



Rainforest Rhythms

Pan Pipes

The pan flute or pan pipe is an ancient musical instrument based on the principle of the closed tube, consisting usually of five or more pipes of gradually increasing length (and, at times, girth). The pan flute has long been popular as a folk instrument, and is considered the first mouth organ, ancestor of both the pipe organ and the harmonica. The pan flute is named for its association with the rustic Greek god Pan. The pipes of the pan flute are typically made from bamboo or giant cane; other materials used include wood, plastic, and metal.

Rainsticks

Imported from the Atacama desert of Northern Chile, the rainstick or rainmaker gives us a lovely paradox: How can something from the world's driest region, made from a cactus, sound like a tropical downpour? These rainsticks are made by artisan cooperatives using the eulychnia plant. Dead wood only is used - the green flesh of the plant has rotted away to reveal a soft interior or copada into which cactus needles can easily be inserted.

The cylindrical, hollow stick is a natural amplifier, and once little pebbles and grit from the desert are sealed inside the sound can be created by letting them pour over the needles.

P.T.O

Cha Chas

These are made from seeds gathered in the Peruvian Amazon and then sewn together with colourful local material. They are wonderful a percussive instrument and can be worn on the wrist whilst dancing.

Monkey Drum

The "spirit drum" or "monkey drum" is a two-headed drum which is played by quickly turning the wrist so that the beads strike the drum heads. They are a popular instrument on South America as they are so easy for children to play.

Sonaja

A Sonja is a basket rattle from Peru. Traditionally they are hand woven from soft straw and consist of a small basket casing with a tinkling bell inside.

