

Steel Drums



PESD100
Kid



PESD200
Meditation Pan



PESD300
Teacher



PESD400
Caisa

The sound of the Steel Drum is inseparably connected with Caribbean culture. At the end of the 1930s the first Steel Drums came into being. In the beginning they were made from oil barrels and played as simple percussion instruments. Henceforth the Steel Drum developed into a professional melody instrument that is used in many musical genres. A remarkable result is that Steel Drum orchestras now perform complete orchestra works and impress listeners with their virtuosity.

The Steel Drum is a percussion instrument with concavely arched sheet metal. In this metal the instrument maker hammers sound fields of different sizes to give precisely tuned notes. They are played with rubberized strikers and produce a soft but intense sound. Our choice:

Steel Drums



Kid: for the little ones: perfect little Steel Drum for discovering and trying; F Major pentatonic, pithy sound, diameter: 33 centimetres; wooden table stand included.

Meditation Pan: a Steel Drum for improvisation, soft and typical Caribbean sound; F Minor pentatonic; 9 notes; diameter: 58 centimetres; metal stand sold separately.

Teacher: especially precise sound; alternate order of tones; C Major with F# and Bb; diameter: 45 centimetres; wooden stand included.

Caisa: The youngest child in the family of Steel Pans is the Caisa whose convex form is an inversion of the Meditation Pan. Some people even compare it with a UFO. The Caisa, which resembles the famous Hang, is perfect for a playing with fingers; the most suitable technique is that of playing Tabla. Nevertheless all fingers, including thumbs, can be used, whereas only a short sharp stroke produces a satisfying tone. Two short mallets are helpful for the beginner, and also provide more volume. The Caisa consists of two round domes of special steel that are bound together with ropes. The instrument has a diameter of 60cm and is available in 5 tunings (mostly pentatonic scales). Stands of 2 heights and a foot stand are sold separately, as well a custom-made padded bag which is indispensable for safe transport. Meanwhile the Caisa is made with a black finish that is inured to moisture. Musicians with damp hands or those who live in countries with high humidity prefer these models, otherwise their precious instruments might corrode. The normal finish gimmers bluishly like the Meditation Pan. Nowadays the Caisa has become a coveted percussion instrument, so be prepared to be waitlisted.