



Traditional
Chinese Musical
Instruments

传统乐器

肖迪 © 编著



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中国传统的音乐文化源远流长，作为不同时代音乐文化的标志，中国乐器的种类更是异彩纷呈：悠扬的箫笛，古雅的琴筝，热烈的锣鼓，嘹亮的唢呐……不同材质、不同音色的乐器，体现出不同时代和民族的审美情趣，展示了中国人的智慧和创造力，演绎着中国传统文化特有的气质。



There is a long history of traditional musical culture in China. Serving as the symbol of the musical culture in each historical period, Chinese musical instruments offer colorful varieties: from the melodious vertical flute (*Xiao*) and flute (*Di*), through the quaint and elegant 7-stringed zither (*Qin*) and 25-stringed zither (*Zheng*), to the exciting gong and drums, resonant *Suo Na* trumpet (a woodwind instrument) and more. The array of Chinese musical instruments derived from different materials with various tones and sounds has reflected the aesthetic tastes endeared in different time periods as well as by different ethnic groups. They have demonstrated the wisdom and creativity of Chinese people, interpreting the unique qualities encompassed in traditional Chinese culture.

By collecting a large number of texts and

本书在收集大量图文资料的基础上，讲述了中国传统乐器的产生与发展，分门别类地展示了传统乐器的外形、结构与音乐特性，并且穿插了许多关于乐器的有趣传说，希望读者通过本书能够了解中国乐器，体悟中国传统音乐的哲思与意境，感受中国各民族的风土人情。

graphics, this book introduces the origin and development of Chinese traditional musical instruments, describes the categorized shapes, structures and musical features of traditional musical instrument, and intersperses many interesting legends about these musical instruments. We hope that through this book, readers can understand Chinese musical instruments, realize the philosophical ideas and artistic conception embodied in Chinese traditional music, and experience various ethnic traditions throughout China.





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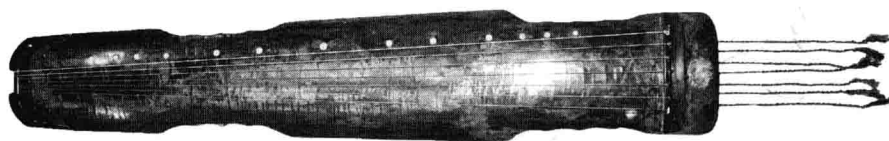
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穿越千年的乐音

Melody Through Thousands of Years

中国乐器有着悠久、深厚的历史传统，古人留下了众多极富特色的民族器乐，这些器乐除了在传统歌舞中的演奏外，在民间的婚丧喜庆、风俗节日等活动中也发挥着极其重要的作用。追溯中国乐器的发展历程，仿佛能听到袅袅乐音穿越千年而来。

Chinese musical instruments have enjoyed a time-honored and profound history and tradition. Chinese ancestors have left a multitude of highly distinctive ethnic musical instruments which are not only performed on traditional dance and music occasions, but also play a significant part in such events as weddings, funerals, celebrations, birthday parties, folk activities and festivals. Tracking the development process of Chinese musical instruments, we seem to hear the melody drawing from thousands of years ago.





> 最早的乐器

在数千年的文明历程中，中华民族创造了辉煌灿烂的音乐文化。而作为音乐的物质载体，中国古代乐器的产生年代比史籍的记载要早得多。1987年，在河南省舞阳县城北的贾湖新石器时代遗址中，出土了一批猛禽腿骨制成的骨笛。骨笛长约20多厘米，上面开有小孔，形制规范，至今仍可吹奏出旋律。这些距今约8000年的骨笛，不仅是中

> The Earliest Musical Instruments

In its civilization process over several thousands of years, Chinese people have created a splendid culture of music. As physical carriers of music, ancient Chinese musical instruments have much earlier records than historical books. In 1987, a number of flutes made out of the leg bones of raptors were unearthed among other relics from the *Jiahu* Neolithic era ruins in the north part of Wuyang County, Henan Province of



- 贾湖骨笛（新石器时代）
Jiahu Bone Flute (Neolithic Period)



国目前发现最早的乐器，也是世界上迄今为止发现年代较早、制作水平较高的吹奏乐器。它表明中国人的祖先在全世界率先进入了原始音乐的文明时期。除了骨笛之外，产生于新石器时代的远古乐器还有浙江省河姆渡文化遗址出土的骨哨、仰韶文化遗址西安半坡村出土的埙等。这些古乐器向人们展示了中华民族的智慧 and 创造力。



