



 PercussionPlay[®]
Outdoor Musical Instruments

Outdoor Musical Instruments for
Camps

Summer Camp that Hits the Right Notes

Camp isn't just fun; it's a formative experience that allows children to discover themselves independently. Through the variety of physical and creative activities on offer, summer camp becomes the perfect opportunity to boost a child's confidence and learn essential social skills.

Great camp activities and programs will offer campers something new, help develop skills or artistic talents, and overcome challenges in a supportive and caring environment. Campers learn that they're capable of doing so many different things. These positive experiences will stay with them for life, with some activities turning into lifelong pursuits – including music.

Outdoor musical instruments help camps utilize their key resource: the great outdoors! Leveraging outdoor spaces to encourage fun musical activities and programs that connect music with nature and the environment would be a significant asset to the camp community - fueling inspiration, generating energy, and engaging campers and staff in a new way. Campers will return home with more confidence, new musical talents, and new friends.



Harmony Flowers



Large Babel Drum



Cavatina & Music Book



Harmony Hop

Building Skills and Expressing Emotions

Accessible outdoor musical instruments allow children to create unique and exciting music each day – with or without staff help. All ages and abilities can discover and develop musical skills and techniques and get creative whenever they want, inspired by beautiful surroundings and the great outdoors.

Learning to be creative is a skill transferable to many subjects and walks of life by encouraging curiosity, open-mindedness, imagination, and problem-solving. Music can also be a constructive way to express who you are and how you feel. Campers may experience many difficult emotions, such as homesickness, anger or frustration, anxiety, or sadness. Making music can influence the mood of the player, can reduce stress, and improve the sense of wellbeing through creative self-expression.

Most of all, though, playing music makes people happy! Few pleasures in this world compare to the high you feel from letting your soul flow through your body and out through improvisation and music making. They provide a fantastic opportunity for campers and counselors to have great fun and explore different musical styles in an encouraging and inspiring environment.

“Every day I see campers with big smiles on their faces playing next to and with each other. Everyone finds their own way of engaging with the music; every day is beautiful and full of new possibilities”

♪Amy Kurth♪

Program Director at Camp Courageous



Handpipes



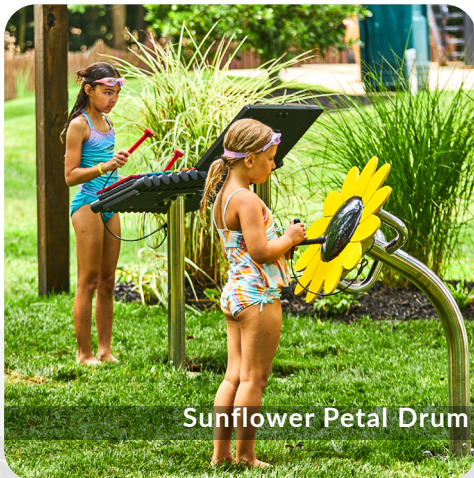
Tubular Bells

Magical Music Garden at Chartwell Happy Day Camp, NJ

Chartwell Happy Day Camp has made significant investments to enhance its creative arts programs for its kids, which include a wide range of percussion instruments. The camp already boasts a Performing Arts Center area and stage, as well as its Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, to help save the endangered Monarch butterfly and to educate the kids about their life cycle and small ways in which they might help the Monarch. Outdoor musical instruments from Percussion Play are now part of the interactive initiative by the team at Chartwell Happy Day Camp to come to fruition.

Earlier this year, the team created an area within its 15 acres called Chartwell's Magical Musical Garden to help make it a fun and inviting area for the kids. The kids now migrate over to the area during their free time to play the instruments.

The camp, which is a family-friendly summer day camp for kids aged 3-14, decided to include the [Liberty Bells](#), [Petal Drums](#), [Rainbow Cavatina](#), [Music Book](#), [Harmony Bells](#), and [Rainbow Chimes](#).



Sunflower Petal Drum



Cavatina & Music Book



Rainbow Chimes

Since the installation, the camp counselors have been taking the age-appropriate kids at the day camp to the area to play the instruments.

