

Maraca

Maracas



Maracas

Classification	idiophones
Musicians	
Machito, Monguito	

Maracas (pronunciation, sometimes called **rumba shakers**) are a native instrument of Latin America. They are a percussion instruments (idiophones), usually played in pairs, consisting of a dried calabash or gourd shell (*cuia* "cue-ya") or coconut shell filled with seeds or dried beans. They may also be made of leather, wood, or plastic. ^[1]

Often one ball is pitched high and the other is pitched low. There is evidence of clay maracas used by the natives of Colombia 1500 years ago. The word *maraca* is thought to have come from the Tupi language of Brazil, where it is pronounced 'ma-ra-KAH'. They are known in Trinidad as **shac-shacs**. ^[2]

Although a simple instrument, the method of playing the maracas is not obvious. The seeds must travel some distance before they hit the leather, wood, or plastic, so the player must anticipate the rhythm. One can also strike the maraca against one's hand or leg to get a different sound. Band leader Vincent Lopez hosted a radio program in the early 1950s called *Shake the Maracas* in which audience members competed for small prizes by playing the instrument with the orchestra.

Maracas are heard in many forms of Latin music and are also used in pop and classical music. They are considered characteristic of the music of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Venezuela, Jamaica and Brazil. Maracas are often played at celebrations and special events. In rock and roll, they are probably most identified with Bo Diddley, who wrote the song "Bring it to Jerome" about his maraca player, Jerome Green (who also played maracas for Chuck Berry). Maracas are also very popular with children and are commonly included in the instruments of the rhythm band.



Robert Plant playing maracas

List of notable maracas performers

- Cedric Bixler-Zavala
- Mark "Bez" Berry
- Andrew Borger
- Bobbye Hall
- Edward Harrison
- Machito^[3]
- Mako
- Ismael Rivera
- Marcel Rodriguez-Lopez
- Steve Shelley
- Moisés Torrealba
- Samuel Torres
- Glen Velez

References

- [1] http://books.google.com/books/about/Percussion_instruments_and_their_history.html?id=a8V3Z6j2ExEC
- [2] Mendes, John. 1986. *Cote ce Cote la: Trinidad & Tobago Dictionary*, Arima, Trinidad, p. 135.
- [3] http://tocapercussion.com/media/video_lessons/grillo_maracas_playing.html Machito's way of playing maracas, as demonstrated by his son Mario

External links

- YouTube: Hector Lavoe playing maracas (<http://mx.youtube.com/watch?v=PdoNzV19vng>)

Article Sources and Contributors

Maraca *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=459162599> *Contributors:* Addaick, Adeline, Agaimme, Alansohn, Anen87, Apoc2400, Astral, Auntof6, Avillia, Badagnani, Baseball Watcher, Bemoeial, Binary TSO, Binksternet, Bobvious, CWii, Cabanaguy, Cabiria, Camembert, Caracas 2000, Charles Matthews, Coffee, Cornischong, Crw21, Crystallina, DVdm, Dlohcierekim, Dogman15, Earl CG, Elekhk, Esrever, EvanSeeds, Foamposite, Frap, Gobbleswogglar, Graham87, Hayadel, J.delanoy, Japanese Searobin, Jashiin, Jbravo3, Jncraton, John Hill, Joseph Dwayne, Jusdafax, Kirk Hilliard, Kvn8907, Lambiam, L11324, Loza tarantula tamer, Lupin, Mazito, Mdawwg, Mgidanteus1, Michel BUZE, Midnite247, MikeAllen, Millahna, Miqounger03, Miranda, Mr. G. Williams, Neilziyangchen, Nohat, Noopinonada, Numbo3, OllieFury, OneFinalWhisper, Opus888, Opus88888, Ortolan88, Pakaran, Paul Magnussen, Pegship, Piano non troppo, Power.corrupts, PvsKllKsVp, Radon210, Radziun, RaygunShaun, Redheylin, Rocket000, Rrburke, Saigo, Sarefo, Scarian, Sluzzelin, Sonjaaa, THarp82, Tartarus, The cattr, Thibbs, Tide rolls, Versus22, Warner Young, Whenthesunhits, Wysprgr2005, Yamaguchi先生, Yamamoto Ichiro, Ysangkok, زرشک, 259 anonymous edits

Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors

Image:Sambaballen.JPG *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Sambaballen.JPG> *License:* GNU Free Documentation License *Contributors:* CarolSpears, Kakofonous, Lobo, Siebrand, ↵

File:Maracas player at Bonnaroo 2008 festival.jpg *Source:* http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Maracas_player_at_Bonnaroo_2008_festival.jpg *License:* Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 *Contributors:* Patricia H.

License

Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported
[//creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)