



PercussionPlay®  
Outdoor Musical Instruments

Outdoor Musical Instruments for  
Visitor Attractions

# Music Made For The Great Outdoors

Percussion Play are the world's leading manufacturer of outdoor musical instruments. Designed with durability in mind, we are committed to making musical expression accessible to everyone, everywhere.



# Musical Activities for All The Family

Over the years, our outdoor musical instruments have found themselves in many varied locations made for family fun, including amusement parks, theme parks, zoos, museums, farm parks, roadside attractions, shopping malls, sightseeing spots, as well as cultural and historical attractions.

From screaming thrill rides to wonderful animal exhibits, the top priority for each of these attractions is to present unique, playful experiences that are interesting for all age groups, help create special memories and provide an awesome day out for the entire family.

Making music together is a fun activity that the whole family can get involved in - regardless of fitness level, age, gender, or ability. Plus, the cognitive, physical, and emotional benefits that music brings to children, parents and elders means installing outdoor musical instruments is a heartwarming win-win for everyone.

In places where togetherness is the order of the day, our instruments let your guests discover their inner music-maker while playing with the people they love the most.

***“It has been wonderful to see the parents and kids interact together with the instruments. Sometimes we’ll have a whole family band back there!”***

♪ Bre Hauboldt ♪

Coordinator at Building For Kids Children’s Museum



Bell Lyre



Liberty Bells

# Musical Maze at The Patch, MK

The Patch, located near Milton Keynes, is one of the largest pick-your-own wildflower and pumpkin farms in the UK. With three mazes, it attracts hundreds of visitors each summer.

Joe, the managing director, looked into how it could incorporate more activities into the farm, and he came across research showing how music and audio can enhance visitor attractions and increase customer satisfaction. Visitors of The Patch can now navigate through the new Musical Maze.



Setting out to add a musical element, Joe came across Percussion Play and appreciated the handmade build quality of the instruments.

The instruments discovered and played in the maze include [Petal Drums](#), [Akadinda](#), [Tutti](#), [My Tunes](#), [Rainbow Cavatina](#), [Music Book](#), [Calypso Quatro Post](#), [Harmony Bells](#), and [Harmony Flowers](#).

Importantly, the Musical Maze is inclusive and can be enjoyed by everyone, no matter their age, ability, or knowledge of music-making. The instruments are tuned to the Pentatonic Scale, meaning there are no ‘wrong notes,’ so you can create beautiful sounds no matter your knowledge or ability. Both young and old can play together.

Once the season ends, Joe will move them inside but they will return outside in a new maze next summer!

***“Research proves that adding music and audio to visitor attractions – crossed with the play interaction – increases visitor satisfaction.”***

♪ Joe Gurney ♪

Managing Director at The Patch MK



# Music at The Children's Science Museum, Norway

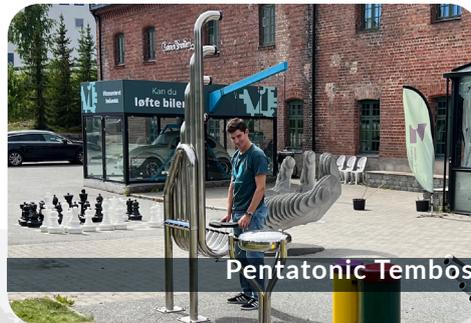
A 2-hour drive from Oslo, Vitensenteret Innlandet, is a Science Center in Gjøvik, Norway. The center offers a variety of activities and exhibitions focused on maths, natural sciences, technology, and now music!

A new exhibition 'Lydbølgen' and musical experience space exploring the physics behind music, has recently opened. Children can learn how we hear music and understand the science involved. Percussion Play's instruments are part of the exhibition and are situated outside the front of the museum.

The museum's instruments included the [Congas](#), [Large Babel Drum](#), [Papilio](#) along with the most popular instrument [Pentatonic Tembos](#).

Having this musical installation is also benefiting the local community. While people walk their dogs in the nearby park, they can hear the fun people are having at the museum.

Gavin Robb, a technician and part of the crew that designs and builds all the exhibitions at the museum, says, "It's a great way to entice children to come in and explore the museum. The children enjoy playing them and making music, and because of how the instruments are tuned, they always sound nice."



