

## History of the drums:

### Drums in Africa:

- Drums are thought to have originated from Africa. It is impossible to tell exactly when the first drums were made but what is known is that they were mainly used for communication. African tribes would send messages to each other such as the birth of a child or the death of an elder.
- The types of drums that can be found in Africa have been made from all over the country but the most well known often originate from West Africa.

### Snare Drum:

- There are many different types of snare drum, which are used in different circumstances such as different genres of music, for example, rock, indie, drum 'n' base or pop but the basic snare is typically 14 inches in diameter and around 6 to 8 inches deep.
- The snare drum works by turning the snares on or off using a lever. When the snares are on the drum makes a rattling sound and when they are off it sounds like an ordinary high pitched drum.
- All snare drums have their roots firmly tied to the military and were first used in Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries.
- Snare drums may be made from various materials such as various wood, metal, or acrylic materials.

### Bass Drum:

- The bass drum is most commonly used in music to signal to other musicians that a new bar has begun.
- The size of the kit-style bass drum can be between 18" and 24", the smaller sizes being preferred in jazz music, and 22" being the most common.
- The bass drum used in drum kits is often dampened. This prevents the bass drum from becoming too loud. To dampen a bass drum, the inside can be lined with material such as felt, or something to absorb the sound can be put inside.
- To create a more intense sound a double-bass pedal or two bass drums are sometimes used. This technique is commonly used in some forms of jazz, many forms of heavy metal, fusion and some more extreme forms of punk.
- The bass drum also has roots to the military but also has a strong link to orchestral music. In orchestral music the bass drum is about 36" in diameter, and is played with one or sometimes two large, padded mallets.

### Hi-hat:

- The high hat is probably the most important cymbal in a modern drum kit, and is actually two cymbals that work together.
- The bottom cymbal is slightly heavier and rests upside down on the stand. The lighter top cymbal is the right way up and is attached to a rod which runs through the centre of the stand, to a pedal which is operated with the left foot.
- There are several sounds obtainable from the high hat using a combination of striking the top cymbal and opening and closing the gap between the two cymbals.
- The most common sound we hear these days from the high hat, is when the top cymbal is struck while it is firmly clamped to the bottom cymbal with the pedal. This is what we call a "closed" sound.
- It is probably safe to say that the high hat evolved as a mechanical version of the hand held crash cymbals we still see in drum corps and orchestras today.

### Toms

- The first drum kit tom-toms had no rims; the heads were tacked to the shell. Jazz drummers used the heat from a match and water to tune them. The best were imported from China.
- As major drum manufacturers began to offer tunable tom-toms with hoops and tuning lugs, a 12" drum 8" deep became standard, mounted on the left side of the bass drum.
- Later a 16" drum 16" deep mounted on three legs; a floor tom was added.
- Finally, a second drum was mounted on the right of the bass drum, a 13" diameter drum 9" deep. Together with a 14" snare drum and a bass drum of varying size, these three made up the standard kit of five drums for most of the second half of the 20th century.
- Typically a tom consists of a shell, chromed or plated metal hardware and head.

### Cymbals:

#### Crash

- A crash cymbal is a type of cymbal that produces a loud, sharp "crash" and is used mainly for occasional accents
- Although crash cymbals range in thickness from paper-thin to very heavy, all crash cymbals have a fairly thin edge. They are typically 16 to 20 inches in diameter, but sizes down to 8 inches and up to 24 inches are manufactured.

#### Ride

- A ride cymbal is a type of cymbal that is a standard part of most drum kits. Its function is to maintain a rhythm, rather than to provide accents.
- When struck, a ride cymbal makes a sustained, shimmering sound rather than the shorter, decaying sound of a crash cymbal. The most common diameter for a ride cymbal is about 20", but anything from 18" to 22" is standard

### Jazz Drumming

- Jazz is one of the first genres of music to use a modern drum kit that consisted of a hi-hat, snare, bass drum, toms and cymbals.
- While jazz may be difficult to define, improvisation is clearly one of its key elements. Early blues was commonly structured around a repetitive call-and-response pattern, a common element in the African American oral tradition. Call and response was often used by African slaves that were out working in the fields in the US.
- The military drumming used in the US is what inspired the technique used by early jazz drummers in America.
- Lavish festivals featuring African dances to drums were organized on Sundays at Congo Square, in New Orleans until 1843, as were similar gatherings in New England and New York.
- Jazz evolved from simple rhythms into a popular genre of music which is still widely listened to today.

### Rock & Roll Drumming

- Rock and roll is a genre of music that evolved in the United States in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and quickly spread to the rest of the world.
- Classic rock and roll is played with one or two electric guitars, a string bass or an electric bass guitar, and a drum kit. In the earliest rock and roll styles of the late 1940s and early 1950s, either the piano or saxophone was often the lead instrument, but these were generally replaced by guitar in the mid to late 1950s.
- In 1964 drumming became more popular when Ringo Starr of The Beatles played his Ludwig kit on American television.
- The immediate origins of rock and roll lie in the late 1940s and early 1950s, through a mixing together of various popular musical genres of the time. These included gospel, folk music, and the blues
- There are many candidates for the title of the first rock and roll record, but it is arguable whether any such thing exists. Like all forms of music, the roots of "rock and roll" are deep and wide. But it is clear that rock and roll developed during the period between 1916 – when the words "rockin' and rollin'" were first heard together on record – and 1956, by which time "rock and roll" had become an international musical and social phenomenon.

### Rock Drumming

- 'Rock' does not always refer to one genre of music. Rock can be split up into many sub-genres for example soft rock, heavy metal, hard rock, progressive rock, punk, alternative, grunge, indie rock, and nu-metal.
- Many rock groups consist of a guitarist, lead singer, bass guitarist, and drummer, forming a quartet. Others additional musicians are often included such as one or two rhythm guitarists and a keyboardist. More rarely, groups also include stringed instruments such as violins or cellos, or horns like trumpets or trombones.
- Rock developed the most in the 1970's when it took on influences such as soul, funk, and Latin music.
- The drum kit is a prominent instrument in rock as many drummers often perform drum solos incorporated into songs but also performs solos at the bands concert.
- The influence of rock is far-reaching, and has had significant impact worldwide
- The trend of many rock stars performing at charity events such as Live Aid. Saving the World is becoming a more and more common phrase associated with rock music today.

### Pop Drumming

- 'Pop' refers to popular music rather than any specific genre Although pop music is produced with a desire to sell records and do well in the charts, it does not always crave commercial success
- In opposition to music that requires education or formation to appreciate, a defining characteristic of pop music is that anyone is able to enjoy it.
- The standard format of pop music is that the song is normally less than five minutes in duration, and with an instrumentation that can range from an orchestra to a lone singer. Despite this wide scope, a typical line-up in a pop band includes a lead guitarist, a bassist, a drummer, a keyboardist and one or more singers, ordinarily not themselves instrumentalists.
- The drum kit does not have such an important role in pop as the drums are commonly used simply to hold a beat where as in rock the drum kit is one of main features
- Pop incorporates a whole range of genres, styles and techniques as it takes the most admired features of genres and incorporates them all
- The 90's is probably the most important decade in pop as this when the genre became most well-known
- Many films used pop music in their soundtracks such as my heart will go on from Titanic. The film industry inevitably benefited from this hugely boosting both the music and film industry

