

Vocabulary:

Xylophone – From the Greek meaning ‘wooden sound’.

Glockenspiel – From the German meaning ‘metal sound’.

Melody – The ‘tune’ that can be created by playing one note at a time.

Beater – The stick used to strike the instrument.

Chord – When more than one note is played at a time.

Ostinato – A repeating pattern.

Notes – The names given to each note to determine the pitch.

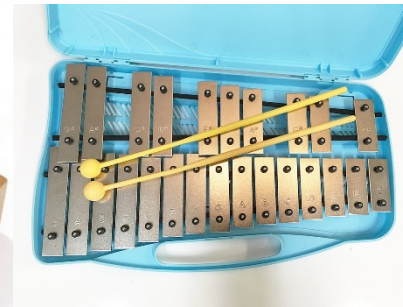
Keys – the wooden or metal parts of the instrument, these are usually printed with the note names.

Improvisation - Making up a melody as you go along.

Tuned Percussion



Xylophone



Glockenspiel

The Science:

Xylophones and glockenspiels are both examples of tuned percussion instruments. They have keys which vibrate when hit with a beater. These vibrations cause the air around them to vibrate and these vibrations travel through the air to your ear.

The keys on these instruments have note names which relate to their different pitches.

The larger the note, the lower the pitch.

The smaller the note, the higher the pitch.

Xylophones have keys made of wood, whereas glockenspiels have keys made of metal. This creates a different timbre (sound quality).

Holding your beater:

When playing these instruments, you must hold your beater carefully.

Wrap your hand around the beater.

Do not hold the stick too tight as this will prevent the key from vibrating when you hit it.

Keep your wrist loose. Tensing will make your

Listening – music using a variety of different tuned percussion instruments.

Attraction - Emmanuel Séjourné

Six Marimbas – Steve Reich

Moonlight Sonata – Beethoven

‘Opening’ from Glassworks – Phillip Glass