# Education Center at Sir Harold Hilliers, UK

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum (SHHG) offers children the chance to discover, explore, and learn about our natural world while creating music.

Carla Thomas-Buffin, the site's Education Officer, was researching different ways to encourage more families to visit through improved recreational opportunities. Today, there is a wealth of activities families can engage in, including making music in the Education Garden.

When redesigning this garden area which had become overgrown, Carla was aware of the need to set up positive play interactions and make it fully inclusive with attractive instruments that could be played by everyone, from people using wheelchairs to people with learning disabilities.

Carla involved the Occupational Therapy faculty from the University of Southampton and their "Design for Living" students. Seeking a range of tones, the team installed the popular [Emperor Chimes](#) and added a set of three metal [Cajon Drum Circle](#) and the mellow-toned [Akadinda](#). They also added the [Rainbow Trio Ensemble](#), made up of a trio of [Rainbow Bongos](#), a small [Rainbow Metallophone](#), and small [Rainbow Chimes](#).

***“Users can interact with the instrument in meaningful ways, which may improve sensory stimulus, feedback, and response to the world around them.”***

♪ Sarah McGinley ♪

Occupational Therapy Lecturer



Cajon



Akadinda



Cavatina & Music Book

# Musical Discovery at York Maze Family Attraction, UK

The team at York Maze knew they wanted to create something special amongst the tall circles of maize they had planted last year. They were keen to provide a sensory activity that was more laid back and inclusive than the adventure park and physical activities they offered elsewhere.

As the maize grew, they installed Percussion Play's instruments in early summer. The long, hot summer of 2022 saw both children and adults exploring the maze, discovering a range of instruments hidden in different areas.



Bell Lyre



Tutti



Harmony Flowers

The concentric circles of maize created pathways that led to small areas where the instruments were mounted on oversized aluminum platforms. Due to the maize growing high, the instruments were hidden from sight, but the chimes and bells could be heard across the fields.

One of the reasons why York Maze chose instruments was because they could be played independently with no staff being needed to supervise. Being mounted, the instruments could also be moved and placed in storage over the winter after the maize was harvested.

The collection of instruments selected by York Maze were; [Bell Lyre](#), [Handpipes](#), [Large Babel Drum](#), [Harmony Flowers](#), [Harmony Bells](#), [Rainbow Bongos](#), [Calypso Quatro Post](#), [Petal Drums](#), [Harmony Flowers](#), [Calypso Chimes](#), [Tutti](#), and [Tembos](#).

Next year, the team plans to replant the maize and bring the instruments out again for all to enjoy.

***“It is great having the instruments separated as they can be played by different groups, but together. It has brought strangers together to create music.”***

♪ Tom Percy ♪

Director of York Maze



Pentatonic Tembos



Daisy Petal Drum

# Rosita's Harmony Hills in Sesame Place Seaworld, San Diego

Sesame Place is the newest theme park to open in California and the second theme park of its kind in the United States, and the perfect getaway for families and kids of all ages. The theme park is full of immersive experiences and now offers guests a chance to use their imagination and practice their musical skills on various chimes and bells. During a day at the park, guests can spend time at Rosita's Harmony Hills, a soft play area for younger guests, which includes Percussion Play's outdoor musical instruments. Children can climb, crawl, and create beautiful music while playing on rolling green hillsides.



The ability to play together... Rosita's Harmony Hills is a brightly colored, soft play area where kids can try different tune combinations and make music on various percussion instruments. The site was designed as an interactive play experience where children can explore and enjoy the harmonious musical instruments while also serving as a place to relax between soaring and spinning on rides and splashing and splashing on water slides.

Percussion Play's instruments were a great choice because of the selection of both traditional-looking instruments and instruments that are inspired by nature, which helped create a beautiful space for everyone to explore and enjoy. Musical instruments were chosen particularly because Sesame Street's Rosita loves to play guitar and create music with her Sesame Street friends.

Fun Fact: The [Calypso Chimes](#) at Rosita's Harmony Hills include the nine notes needed to play the beloved Sunny Days theme song from Sesame Street.