• 长葛骨哨（新石器时代）

在河南长葛县石固遗址的裴李岗文化墓葬里，发现两件用禽类肢骨制成的骨哨。哨长约七八厘米，有一个椭圆形扁孔。经研究人员实验，堵住两端，吹气入孔可发出音响。最初的骨哨也许是诱捕野兽的狩猎工具。

Changge Bone Whistle (Neolithic Period)

Among the findings unearthed from the *Peiligang* cultural tombs in *Shigu* ruins, located in Changge County, Henan Province, there are two bone whistles made of the bones of bird's limbs. They are around 7 to 8 centimeters long with a flat hole in oval shape. According to the researchers' experiment, with the whistle's both ends blocked, it can deliver sounds when air is blown into the opening. The earliest bone whistle might be a hunting tool used to attract the animals.

China. The bone flute, which is 20-odd centimeter long and with small openings on the surface of its regularly shaped body, can still play a melody today. These 8,000-year-old bone flutes are not only the earliest musical instruments found in China, but also the quite primitive wind instruments with the highest manufacturing level existing in the world. They indicate Chinese ancestors were the first in the world to enter the civilization period of primitive music. In addition to the bone flutes, other ancient musical instruments from the Neolithic era include bone whistles discovered in the *Hemudu* Cultural ruins in Zhejiang Province, an ancient ocarina (*Xun*) from the *Yangshao* Cultural ruins unearthed in Banpo village in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province and others. All these ancient musical instruments have demonstrated to world the wisdom and creativity of Chinese people.



> 礼乐之器——先秦时期

商周时期，随着生产力的发展，各种乐器层出不穷，但乐器的实际功能远远不止于娱乐或欣赏。作为礼乐制度的重要组成部分，乐器是权力的象征。在各种祭祀和官宴等活动中，乐器被用来炫耀统治者和贵族的地位。

西周时期，有记载的乐器约有七十种之多，按照制作材质可分为金、石、土、革、丝、木、匏、竹八类，称为“八音”。在这七十多种乐器中，一般以钟、磬等打击乐器为主，弦乐器和管乐器也包含其中。当举行隆重的祭祀仪式和盛大的宴会时，乐队所用乐器的规模十分壮观。在祭天、祭地、祭祖三种仪式中，乐队所配备的钟磬及其他乐器的种类、形制、规格都有不同

> Ritual Musical Instruments: the Period before Qin Dynasty

In the Shang Dynasty (1600 B.C.-1046 B.C.) and Zhou Dynasty (1046 B.C.-256 B.C.), as productivity progressed, various musical instruments came out one after another. However, the practical functions of musical instruments were far more than mere entertainment or appreciation. As an important constituent portion of the ritualistic and musical system, the musical instrument was a symbol of power. In various events of worship, rituals and palace feasts, musical instruments were used to show off the status of the rulers and aristocrats.

In the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046 B.C.-771 B.C.), there were over 70 musical instruments recorded and classified, according to the manufacture materials, into eight categories called



的规定。西周宫廷设有专人从事乐器的制作、保管与维修，足见当时宫廷乐队的规模之庞大。

春秋战国时期，在诸侯国之间的外交活动中，乐器常常作为相互馈赠的礼物。有的时候，诸侯王公还会将乐器连同演奏的乐工一起赐给贵族享用。作为中国乐器发展的一个重要的阶段，这一时期乐器的种类之多、制作之精、性能之完备，可以说是发生了质的飞跃。最能够集中反映春秋战国时期乐器成

"eight sounds" (*Ba Yin*): metal, stone, clay, leather, silk, wood, gourd, and bamboo. Among the 70-plus instruments, the primary tools were the percussion instruments such as bells and musical stone (*Qing*), while string and wind instruments were also included. When solemn rituals and grand feasts were held, the lineup of the instruments used by the band was spectacular. In the three rituals of worshiping heaven, earth and ancestors, the types, shapes and specifications of the bells, musical stone or other musical instruments equipped by the band were all prescribed differently. The Western Zhou imperial court had specialists assigned to take charge of the

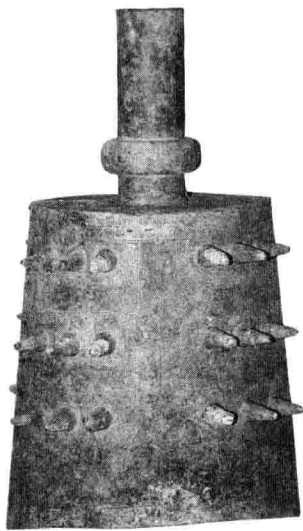


• “回”纹铜铙（商）

铜铙是一种古老的打击乐器，外形酷似合起来的两片瓦，使用时凹形口朝上，用木槌敲击，声音雄浑空阔，悠扬辽远。

Bronze Cymbal with Fretwork (Shang Dynasty, 1600 B.C.-1046 B.C.)

