

MAKING MUSIC WITH WATER

Hello Friends

Music throughout history and even today is used in different occasions and for different purposes. Music is used, or played, in diverse cultures all over the world in different ways. In Africa, for instance, there is music for all occasions and ceremonies. Africans sing when there is a wedding party, when a child is born, even when there is a funeral. Truly music plays a big role and has different meanings to different people.



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When one thinks about water and sound, one may think of the sea and waves breaking onto the sand or rocks. You may think about the sound of a waterfall, or raindrops falling on the roof, or the sound of a dripping tap. Sometimes one can hear the sound of water from the ocean when you hold a sea shell up to your ear. Throughout history, there have been stories, songs or poems related to water.



Credit: Javardh on unsplash.com

But did you know that you can make music with water? There are many instruments used to produce music with water. Yes, using water. In these instruments the amount of water used plays a big role and the type of instrument used is also important. When different amounts of water is added to a number of glasses it makes different sounds. The glass with the most water has a low pitch when hit with an object as compared to the one with less water. Have a look at the following video to see what is meant:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNSUnNQX0s>.



Credit: Charles Beluio from unsplash.com

Glasses are not the only items that can be used to produce sound when filled with water. Items that can be used to produce sound for music are items like pots, pot lids, plastic empty containers and beating them with spoons, sticks, hands and hitting them against each other.



Credit: www.commons.wikimedia.org

The hydraulophone is the world's first musical instrument that makes sound from vibrations in water. It is played by touching small jets of water. Hydraulophones are played using direct contact with water and by closing openings using fingers while allowing some water to pass through other openings. This opening and closing of the holes makes sound. Watch the following video to listen to the beautiful sound it makes:

https://youtu.be/P2ky5y9Jb_M.

Jal Tarang is one of the oldest percussion instruments known. Jal (which means water) and Tarang (which refers to the waves in the water) comes from the Indian language. The instrument is played by filling ceramic or metal bowls with water and beating the bowls with a set of sticks. The bowls are often placed in a half-circle pattern making it easier for the player to play.

The water drum was first created and played by African tribes. To play this percussion instrument half of a large hollowed-out gourd would be filled with water. Then a smaller half gourd (also hollowed out) would be placed on top of the water. When the smaller gourd is tapped, it produces a bass sound. Have a look here to see how water drums work: <https://youtu.be/YU3huGk21as>. (The gourd was one of the world's first cultivated plants grown not primarily for food, but for use as containers).



Credit: JD Designs on unsplash.com

We need water for keeping ourselves clean and healthy but also to be happy by using it to produce different types of music. Water is not only essential for life but it also forms part of our heritage in many different ways. We must remember to respect water because without water there is no life.



Love
The Water Wise Education Team



For more information on being Water Wise please contact 0860 10 10 60 or log onto www.randwater.co.za and click on the Water Wise logo

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References:

- www.en.wikipedia.org;
- www.gwinnettmusic.com

ACTIVITY: MUSIC WITH WATER

Complete the table below to test your knowledge by placing a tick in either the TRUE or FALSE column.

STATEMENT	TRUE?	FALSE?
1. Music has been in the world for a short period of time.		
2. Music is played differently in different cultures.		
3. Instruments cannot be used when singing.		
4. Africans don't sing when there's a wedding party.		
5. Different amounts of water poured in different glasses produces different sounds.		
6. A hydraulophone is used to make music using air.		
7. Items that can be used to produce music are spoons, hands, containers and pot lids.		
8. Water is part of our heritage and must be respected.		



Follow the following links and sing along with the Water Wise Education Team:

Learn about what it means to be Water Wise through a fun and dance music video with Manzi, the Water Wise Tapduck.
<https://youtu.be/G0kVpVOOVsE>

What is the solution to pollution? Check out this music video to see what the solution is.
<https://youtu.be/vl1-AdeLOTo>
 Please be Water Wise.

Answers
 1. False
 2. True
 3. False
 4. False
 5. True
 6. False
 7. True
 8. True



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