They have also introduced the gardens to the parents and had a drone video made with all the kids playing and having fun to help promote Chartwell's Magical Musical Garden. They are in the process of incorporating the activity into their drama and music program at the camp.

James Johnston, Owner of Chartwell Happy Day Camp, comments, "At the American Camp Association Convention in Orlando, we came across Percussion Play and their range of outdoor musical instruments. We sat down with a representative at the conference to learn more about the company and decided Percussion Play instruments could be a good part of our anticipated creative arts program at Chartwell Happy Day Camp. We were looking to expand our day camp program, and music was one of the areas we wanted to expand".

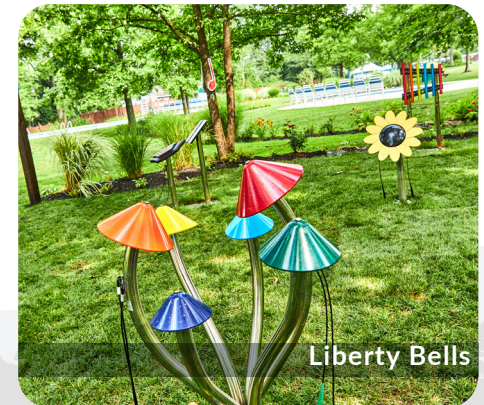
"We are impressed by the quality and sound of the instruments, they are built to last, and will add value to our learning programs at Chartwell Happy Day Camp."

♪James Johnston♪

Owner of Chartwell Happy Day Camp



Cavatina



Liberty Bells

Inclusive Music-Making at Camp Courageous, IA

Camp Courageous is a non-profit organization providing year-round recreational and respite care opportunities for individuals with special needs. For nearly 50 years, the team at Camp Courageous has looked for unique and different ways to reach all of their campers who each have additional educational and physical needs, and their most recent addition, a musical park, is proving to have a particularly remarkable impact.

According to Amy Kurth, program director, the idea of an outdoor musical space took root over two years ago when she first joined Camp Courageous. She had researched the idea and could immediately see the benefits for their camp guests. Through a variety of fundraisers, grants, and sponsors, the local Monticello Rotary Club was able to support the project with a view to donating more instruments in the free future.



During Amy's research, she became aware of the benefits of outdoor musical instruments tuned to the pentatonic scale - meaning that however many people are playing the various instruments at the same time, the resulting sound will always be beautifully harmonized. Giving campers such a positive feeling of success, independence, and increased confidence was something she imagined would be a wonderful addition to the camp. The instruments would clearly be ideal to help bolster the camp's vision of inclusivity, supporting a wide range of people with disabilities of all ages from 4 to 104!

Taking into account the range of ages and abilities, Percussion Play recommended a suitable collection of instruments that would appeal to younger and older individuals. The Rotary Music Park is now a favorite with all campers and includes a [Rainbow Cavatina](#) with accompanying [Music Book](#), [Babel Drums](#), [Duo](#), [Papilio](#), [Diatonic Symphony Freechimes](#), [Tembos](#), and [Calypto Quatro Post](#).

“Every activity is a little bit different, but this activity is one where you can have campers who use wheelchairs, campers that have a wide variety of disabilities all come together and entertain each other.”

♪Charlie Becker♪

Camp Courageous CEO

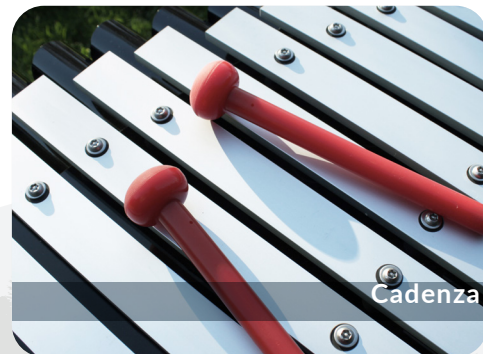


Musical Programs at Camp Henry, MI

Campers at a Christian camp in Michigan have been using outdoor musical instruments for fun and self-expression. Camp Henry, based in Newaygo on Lake Kimball, was founded in 1937 to serve students and families across Michigan. The camp provides life-changing experiences in a Christian environment throughout the year to thousands of fellow Christians.