Bronze cymbal is a very old percussion instrument. It looks like two tiles conjoint together. When it is played, the concave side is facing upward and beaten with a wood hammer. It gives muscular and expansive sounds with far-reaching effects.



• 青铜甬钟（西周）

甬钟是西周时期的青铜打击乐器，由铜铙发展而来，因最上面的平面之上立有“甬柱”而得名。

Bronze Column Bell (Western Zhou Dynasty, 1046 B.C.-771 B.C.)

Column bell was a percussion instrument made of bronze in the Western Zhou Dynasty. It evolved from bronze cymbal. It is named from the "column" standing on its top surface.

就的，首推曾侯乙墓出土的大量乐器。曾侯乙墓是1978年在湖北省随县擂鼓墩发现的战国早期墓葬，墓中出土的乐器共有九种一百二十五件，由其组成的地下乐队是墓主人生前宴饮礼宾所用的钟磬乐队。其中的一些乐器制作具有很高的科技水准。曾侯乙墓乐器中成套编钟的出土，是中国音乐文化史、科技

manufacture, storage and maintenance of the musical instruments, which shows the great scale of the musical instruments that the court owned at that time.

In the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Period (770 B.C.-221 B.C.), musical instrument were often used as presents in diplomatic activities between the vassal states. Sometimes, the lord of a vassal state would bestow the instrument together with the musician on the noblemen for their enjoyment. This period was a significant phase of Chinese musical instrument development, a qualitative leap of the instrument was evidenced in its great variety, delicacy of the handicraft as well as the completion in the musical performance. The most typical musical instruments in the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Period were indisputably the massive number of instruments excavated from the Tomb of Marquis Yi of Zeng. This tomb dating back to early Warring States Period was discovered in *Leigudun* in Sui County, Hubei Province in 1978. There are totally 125 pieces of musical instruments in 9 categories unearthed from the tomb, which constituted the bell and musical stone band used by the tomb owner to banquet honored guests before his death. Some of the instruments unearthed were

史、乃至世界文明史的重大发现，甚至被一些国际学者称为“世界第八大奇迹”。

manufactured at a very high technology level. The whole set of the serials bells (*Bian Zhong*) unearthed from the Tomb of Marquis Yi of Zeng is a significant discovery in the history of Chinese music, science and technology, and even in the history of world civilization. The discovery was even dubbed by some international scholars as the "8th wonder of the world".



• 青铜钲于（战国）

钲于是与鼓相配合的古代军乐器，圆筒形，上大而下小，下部中空，顶上有纽，演奏时用绳悬挂起来，用槌敲击发声。

Bronze Chun Yu (Warring States Period, 475 B.C.-221 B.C.)

Chun Yu was an ancient military musical instrument used in combination with drums. Cast in the shape of a tube with a broad top and a narrow bottom, the *Chun Yu* is hollow in its lower part, and has a knob set on the top to hang it up with a rope so as to be knocked by a hammer for sounds.

古代乐器的八音分类法

八音分类法是中国历史上最早的乐器科学分类法，出现于西周时期。人们将当时的乐器按制作材料分为金、石、土、革、丝、木、匏、竹八类。后来，“八音”也泛指乐器。

“金”指金属乐器，大多由铜或铜锡混合制成。古代的金属乐器，虽种类繁多，但其中最主要的是钟类乐器。钹、铎等也是金属乐器，它们的共同特性是声音洪亮、音质清脆、音色柔和。

“石”指石制乐器，主要指以坚硬的大理石或玉石制成的石磬，石质越坚硬，声音就越铿锵洪亮。



“土”指的是泥土制成的陶类乐器，主要包括埙和缶。埙的历史悠久，是吹奏乐器；缶的形状很像一个小缸或火钵，属于打击乐器。

“革”是指以野兽皮革制成的乐器，最主要的是鼓。鼓也是古人最初使用的乐器之一。

“丝”指的是用蚕丝制弦，再做成的乐器。在商周以前，丝弦乐器只有琴和瑟两种；秦汉以后才出现了箏、笙篪、阮咸、秦琴、三弦、琵琶、胡琴等。这类乐器在中国传统乐器里最富于代表性。

