

THE HISTORY OF  
*Musical  
Instruments*

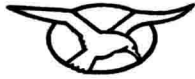
CURT SACHS



*London*

J. M. DENT & SONS LTD

THE HISTORY OF  
*Musical Instruments*





THE HISTORY OF  
*Musical  
Instruments*

CURT SACHS



*London*

J. M. DENT & SONS LTD

*All rights reserved*  
*Printed in the United States of America*  
*at The Vail-Ballou Press*  
*for*  
*J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd*  
*Aldine House Bedford St London*  
*First published in the United States of America 1940*  
*First published in Great Britain 1942*

IN MEMORY  
OF  
GEORGE E. SACHS  
1909-1939



EMILY FLOYD GARDINER

*gave generously of her time and interest to help me with this book, the first that I have written in English. Polishing my style, discussing my problems, insisting on the reader's right to understand things without too much effort, she played a vital role in the preparation of this book. I am deeply indebted to her.*





# Contents

---

## FIRST PART: *The Primitive and Prehistoric Epoch*

### CHAPTER I: Early Instruments 25

#### MOTOR IMPULSES 25

*The "invention of instruments" — rhythm — slapping the body — rattles — sounding amulets — shamanic rites — stampers — rice ceremonials — slit-drums — the teetering tree — the sand drum — drums — wood-cutters' and clay modelers' forms.*

#### RITUAL FUNCTIONS 34

*Drums (continued) — shaman's drumming — construction rites — the sacred drum-yard — symbolism of the drum — symbolism of the drum stick — slit-drum (continued) — drum language — the earliest wind instruments — the ribbon reed — weather charm — friction instruments — girls' initiations — the bull-roarer — woman's taboo — the scraper — love charm — flutes — phallic rites — nose flutes — nostril and astrology — trumpets — solar rites — shell trumpets — sex connotations.*

#### MELODIC IMPULSES 52

*Reduplication in language and music — 'Father and mother' — stamping tubes — xylophone — marimba music — ground harp — ground-zither — musical bow — intimacy and meditation — the jaws' harp.*

## CHAPTER 2: The Chronology of Early Instruments 60

*Simplicity and complication — cultural level and form of civilization — prehistory and anthropology — geographic method — relation or parallelism — the three main strata.*

SECOND PART: *Antiquity*

## CHAPTER 3: Sumer and Babylonia 67

*History — languages — script — idiophonic instruments — toys — pipes — horns and trumpets — King Tushratta's gift — drums — "the great bull's hide" — Sumer and Japan — divination — feeding the drum — moon rites — sacrifices — Sumer and East Africa — lyres — lyre playing — harps — harp playing — orchestration — harmony — lutes — King Nebuchadrezzar's orchestra.*

## CHAPTER 4: Egypt 86

## FROM PREHISTORY TO THE END OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM 86

*Prehistoric contact with Sumer — history — script — clappers and concussion-sticks — Arbeit und Rhythmus — sistrum — Hathor and Isis — flutes and clarinets — glass blowers' technique — harps — drawing and photography — drums — Egypt and India.*

## FROM THE NEW KINGDOM TO THE GREEK EPOCH 98

*The Empire — new style in music — oboes — in search of the scale — trumpets, stringed instruments and idiophones — foreign instruments in high civilizations.*

## CHAPTER 5: Israel 105

## THE NOMADIC EPOCH 105

*Primitive character — ugab — King David's kinnor — the women's timbrel — the high priest's bell — the magic shofar — the two silver trumpets.*

## THE TIME OF THE KINGS 114

*The academy of religious music — music in the Temple — stringed and wind instruments — sistrum and cymbals — the controversy of the organ — the headings of the Psalms.*

## CHAPTER 6: Greece, Rome and Etruria 128

*Fine art and music — lyres and the musical system of antiquity — the harp and Anacreon — lutes and zithers — pipes — succinere and incinere — the Pythian games — bagpipes — Emperor Nero — cross flute — discovery in an Etruscan tomb — pan-pipes — virginity test — the water organ — trumpets — Roman military music — the question of the Nordic lurer — drums — Dionysian cults — clappers — Mediterranean heritage.*

## CHAPTER 7: India 151

*The Indus civilization — drum and harp — the hieroglyphic script — the Vedas — Rigveda and Atharvaveda — The Dravida — the double trumpet — the double clarinet of snake charmers — bagpipes — drums — sacrifices to the drum — arched harps — temple reliefs — trumpets — drums — the coiled drum stick — cross flutes — the celestial music — lute — the Gandhara style.*

## CHAPTER 8: The Far East 162

*Confucius and Plato — musical ethics — State and music — cosmos and music — substances and music — importance of idiophones — universe and pitch — playing and singing.*

## THE SHANG DYNASTY (FOURTEENTH—TWELFTH CENTURIES B.C.) 166

*The Book of Poetry — globular flutes — the European ocarina — stones and stone chimes — Kawa pounding — bells and bell chimes — blood sacrifices — seasons and intervals — drums — rice stuffing — nails.*

## THE CHOU DYNASTY (1122—255 B.C.) 174

*Percussion-clapper — a beaten book — the trough — rice pounding — the fish — the eyelids and the carved*

*fruit — the tiger — the path of life — pitch- and pan-pipes — the male and the female scale — flutes — sacred measures — the mouth organ — long zithers — music of the sages.*

THE HAN DYNASTY (206 B.C.—220 A.D.)	189
<i>Short lutes — The westeastern path.</i>	