Fiona Scott - Assistant Program Director, entered a competition in the National Recreation and Park Association's magazine, hoping to win outdoor musical instruments for Camp Henry. The prize was a Percussion Play [Soprano Quartet Ensemble](#), which includes the [Cadenza](#), [Small Babel Drum](#), Pair of [Congas](#) and [Soprano Pentatonic Freechimes](#).

After being told of her win, Fiona told the magazine, "Initially, I simply hoped for kids to have fun with the ensemble. After talking to Robin from Percussion Play, I now see it as a more meaningful addition to our camp program. The Percussion Play outdoor musical instruments allow everyone to make music in a low-stakes setting where no musical 'talent' is required or expected, rather fun and making sound are the expectations. At Camp Henry, we aim to have encouragement outweigh criticism and to give everyone opportunities to try something new. I believe the Percussion Play [Soprano Quartet Ensemble](#) will provide another avenue for guests to have those experiences."



Fiona entered the competition, as although they already had musical instruments in the camp, they had no permanent musical offering on their grounds. The installation was completed in time for the high season. Situated on the upper camp near the sports fields, the instruments are used predominantly by campers in their free time, allowing guests to be musically creative either alone or within a group.

As the new instruments are situated in a busy part of the camp, passing campers can stop and have a quick play when they are moving around the grounds. Fiona has even spotted a few staff having a play when they think no one is looking!

The quartet is Percussion Play's most popular ensemble thanks to the diverse instruments included and clever use of the pentatonic tuning, meaning it is impossible to play wrong notes and is suitable for all ages and abilities.

“The Percussion Play outdoor musical instruments allow everyone to make music in a low-stakes setting where no musical ‘talent’ is required or expected, rather fun and making sound are the expectations.”

♪ Fiona Scott ♪

Assistant Program Director at Camp Henry



Freechimes



Congas



Small Babel Drum

Musical Play at Lake Aurora Christian Camp, FL

For 75 years, Lake Aurora Christian Camp and Retreat Center in Florida has provided quality Christian camping for all ages. Now, the retreat can add musical play to its offering with the arrival of a range of outdoor musical instruments from Percussion Play.

Steve Bornemann, part of the Camp's Executive Team, was interested in adding musical instruments to the retreat for the camp's children to enjoy during their free time. It was decided that the instruments would be erected in the children's playground to add an extra dimension of play, one that is aimed at unstructured, creative, sensory play and learning.

Steve comments, "A neighboring town garden has outdoor musical instruments, and I was keen to install something similar. After researching online, I found Percussion Play's wide range of instruments. The instruments are inclusive for wheelchair users, which was important for us so that we can ensure that all of our guests can enjoy playing them. We then set to work to decide which instruments to purchase."

Choices were narrowed down and put to a team vote, resulting in the camp buying [Harmony Bells](#), an [Akadinda](#), [Rainbow Cavatina](#) with [Music Book](#), [Babel Drum](#) and the children's favorite - the [Talk Tubes](#). Installed in the 75-acre campsite, the instruments are being used for children to play in their downtime in between programs. During the summer months, they will intend to use the instruments in their program of activities and while worshipping.



Cavatina



Large Babel Drum



Akadinda



Harmony Bells Bunch

Wendy's Music Garden at Woodlarks Camp Site

The campsite opened its doors over 90 years ago by Dorothea Strover and her husband Martyn, to accommodate scouts and girl guides who brought campers with disabilities to stay.

On offer today at the campsite is the ability to make music in the 'Green Valley,' located just below the main buildings, to the south of the site. This secluded and tranquil valley is where Percussion Play's outdoor musical instruments have been installed to the delight of campers, visitors, and volunteers.

The colorful Rainbow [Cavatina](#) stands out in the lush green grass. Its diatonic tuning offers a versatile range of expressions for beginners and experienced musicians alike. Along with the [Conga Drums](#), the [Freechimes](#), and the [Large Babel Drum](#), this space allows for many people to play music together and easily move from one instrument to another.

Making music has had a profound impact on the visitors. Many people attending Woodlarks Camp Site have either a heightened sensory awareness or a reduced one.

