



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

INTI - ILLIMANI plays more than 30 wind, string and percussion instruments. In general terms, these instruments belong to the European, American Indian, African and Mestizo cultures which intertwine to form the rich and voluminous musical heritage of the Latin American Continent.

INTI - ILLIMANI has carried out permanent tours in the 5 continents, as well as residing in Italy for more than 14 years. On these tours, INTI – ILLIMANI has come into contact with numerous cultures, often integrating their instruments to Inti-Illimani's music. This is the case with the Dulcimer, a string-percussion instrument from the Middle East, which the group integrated in Turkey. A similar situation occurred with the Peruvian Cajon, an instrument of the urban musical culture of Peru.

STRING INSTRUMENTS: Guitars, Bass Guitarron Mexicano, Electro Acoustic Bass, Cuatro, Tiple, Charango, Charangon, Mandolin, Paraguay Harp, Hammered Dulcimer, Violin, Viola

GUITAR

A European instrument adopted by the Latin American population. It is the basic instrument of the Chilean folk music.

GUITARRON MEXICANO

A mixture of a traditional jazz bass and a guitar, having the structure of a guitar of large dimensions, but which has only 4 strings.

CUATRO

Instrument of Venezuelan and Colombian origin, with four strings and the resonance case smaller than the guitar. It produces a dry sound.

TIPLE

Small guitar with a very full sound produced by twelve strings (4 groups of 3). Played mostly in Colombia.

CHARANGO

The most indigenous of all the guitar-like instruments. It is believed the instrument is a descendant of the guitar, lute or mandolin, and that the Incas of the region known today as Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, part of Argentina and northern Chile, originally made it from a string instrument introduced by the Spaniards. It is an instrument with five-paired strings mounted over a resonance case made of the carapace of a small armadillo, or of a special wood. The sound is very high pitched and penetrating, giving its special character to the traditional music of northern Chile, Bolivia and Argentina.

HAMMERED DULCIMER

A Middle Eastern instrument currently used in the popular music of Turkey, Romania and Greece. It has a horizontal box with three rows of strings, which sound when hammered with two small drumsticks, which are hand-manipulated.

VIOLIN

A traditional violin, with popular use in Latin America as well as Celtic music. Due to a special tuning, it often produces a high pitched and sometimes penetrating sound.

WIND INSTRUMENTS: Quena, Sikus, Rondador, Mohoseño, Flute, Bass Flute, Piccolo, Soprano Saxophone, Clarinet

QUENA

A bamboo flute without a mouthpiece, which produces a sweet and melancholic sound. It is a very representative folk instrument from Andean regions.

SIKUS

This flute is also of Indigenous origin and very similar to East European panpipes. As the zampona does not have all the notes, it is played by pairs of musicians playing alternate notes. Played mostly in the High Plateaus Region.

RONDADOR

A wind instrument of Ecuador, made up of varying lengths of thin bamboo pipes similar to a panpipe. It is essentially a soloist's instrument.

PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS: Pandereta, Guiro, Bombo, Maracas, Peruvian Cajon, Temple Blocks (Cocos), Claves, Bongos, Timbales, Congas, Caja, Cascabel, Palo de Agua, Jew's Harp (Scacciapensieri)

PANDERETA

Similar to a tambourine with metallic disks in the slits of a wooden ring, which holds the drum, skin on one side only.

GUIRO

A bottle gourd instrument of African origin made with a long, hollow gourd. On its surface it has indentations that are stroked by a flexible wooden stick. This instrument is played in the tropical regions of Central and South America.

BOMBO

A bass drum native of Argentina. It is made with tree bark and covered with goatskin. The two drumsticks are sometimes covered with skin or fabric at the end.

MARACAS

An instrument of Central America, but also found in similar forms in other regions of the world. It is made of two small gourds, within which are grains that produce sound when agitated. Played mostly in the tropical regions of Central and South America.

PERUVIAN CAJON

The origins of this instrument are not clear; however, it most likely came to South America via Africa. Essentially it is a wooden percussion box.

COCOS

A percussion instrument somewhat similar to the xylophone, but without a base. It is made up of a collection of wooden pieces, which are stroked with two drumsticks. As it does not have a base, the whole instrument vibrates, resulting in a hollow sound. It is played throughout Central America.

CLAVES

Two pieces of dried wood that are stroked against each other to produce a dry, high pitches sound. Played in the tropical regions of Central and South America.

SCACCIAPENSIERI

("Reliever of Sorrows")

A small metal instrument from the south of Italy, which is placed in the mouth, held with the tongue and pulsated with the fingers. Its peculiar sound is obtained by using the mouth cavity as a resonance box.

CASCABEL

Small instrument with a metallic sound. It is made of a small ring and handle, with two jingle bells attached. There are different types depending on the region.

CAJA

An instrument similar to a military drum. It is played in the north and south of Chile.

PALO DE AGUA

Instrument made of a dried cactus trunk, which has been hollowed out and has its thorns fully, inserted into the trunk. The trunk is closed off at one end, and seeds and small rocks are placed in it. Then the other end is closed off. It is played by turning it up and down at specific angles. As the seeds and rocks hit against the thorns whilst descending, they reproduce the sound of water going down a stream, hence its name "water stick".