

## Vocabulary

**Melody** – The part of the music that is the tune. Can only be played using tuned instruments.

**Pentatonic scale** – The series of five notes often found in Far Eastern music. C, D, E, G and A.

**Rhythm** – A pattern of sounds in relation to a steady beat.

**Style** – The musical conventions particular to different countries or traditions.

**Tuned percussion** - percussion instruments that can play different pitches – xylophones, glockenspiels, chime bars etc.

**Untuned percussion** - percussion instruments that can only make a limited number of sounds – drums, shakers, claves, tambourines.

## What does music from the Far East sound like?



### **Music from the Far East:**

The 'Far East' includes countries from the Eastern side of Asia, including China, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, to name just a few. Each of these has their own individual style of music.

In Chinese music, the pentatonic scale is used a lot. This is a scale of music including just 5 notes: C, D, E, G and A. The use of these notes gives the music a particular feel – how would you describe it?

## **Prior learning**

Work in KS1 on untuned percussion and rhythm, listening to and appraising music and rhythms from Africa and India.

### **Interesting ideas:**

Different countries use a variety of different instruments particular to their own customs and traditions. These can look quite similar to instruments used in Western culture, but can sound very different. Look at the Erhu, for example, a Chinese instrument which looks a little like a guitar but is played with a bow like a violin. Now listen to its unique sound.

### **Useful links:**

Watch the Youtube video below for an example of Chinese music. Watch from 9 minutes:

[Masterpieces of Chinese Music: A Musical Performance by Music from China - YouTube](#)