

PERCUSSION

The **percussion** family includes instruments whose sounds are made by striking things. There are two kinds of percussion instruments: those that are tuned and those that have indefinite pitch.

TUNED PERCUSSION instruments can produce all the notes of the musical scale. They are played by striking with sticks or *mallets*. Examples of such instruments are the xylophone, marimba, glockenspiel, chimes and timpani (or kettledrums).

Instruments of **INDEFINITE PITCH** can usually only play one particular note or sound and are used to create crashes, loud noises, and other sound effects. Examples include the bass drum, snare drum, cymbals, triangle, tambourine, castanets, and sleigh bells.



SPECIAL CASES

The **HARP** is closely related to the string family because it has strings which are plucked or strummed by the harpist's hands.

The **PIANO** also has strings, but they are struck by little hammers when the keys are pressed down. For this reason, a piano is related to the percussion family.



HARP



PIANO