CHAPTER 9: America	192
--------------------	-----

CENTRAL AMERICA	192
-----------------	-----

*The Mexican civilization — flutes and trumpets — idiophones — Música muy triste — drums — level of Mexican music.*

SOUTH AMERICA	196
---------------	-----

*The Peruvian civilization — pan-pipes — the question of an American origin — flutes — the rocking whistle — idiophones — drums — inflation of human skins — trumpets — the "Pacific" culture area.*

### THIRD PART: *The Middle Ages*

CHAPTER 10: The Far East	207
--------------------------	-----

*Western influences — idiophones — Turkish metal workers — trumpets — gigantic lama trumpets — reed pipes — a Tataric pigorn — flutes — different blowing style — drums — Japanese rhythm — bowed instruments — invention of the fiddle bow — flat lutes — long lute — dulcimer and harp — change of musical style.*

CHAPTER 11: India	221
-------------------	-----

*Gamakas — rhythmic patterns*

PRE-ISLAMIC TIMES	222
-------------------	-----

*Borobudur — idiophones — cymbals in mythology — acrobacy — drums and drum chimes — stick-zither — vina — fiddles — sympathetic strings — flutes and trumpets — the question of the coil.*

ISLAMIC TIMES	229
---------------	-----

*Drums — kettledrums — technique — oboe — broad-necked lutes — the peacock.*

	<i>Contents</i>	13
CHAPTER 12:	Southeast Asia	233
	PRE-INDIAN PERIOD	233
	<i>Malayan prehistory — drum-gongs — bronze.</i>	
	INDIAN PERIOD	235
	<i>Indian colonies — Borobudur.</i>	
	POST-INDIAN PERIOD	236
	<i>Dynamic style — the orchestras — scales — the xylophone — Malayan civilization in Africa — metallophones — celesta — gongs — magic — gong chimes — Islamic influence.</i>	
CHAPTER 13:	The Near East	244
	<i>The queen of Sheba — The Arabian Nights — Islamic cosmopolitanism — frame drums — flutes — the oboe — procession music — cylindrical drums — kettle-drums — clay and metal — short lutes — the lute with a frontal stringholder — the name 'ūd — symbolism of the strings — the spike-fiddle — the long lute — mathematical basis — the trapezoidal zither — combined instruments — the dulcimer — the angular harp.</i>	
CHAPTER 14:	Europe	260
	INSTRUMENTS INTRODUCED BEFORE THE YEAR 1000	260
	<i>A northern and a southern zone — the harp — chrotta and harpa — medieval chord playing — lyres — the monochord — Boetius and the monks — the hurdy-gurdy — lutes — fiddles — idiophones — horns and trumpets — bagpipes — the organ — musica facta.</i>	
	INSTRUMENTS INTRODUCED IN THE ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH CENTURIES	286
	<i>The portative organ — flutes — military music — reed pipes — drums — the trumscheit — zithers — the cimbalom.</i>	

FOURTH PART: *The Modern Occident*

## CHAPTER 15: The Renaissance (1400-1600) 297

*Development of a self-sufficient instrumental music — increasing interest in color — popular treatises on instruments — Virdung — Luscinius — Schlick — Agricola — Bermudo — Praetorius — Mersenne — beauty of shape — collections — inventories — chest and consort — the organ — two keyboards — stops — the plein jeu — regals — single and double — the pair — recorders — one-handed flute — tabor and pipe — flageolet — transverse flute — shawms — bassoon — rankets — cromorne — schryari — rauschpfeifen — cornet — trombone — trumpets — the “noble guild” — kettledrums — clavichords — equal temperament — short octave — the Empfindsame Zeitalter — spinets and harpsichords — virginals — the chessboard — the dulce melos — the lute — modern lute playing — the vihuela — the cittern — viols — tuning — the lira da gamba.*

## CHAPTER 16: The Baroque (1600-1750) 351

*Musical revolution — emotional style — monody — the first violin sonatas — dismissal of wind instruments — monochrome — rise of the violin — the violin family — the formant — good and poor violins — pizzicato and vibrato — Brescia and Cremona — German, English and French schools — concert halls — overspinning — viola d'amore — viola pomposa — baryton — the bow — drone lutes — citterns — guitar — harpsichord — Ruckers — the second keyboard — ravalement — the 16 foot — the pedal — carillons — water chimes — glockenspiel — celesta — English change-ringing — the flute — readmission of wind instruments — the oboe — slide trumpets — horns — the organ — the Praetorius organ — the pitch.*

## CHAPTER 17: Romanticism (1750-1900) 388

*Increasing number of instruments — blending of timbres — striving for power — the pitch — expressive-*

*ness — the piano — the harp — the Aeolian harp — the supernatural — friction rods — the glass harmonica — the harmonium — the Boehm flute — clarinets — the saxophone — chromatic horns and trumpets — serpents and bass horns — key trumpets and key bugles — stopped French horns — valves — the cornet family — trumpets and trombones — machine drums — drums — the Turkish music — Janissaries — the triangle — the crescent — cymbals — the xylophone — the organ.*

EPILOGUE: The Twentieth Century 445

*Gigantic orchestras — chamber orchestras — preference given to wind instruments — the rise of percussion — the banjo — jazz instruments — electric instruments — archaism — the resurrection of ancient music — playing on ancient instruments — ancient forms — the organ — "The World's Greatest Organ" — "Back to Silbermann" — the Praetorius organ — the new style.*

TERMINOLOGY 454

REFERENCES 469

INDEX 489



