



Outdoor Music for Elementary Schools



# Bringing Outdoor Music to your School



Percussion Play creates exciting, outdoor musical instruments for all ages and abilities to explore - bringing the joy of playing percussion to the great outdoors. Outdoor musical play ticks all the right boxes through offering cognitive, emotional and physical stimulation and creating inclusive play opportunities for everyone, everywhere.

Music is like physical exercise: it's for all ages and for all people. And like physical exercise, participation in music leads to good health and wellbeing. An outdoor 'soundscape' excites and inspires young people musically while they enjoy the obvious benefits that come from spending time in the natural environment - exploring new sounds whilst enjoying the fresh air!



Designed to withstand the elements, these instruments help create an outdoor environment that supports not only wellbeing but also development and learning.

*"It's awesome to hear the music playing and it's a beautiful, engaging space for students."*

Sandy Rusher, Principal, Park Hill Elementary

Kids will love the fact that music can be used in a context outside of the classroom and the instruments clever design and use of the pentatonic scale means they're so easy to play that the whole community will be able to develop musical skills without having to manage the technical demands of an instrument - subtly integrating music into the everyday experience of the children.

Creativity, imagination and discovery should be facilitated and encouraged in music education and through hands-on active learning in a free-play environment; where there are no wrong notes, communication, cooperation, expression, and confidence in students will grow and grow.

That's not all - music can be connected to many other subject areas. Through exploring music students can find natural connections to mathematics, science, reading, writing, and performing arts.



The following pages include some of our most popular instruments for Elementary schools.



# Soprano Quartet Ensemble

Encourage learning outside of the classroom with an outdoor music area. Instruments can be used to explore musical concepts like tone and rhythm, while linking with other areas of cognitive, emotional and creative development that come along with musical learning.

Our [Cadenza](#) xylophone is pentatonically tuned to C Major, making it ideal for children to freely explore melodic possibilities, without ever fearing the thud of a 'wrong' note.

The [Soprano Pentatonic Freechimes](#), spanning two octaves, continue the melodic potential of the pentatonic: allowing players to jam, connect and creatively express themselves without the potential for clashing tones.

The [Small Babel](#), also pentatonically tuned, only adds to these collaborative melodies. Creating a soft, humming sort of harmony, this stainless steel tongue drum makes a perfect accomplice for students to play, learn and connect with each other.

Meanwhile, the [Congas](#) add more than a pop of colour: they invite two more players to the musical classroom, creating a firm, rhythmic baseline for the accompanying softer tones.

More Ensemble groups can be seen on our website.



Learn more and watch the video [here](#).

# Cavatina and Music Book



The appealing [Rainbow Collection](#) features musical instruments designed to help young minds learn music in a fun and accessible way.

The notes on the [Cavatina](#) are arranged as a traditional xylophone with low to high notes going from left to right.

Diatonically tuned, its versatility provides a vast range of expression suited to beginners and experienced musicians alike. The colored anodized notes are set to our rainbow scale and correspond with the colored notes on the music sheets within the accompanying [Music Book](#). Players then simply follow the colors to play a well-known song. With several songs available, you can choose the pages to make your own book.

Including a diatonic instrument in your music garden will give those players with a little more musical experience the chance to experiment with the familiar scale, providing a stimulating challenge and an exciting learning resource.

# Instruments for Sensory Play

These instruments are ideal for quieter shady spaces where students can play music together, sit and read or just chill out with their friends. Soft in sound, playing these instruments will give students a sense of calm in an outdoor place where they can relax and enjoy the visual and audible ambience.

Tuned to G Major Pentatonic (G3-B4), playing the [Babel Drum](#) is a wonderful unique hand drumming experience and players will enjoy improvising with the mesmerizing sounds they produce. The mellow tones are never brassy or too loud - perfect for musical exploration in the fresh air.

The [Duo](#) was initially designed to enable those on the autistic spectrum to engage with the instruments in their own way by allowing two people to interact and make music together without the need to look directly at each other: allowing them to concentrate entirely on the auditory process, comfortably and in their own space.

Although large in stature, striking the [Emperor Chimes Triad](#) with the palm of your hand or fingertips anywhere along the tube produces a soft, velvety rich tone that you not only hear but can feel as well.





# Why Music is Better Outdoors

Some things just work better outdoors and music is one of them! A great music program uses your whole environment and musical instruments in your outdoor area will encourage children to learn about music through free-play and exploration, subtly integrating music into their everyday school experience.

Children revel in the freedom to explore the range of sounds, tempos, and dynamics of the musical instruments. Children need to own their music and free play is what gives them mastery.

Music is an intensely social experience; children learn to cooperate by making music together, whilst also learning about taking turns and sharing the musical instruments with their peers.

Music also has an inherently physical dynamic; movement to music is a wonderful way to get kids up and active - offering opportunities for both fine and gross motor activity. They'll learn that the instruments can be played in a number of different ways and that they are in control of how the instrument sounds.

Children can learn to explore their emotions through music and to share these emotions with others; plus they'll learn they can use music to affect their own emotional state. When you are feeling angry, nothing makes you feel better than playing the drum really loudly right?

The introduction of an outdoor musical space or trail will help children discover the joy and empowerment of music-making while enjoying the benefits of spending time in the natural environment.



*'The musical playground has been a wonderful addition. Students now have the cultural exposure that gets them excited about the fine arts.'*

Kurt Hanna, Elementary Principal, Montezuma School



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