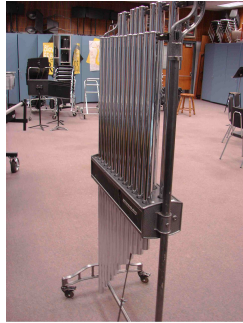


# Tubular bell

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## Tubular bells



<b>Other names</b>	Chimes
<b>Classification</b>	Percussion instrument
<b>Playing range</b>	
C4-F5	

**Tubular bells** (also known as **chimes**) are musical instruments in the percussion family. Each bell is a metal tube, 30–38 mm (1¼–1½ inches) in diameter, tuned by altering its length. Its standard range is from C4-F5, though many professional instruments reach G5 (see photo). Tubular bells are often replaced by studio chimes, which are a smaller and usually less expensive instrument. Studio chimes are similar in appearance to tubular bells, but each bell has a smaller diameter than the corresponding bell on tubular bells.

Tubular bells are sometimes struck on the top edge of the tube with a rawhide- or plastic-headed hammer. Often, a sustain pedal will be attached to allow extended ringing of the bells. They can also be bowed at the bottom of the tube to produce a very loud, very high-pitched overtone.

Tubular bells have been popularized in western culture by the song "Carol of the Bells", and the Mike Oldfield album *Tubular Bells* and its sequels, the latter best known as the opening theme from *The Exorcist*.

The tubes used provide a purer tone than solid cylindrical chimes, such as those on a mark tree.

The animated television series *Futurama's* theme is played on tubular bells. The "funding for this program provided by ..." rider that followed the end credits of the children's television show *Sesame Street* also prominently featured tubular bells in the 1980s.

Chimes are often used in concert band pieces (e.g. "Eiger" by James Swearingen). Most composers write Chimes under the category of Percussion > Mallet Percussion. It rarely plays melody, mostly a bass that brings out some color but sometimes has some solos or solis, often very simple.

## As church bells

An example of tubular bells used as church bells is St. Alban's Anglican Church in Copenhagen.<sup>[1]</sup>

## References

[1] "About the Church" (<http://www.st-albans.dk/about-us/about-the-church/>). St. Alban's Church. . Retrieved 2010-02-26.

## External links

- Information about tubular bells (<http://www.vsl.co.at/en-us/70/3196/3216/3217/5821.vsl>) – Vienna Symphonic Library

# Article Sources and Contributors

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