

## Erhu



The Erhu is known as the "Chinese violin", and is therefore found in almost every Chinese orchestra, but also played in small ensembles or as a solo instrument. The construction is lightweight and delicate as one would expect from an Asian instrument, nevertheless the Erhu excels through its richness of expression. The sound is like melancholy crying that touches the listener deeply.

The small resonating chamber is hexagonal and covered with skin. The neck is merely a thin stick with two tuning pegs. The Erhu has only two strings and the hair of the light bow is placed in between them. Thus the strings are played with each movement of the bow. The instrument is played sitting down, placed on the top of the left thigh. The strings are usually tuned to a fifth: to D and A. The notes are produced with an underhand grip. The hair of the bow is slightly loose and the fingers of the other hand tighten it while playing.

Case included.