

Chimes

Chimes are freely resonating metal tubes or bars that are struck to produce a pitched note with a long sustain. They are particularly useful in this area of work because they offer a big reward for minimal contact with a beater or stick. Participants with limited mobility enjoy the opportunity of being able to produce a distinct sound independently.

There are several types of chimes, which sometimes have different names according to their makers. They include:

- Hand chimes that incorporate a built in striker, are tuned and coloured white and black like the keys on a piano. It is advisable to use all white ones or all black together, depending on what other instruments are available at the time.
- Hanging chimes, including wind chimes, shimmers and bar chimes can create silvery, arpeggio like sounds.
- Energy or Power chimes have one or more bars suspended by a thin cord above a wooden base and produce a high note similar to a temple bell with a wooden beater.
- Chime bars have a separate resonator and produce a more distinct pitch than air chimes when played with a rubber beater.

Sets of individual hanging chimes can be made from aluminum tubing. Precise measurements for the lengths of metal tubing required for specific pitches and where to drill holes for suspension strings are available on the Internet. A set of chimes is great to hang from a low ceiling, where they can be played with beaters or removed and held in the hand. They also produce moving shadows as they swing.

Chimes produce an evocative sound that is very useful to set the scene, for example in a session based around ice.

Links

Snow Queen, Tundra, Krypton

Videos

Chimes

Close up chimes