



INTACH

Musical Instruments of JHARKHAND



The music of Jharkhand is primarily tribal in nature. It is very similar to the folk music of Bihar and the music of the neighboring districts of West Bengal. Most of the music of Jharkhand is not merely entertainment, but ritualistic and has a social significance to it.

The instruments used

The popular musical instruments of the state include the nagara, oraons, tamak, sarangi, bansuri, singa and arbansi which are used commonly to musically enrich the folk songs of the state.

Percussions: The drums are used as summons for the people to gather. The main drums are 'Nagara' of 'Mundas' & 'Oraons' and 'Tamak' of 'Santhals' which are crafted out of iron sheets



and are conical at the bottom. Its wide mouth is covered with buffalo hide sounded with a pair of sticks.

The 'Mandar' or the 'Tumdak' is a clay drum which is covered with goat skin and the 'Dholki' is made from a hollowed out length of wood usually of the Jackfruit tree.

String Instruments: The Jharkhand sarangi is one of the most well known and commonly used instruments. It is often used for producing the background music for various forms of folk songs. The sarangi has three basic strings and a number of additional strings. The additional strings vary between 20 and 30 and the three main strings are heavier than the rest of the strings.



DID YOU KNOW...

The name of the instrument sarangi is commonly believed to mean 'hundred different colors'.

Wind Instruments: The Jharkhand bansuri is one of the most important musical instruments that are used commonly. It is accompanied in the background music to a variety of folk songs, which are very popular amongst the people of the tribal groups.

The bansuri in Jharkhand has five major parts. These five parts are the mukha randhra,



the dandi, the garbha randhra, the swar randhra and the rassi. There are generally six holes. Nowadays, the bansuri has an extra hole which helps the bansuri player to achieve a greater accuracy of tune.



Singa is another wind instrument of Jharkhand which is played in pairs in different ceremonies and occasions like weddings and other festivals. It is made of brass.

ACTIVITY

1. There are various tribal groups in Jharkhand. Name them and one special musical instrument that they use.
2. Many of the musical instruments that we see are used all over the country with different names. Find a few instruments that are similar in nature but are named differently in different regions.
3. Draw an outline map of Jharkhand and mark the places where the different tribes are settled. Also, write about one special musical (song or dance) of the tribe.

References

<http://jharkhandobserver.com/music.php>

<http://www.jharkhandonline.in/About/profile/culture/dance.html>

www.wikipedia.org