"For our visitors to be able to experience cause and effect is key. They have such little control of their own lives that to be able to control something else is very important. Music is such great therapy"

♪ Sarah Lane ♪

Secretary at Woodlark

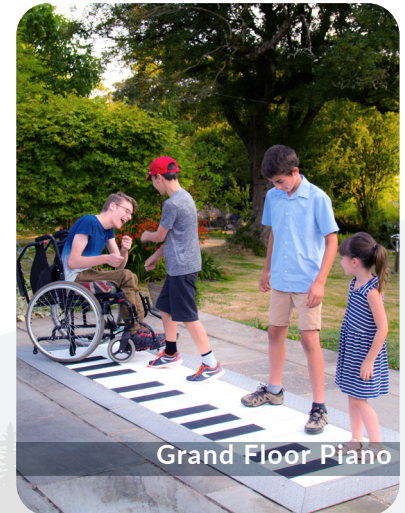


Music Brings People Together

Summer camp gives kids the chance to interact with new groups of people from all over the country with various abilities, cultures, and even languages. This is what makes camp so special—this blending of different personalities and backgrounds – and, like a powerful social glue, music can help bring people together and foster teamwork, cooperation, and negotiation.

Music is one way of communicating belonging, and campers will feel closer and more connected through the experience of making music together. Skills such as songwriting, singing, and musical performance will help develop social skills and self-expression, letting creative voices be heard in inclusive and diverse communities.

Campers will learn from each other by listening and joining in, coordinating their musical efforts, increasing empathy and trust, maximizing peer-to-peer socializing opportunities, and strengthening social bonds.



Boosting Mental Health

Creating music can have numerous benefits for the mental health of young people. Studies have shown that it can improve cognitive function, boost self-esteem, reduce anxiety and depression, and encourage social interaction.

It also allows individuals to express themselves creatively and develop a sense of accomplishment and pride in their abilities. Music can serve as an outlet for emotions, helping individuals to work through difficult feelings and experiences. Even without prior musical training, music is an excellent way to express oneself.

Outdoor musical instruments offer a fun and spontaneous way to experiment with music without the constraints of traditional scales. These instruments are especially beneficial for camp counselors who aim to introduce their guests to music while fostering creativity and self-expression. Playing music on outdoor instruments amidst nature can help guests express themselves, relax, relieve stress, and feel inspired and uplifted.

No supervision is necessary, and since the instruments are permanently installed, campers can return at any time, alone or with friends, to improvise, compose, or relax while creating melodies in the great outdoors.



Rainbow Sambas



Daisy Petal Drums

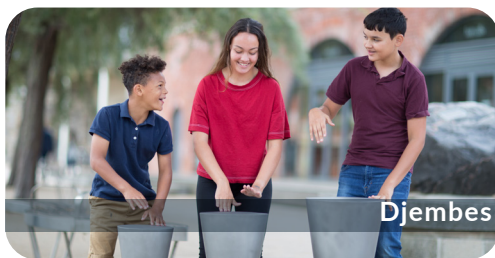


Cadenza

The Sound of Summer

Jazz up the summer camp atmosphere with outdoor musical instruments. Here is a list of eight reasons we believe music in the great outdoors will engage and delight campers this summer.

- ♪ Their accessibility will pique the interest of campers of all abilities - young and old!
- ♪ Their permanence allows open-ended play opportunities for players to revisit and tweak their musical compositions throughout the summer.



- ♪ Provide an emotional outlet to communicate or express feelings.
- ♪ Give campers the chance to make music on authentic instruments, develop their musical ear, and be potential gateway instruments for future musicians.
- ♪ Encourage the body and mind to work together and develop skills essential for success in life, such as concentration, confidence, and self-esteem.
- ♪ Help contribute to simple unplugged camp memories that will last a lifetime.
- ♪ Making music together will bring about friendships and fun.
- ♪ Perfect for downtime or in-between activities where little or no supervision is required.

“No musical ‘talent’ is required or expected, rather fun and making sound are the expectations. This is a meaningful addition to our camp program.”

♪ **Fiona Scott** ♪

Assistant Program Director at Camp Henry





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