“木”是指木制乐器，最初有祝、敔、拍板等，后来有木鱼、梆子等，都属于打击乐器。

“匏”原指葫芦，古称“匏瓜”，古人用干老的匏瓜制成乐器，就是匏类乐器。匏类乐器包括笙和竽等簧片乐器。

“竹”是指竹类制成的乐器，主要有箫、笛和管，都属于吹管乐器。

Eight-sound Classification of Ancient Musical Instruments

Debuting in the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046 B.C.-771 B.C.), the eight-sound classification was the earliest scientific classification of musical instruments in China's history. People at that time divided the musical instruments, according to the materials they were made of, into eight different classifications, namely metal, stone, silk, bamboo, gourd, clay, leather, and wood. Later, the term "eight sounds" was used as a synonym for all musical instruments.

"Metal" refers to instruments made of metal - mostly a mixture of copper and tin. Although there was a great variety of metal musical instruments in ancient times, bells were predominant among them all. Cymbals and gongs were also made of metal. They shared the feature of sonorous and ringing sound with a crisp but soft tone, which is representative enough for the metal sounds of Chinese musical instruments.

"Stone" means the instrument made of stone. It usually refers to the musical stone (*Qing*) which is made of solid marble or jade. The harder the stone is, the more resounding effects could it produce.

"Clay" means the ceramic instruments made of clay, such as ocarina (*Xun*) and clay pot (*Fou*). Ocarina is a wind instrument with a very long history and clay pot is a percussion instrument which looks like a small jar or fire pot.

"Leather" refers to an instrument made of animal skin - mainly drums. The drum is one of the first musical instruments used by ancient people.

"Silk" refers to the instruments with their strings made of natural silk. Prior to the Shang Dynasty (1600 B.C.-1046 B.C.) and Zhou Dynasty (1046 B.C.-256 B.C.), there were only two stringed instruments, 7-stringed zither (*Qin*) and 50-stringed zither with moveable bridges (*Se*). After the Qin Dynasty (221 B.C.-206 B.C.) and the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.- 220 A.D.), more stringed instruments began to appear, such as 25-stringed zither (*Zheng*), Chinese harp (*Kong Hou*), moon-shaped lute (*Ruan Xian*), flower-shaped lute (*Qin Qin*), three strings (*San Xian*), pear-shaped lute (*Pi Pa*) and fiddle (*Hu Qin*). These are the most representative tools in Chinese traditional musical instruments.

"Wood" refers to the instruments made of wood. They were percussion instruments such as the wooden box (*Zhu*), tiger-shaped instrument (*Yu*) and clapper (*Pai Ban*) among others in the beginning. Later, instruments such as wooden knocker (*Mu Yu*) and wooden stick (*Bang Zi*) appeared.

"Gourd" was originally for gourds, also known as *Pao Gua* in ancient times. When people used old and dried-out gourds to make musical instruments, such instruments are gourd instruments. This category includes reed instruments such as *Sheng* (free reed mouth organ with finger holds) and *Yu* (free reed mouth large organ with finger holes).

"Bamboo" mainly refers to wind instruments made of bamboo, such as vertical flute, flute and oboe.

• 彩绘陶坐部伎乐女俑 (隋)

Painted Ceramic Figurine of a Sitting Female Musician (Sui Dynasty, 581-618)





> 包容与创新——秦汉到隋唐

秦汉时期，宫廷中设立了专门的音乐机构“乐府”，其主要职能是制乐和为宫廷活动服务。乐府的设立有力地推动了音乐和乐器的发展。汉代流行的相和歌、鼓吹乐、郊祀乐歌、歌舞百戏等各类音乐，

都在乐府音乐活动中得到了提高与发展。而相和歌中常用的笙、笛、琴、



• 抚琴俑（汉）

Figurine of a 7-stringed Zither Player (Han Dynasty, 206 B.C.- 220 A.D.)

> Tolerance and Innovation: From the Qin and Han Dynasties to the Sui and Tang Dynasties

In the Qin Dynasty (221 B.C.-206 B.C.) and the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.), the imperial court set up a special music organization called *Yue Fu*, whose major function was to compose music and serve the court activities. The establishment of music organization forcefully pushed forward the development of music and musical instruments. Various popular music in the Han Dynasty, including *Xiang He* songs, wind and percussion music, suburban ritual music and songs, musical dance and acrobatics music, were all promoted and developed in the musical events held