

Gongs



In the Malaysian Language the word "Gong" describes every kind of percussion instrument. The western music scientists use the word Gong only for a round bronze plate, with or without rim, which is to be hung up and struck.

The gong is a symbol of union, the origin of man. That may be the reason why we get such a deeply fulfilling feeling while listening to a gong. Its mighty sonorous sound waves remind us of the hidden cosmic vastness inside ourselves. The look, the material and the sound of the gongs vary according to the countries of their origin. Traditionally the gongs from Bali, for example, are hammered out of a metal compound. In the west gongs are usually chased from rolled bronze plates. In Burma, Thailand, Java and Bali there are gongs with a hump in their centre. They are tuned exactly to very clear tones, so they may be played with other instruments.

No matter in which way they are produced, the skill, the experience and the intuition of the gong maker finally determine the result of the sound. Meanwhile the so-called planet gongs have become quite popular; their tones correspond to frequencies of the planets according to instructions by Hans Cousto. In some way they make the music of the spheres audible.

Here we present some well-known types. In general one can say that the sound is more powerful and deeper the larger a gong is. Smaller gongs are quite handy and easy to carry. Their light sound has a good signal effect so that is heard easily in background noise, as is the case in school classes.

Some of the most popular Chinese Gongs:

- Tam-Tam or Chao Lo: narrow bent rim, hammered by hand with a brass ring in the centre, rich in overtones and very dynamic
- Acoustic Gong: related to the Tam-Tam in construction and look but smaller; with clear long lasting tones. Sold separately or in a chromatically tuned set, from c' - c''
- Feng Lo, the Wind Gong: a thin polished metal plate without rim; explosive rich sound that dies away faster than that of the Chao Gong
- Double Light Gong: Wind Gong with a bent rim; the sound is as powerful but lasts longer due to the rim
- Xiang Jai: Shaman Gong with broad rim and engraved rhombic design on the front; mystically pulsating sound rich in overtones
- Thai Gong: a humped gong from Thailand with a clear and warm timbre; beautifully decorated with ornaments
- Chieng: Vietnamese hump gong with delicate dragon design; lightweight and small

All the gongs are sold with a striker (wooden handle with textile head). Other types of strikers are sold separately. On request we offer stands for gongs: from wood or rattan for smaller gongs or metal ones adjustable in height for the bigger Gongs.



GOCH100 Tam-Tam or Chao Lo

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GOAC100 Acoustic

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GOFE100 Feng Lo Gong

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GODL100 Double Light Gong

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GOXJ100 Xiang-Jai

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