.e. flute)
  - **Reed** (Small piece of wood i.e. saxophone)
  - **Brass** (Lip vibration i.e. trumpet)
1. Wind Instruments (Aerophones)

- **Saxophone:**

- In the woodwind family of aerophones
- Reeds
1. Wind Instruments (Aerophones)

- **Tenor Saxophone:**
  - Ex: Maceo Parker – “Maceo” (1970)
  - Ex: Rolling Stones – “Brown Sugar” (1971)
    - Sax: Bobby Keys
  - Ex: Rusty Bryant – “Night Train” (1970)

- John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Charlie Parker
1. Wind Instruments (Aerophones)

• **Soprano Saxophone:**
  Ex: John Coltrane – “My Favorite Things” (1961)

• **Baritone Saxophone:**
  Ex: Charles Mingus – “Moanin’” (1960)
  Sax: Pepper Adams

• **Alto Saxophone:**
  Ex: George Michael – “Careless Whisper”
  Sax: Steve Gregory
1. Wind Instruments (Aerophones)

- **Trumpet:**
- Brass family of aerophones
- Military
1. Wind Instruments (Aerophones)

- **Trumpet:**
  - Ex: Miles Davis – “Freddie Freeloader” (1959)
  - Ex: James Brown – “Gittin’ A Little Hipper” (1969)

- Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie
1. Wind Instruments (Aerophones)

- **Trumpet:**

- **Mute**

Ex: *Wah Wah Trumpet Sound*

Ex: Miles Davis—“Oleo (live)” (1961)
1. Wind Instruments (Aerophones)

- **Trombone:**
- Ex: Don Drummond and the Skatalites – “Heavenless” (early 1960s)
- Ex: The Specials – “A Message to You Rudy” (1979)
1. Wind Instruments (Aerophones)

- **Harmonica:**
  - “Free-reed” instrument
  - Same family as accordion

- **Ex:** Muddy Waters –
  - “I Just Want to Make Love To You” (1954)

- **Ex:** Howlin’ Wolf –
  - “Moanin’ At Midnight” (1951)

- **Ex:** Neil Young –
  - “Heart of Gold” (1972)
2. Chordophones

- All stringed instruments
- Chordophones are either: **bowed** (violin), **plucked** (guitar), or **hammered** (piano).
Stringed Instruments (Chordophones)

- **Violin/Fiddle** – difference?

- Ex: Hank Williams –
  “I Got a Mansion on the Hill” (1948)

- Ex: Buck Owens –
  “Under Your Spell Again” (1959)

- Ex: Marvin Gaye –
  “I Heard It Through the Grapevine” (1968)
Stringed Instruments (Chordophones)

Bass Guitar/Electric Bass

Ex: Black Uhuru – “Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner” (1979)
Ex: Limp Bizkit – “Re-Arranged” (1999)
Stringed Instruments (Chordophones)

- **Pedal Steel Guitar or Lap Steel Guitar**
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrbSL92Kz1Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrbSL92Kz1Y)

- **Slide**

  Ex: Buck Owens – “Together Again” (1964)
3. Membranophones

• All drums with heads
  (i.e. not percussion instruments like shakers)
Drums (Membranophones)

- **Drum Kit or Drum Set**

- Origins

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wea_zXuLcP0
Drums (Membranophones)

- **Hand Drums: Djembe and Conga**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llbRulm9Mxl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llbRulm9Mxl)
4. Idiophones

- Includes most percussion instruments that are not drums.
- Xylophones, maracas, etc.
Percussion (Idiophones)

• **Vibraphone or Vibes**
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywJ8APgP67Q

• Damper pedal

**Ex: Bill Jennings – “Glide On” (1960)**
Percussion (Idiophones)

• **Cowbell**

Ex: Rolling Stones – “Honky Tonk Women” (1971)
Ex: War – “Low Rider” (1975)

https://vimeo.com/55624839