

PERCUSSION HISTORY TIMELINE

6000 BCE

Neolithic Frame Drums

Excavations in Mesopotamia reveal the earliest use of cylindrical drums made from hollowed logs and animal skins.

3000 BCE

Paigu & Bronze Bells

Early metalwork in Ancient China leads to the creation of tuned bells and complex wooden percussion ensembles.

1200 BCE

Sistrum & Cymbals

Ancient Egyptians utilize the Sistrum in religious ceremonies, while early bronze cymbals appear in Israel and Greece.

1400s

Kettledrums (Timpani)

Evolved from Middle Eastern Nakers, these instruments move into European cavalry and eventually the orchestral pit.

1800s

The Orchestral Expansion

Snare drums and bass drums become staples of the symphonic repertoire during the Romantic era.

1909

The Modern Bass Drum Pedal

William F. Ludwig creates the first functional bass drum pedal, paving the way for the modern drum kit.

1980s

Electronic Percussion

The introduction of MIDI and digital sampling leads to the development of electronic drum pads and synthesizers.