

## Musical Instruments in the 2005 Program

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[www.worldartswest.org/plm/guide/resources/instruments.shtm](http://www.worldartswest.org/plm/guide/resources/instruments.shtm)

<u>Dance Style</u>	<u>Instrument</u>
Balinese	Gamelan
Korean	Sogo Drum Tree Stand Drum
Polish	Accordion Violin
West African	Balafon Djembe

### **Balinese Dance:**

#### Gamelan

The word gamelan simply means "musical group" and may refer to up to 15 different kinds of Balinese musical ensembles. They usually include one or more drums, a series of gongs and metallophones (xylophone type instruments) and a bamboo flute.

The two drummers are the leaders of the Gamelan orchestra. They hold the drums in their laps and use both hands or rounded sticks to play.

Instruments include: kendang, large, conical, two-sided "male" drum; a collection of metal gongs such as gangsa jegogan and gangsa pamade tuned to different pitches; and the langang, a smaller, conical, two-sided "female" drum.

### **Korean Dance:**

#### Sogo Drum

The sogo ("so" meaning little, "go" meaning drum) is a small, framed drum that is held by a handle with the left hand and beaten with a stick by the

right hand. The size and appearance of the sogo vary according to the region it is in. The sogo is featured in the Korean farmer's dance (nong-ak) as both a musical instrument and a prop that the dancers hold as they dance. The other drums in the nong-ak band are the changgo, and puk. In sogochum, one of the most popular solo performances of the farmers' dances, the sogo players usually occupy the front line on stage, with the solo performer leading. The sogo player is called "popkonori" or "supokochum."

### Tree Stand Drums

Tree stand drums are dragon-shaped small drums, suspended from wooden stands one hung at center and the others on both sides. The drums are played for the dance, sam-go mu ("tree stand drum dance" or "three drum dance") by the dancers themselves as they dance. Various rhythm patterns are played by hitting drumsticks against each other and at either the center or the rim of the drums. They can be played in a set of 3 with one person, or 5 with 2 people, 7 with 3 people or 9 with 4 people. Legend has it that a high-ranking government official of the Koryo period (918-1392 AD) by the name of Yi Hon found a piece of wood on the seashore where he was exiled, and made a drum out of it that had a wonderful sound.

### **Polish Dance:**

#### Accordion

The accordion is a portable instrument based on free reeds activated by a keyboard and a set of bellows. The concertina and the accordion were both invented in 1829, one in England and one in Vienna, Austria. The accordion was brought to the U.S. in the mid-1830's, and was called the French Accordion because of its great popularity in France at the time. The German accordion was mass-produced by German manufacturers after the 1850's, and enjoyed widespread popularity in America. The Button and Piano Accordions became popular after World War I. The Piano accordion is often associated with polka music in the U.S., and in France the Button accordion is the king of musette music. Versions of the accordion are used in cajun music, in Eastern European music, in Argentine tango, and in many other types of music worldwide.

### Violin

The violin is a wooden instrument played with a bow, having four strings tuned at intervals of a fifth, an unfretted fingerboard, and capable of great flexibility in range, tone, and dynamics. The violin is considered a chordophone since it is an instrument that produces sounds from the vibrations of strings.

The violin evolved from many different instruments, its ancient Arab precursors include the oud, the lyre, rebob and the rebec. It is also related to the guitar, originally played with a bow in the 15th Century, and to the Renaissance fiddle. The violin that is used today, the "new violin" was not used until 1630 in Italy. It then moved from Italy to France and eventually spread its way across the world.

### **West African Dance:**

#### Balafon

A balafon is a framed xylophone played by the Maninka or Mandeng people. It usually has from 16 to 20 tuned wood bars, with calabash (gourd) resonators below the bars. The resonators have holes cut in them, over which cigarette paper is stretched so as to make a buzzing sound when the wood bar is struck. The balafon is believed to date from the time of Sunjata, the legendary founder of the Mali Empire in the 13th century.

#### Djembe

The Djembe is a single-headed goblet drum from West Africa. Its body is carved from the trunk of a tree and the widest end is covered with skin. The unique shape of the drum gives it a deep tone when played in the center and higher-pitched tone played closer to the edges. It is played by hand.