Aboriginal Instruments

Instruments

There are many different types of instruments used in ceremonies.

Traditionally, musical expression consisted of rhythmic singing and dancing supported by a limited number of instruments, which were primarily percussive in nature.

Many are familiar with the didgeridoo which was played in many places and ceremonies around Australia. Clap sticks and seed rattles were also popular, along with hand clapping and slapping on the body.

Flat rocks and lengths of wood were used to tap on the ground and used as percussion instruments. Shells and leaves tied together were put around ankles to produce seed sounds when dancing.

How To Play The Didgeridoo (Video)

A Teaching Video

If ever felt drawn to learn more about the didgeridoo or even how to play one (and particularly the concept of circular breathing), Didjshop has one of the most extensive and comprehensive didgeridoo teaching videos available.

The full one hour learn to play the didgeridoo video is produced by David Blanasi and Svargo Freitag, and retails for around $30.

David Blanasi an Australian Aboriginal born in Maningrida, Northern Territory is the ceremonial man of his tribe, the Gunninggur and plays the didgeridoo at their corroborees and secret ceremonies. He played the didgeridoo among others for the Queen of England and taught many people how to play the didgeridoo including Rolf Harris.
David Blanasi tells you how a didgeridoo is made and painted and teaches you different traditional sounds on the didgeridoo. Svargo Freitag, a German immigrant living in Australia since 1982 has taught himself how to play the didgeridoo with the encouragement of his aboriginal friends. He then went on teaching the didgeridoo to many others individually and in seminars all over the world in the early 1990's. During that work he developed this easy 14 step method to learn the circular breathing, the key to playing the didgeridoo.

The video also shows how to apply a good bees wax mouth piece to your didgeridoo, which can make a big difference to the ease of playing the didgeridoo.

Another section is about didgeridoo repairs. And last but not least, is a section about didgeridoo healing, the therapeutic use of the Didgeridoo.

David Blanasi receives ongoing royalties from the sale of this video. Find Out More