***“We wanted to create an area where children can explore independently - and most importantly, we wanted the experience to have an educational component. Music was a natural direction because everyone loves music!”***

♪Clint Brinker♪

Senior Project Manager at SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment



Harmony Flowers

# Bocketts Farm Park, Leatherhead

Nestled in the UK's Surrey countryside, Bockett's Farm Park is a working farm and a popular destination for families who can enjoy a day out meeting the wide range of farm animals, from pigs to ducks and chickens. With lots to explore and see, a farm visit wouldn't be complete without a trip to the musical playground where visitors of all ages can come together and create music amongst the background noise of the farmyard.

The Director of Bockett's Farm, Hannah Wafula, wanted to add more instruments to their 'Squirrel Scramble' area. She says, "We know how popular the instruments are, so we were really keen to add more. The instruments are scattered around the area and bring it to life with the bright colors."

Bockett's Farm had already installed a set of [Rainbow Sambas](#) and Percussion Play [MyTunes chimes](#) that play 'Old Macdonald Had A Farm' when the notes are struck sequentially. Keen to expand the musical area, the team recently added [Harmony Flowers](#), [Petal Drums](#), [Rainbow Bongos](#), and [Rainbow Chimes](#). Inspired by Nature, these instruments are the perfect fit for the farmyard and have been embraced by everyone.

***"Children enjoy the flowers and what is great is that they are inclusive, so everyone, regardless of age or ability, can play and make music."***

♪Hannah Wafula♪

Director of Bockett's Farm



Sunflower Petal Drum



Harmony Flowers Bunch



Rainbow Sambas

# North Cadbury Court Wedding Venue, Yeovil

North Cadbury Court, a luxurious 16th Century country house in Somerset, has recently introduced outdoor musical instruments for visitors and guests to play when exploring their extensive grounds.

Archie Montgomery first saw Percussion Play's instruments at a conference and was inspired to include them at his home. Archie and his wife, Janet, visited Percussion Play to see the instruments and quickly realized they would make a great addition to the lively and dynamic house.

Archie sadly passed away in 2021, but visitors enjoy the collection of instruments inspired by him, and Janet is happy to hear the gentle sounds of the instruments.

Janet says the instruments have been a hit with children. They provide an activity that all can enjoy, and they're particularly popular with children at weddings. The instruments include a [Large Babel Drum](#), [Rainbow Cavatina](#), [Music Book](#), and [Harmony](#). Since Archie's passing, the Babel Drum was engraved with the words 'Always look on the bright side of life' to memorialize him.

***"The children go out and enjoy playing on them with their parents and grandparents; it is a way of getting people together."***

♪ Janet Montgomery ♪

Owner & Director of North Cadbury Court



# Sensory and Inclusive Play

The very best visitor attractions offer inclusive experiences for a range of ages and abilities and excel in offering their guests easy access to their exhibits. Additionally, their focus on different physical and sensory needs for autistic people, individuals with learning disabilities and sensory impairments, as well as those with varying mobility requirements, makes them stand out in terms of inclusivity.

Outdoor musical instruments are a great way for families and guests to take a calm moment away from the excitement of the main attractions, decompress and experience a different kind of activity together that will make a great day out even better.

As stand-alone features, installed in calm, sensory-friendly areas away from the lively park, they offer a tranquil opportunity for parents, grandparents, or guardians to interact with their children while providing a creative way for attractions to appeal to a wider range of guests with differing abilities and sensory needs.



# Creating Your Own Music Play Space

Our instruments are easy to play and are either pentatonically tuned (for easy improvisation with no clashing notes), or diatonically tuned (allowing the user to play favorite tunes as well as improvising or composing their own).

Constructed of durable, easily cared-for materials, the instruments are low maintenance and require no safer surfacing. We assemble each instrument as far as possible before shipping and send clear, easy-to-follow installation instructions for each instrument.

Successful attractions with an outdoor element should always have a wet weather plan! Our 'outdoor' musical instruments have been successfully installed indoors in many different locations, including specially created music barns or sensory rooms.

The majority of our instruments can be ground or surface fixed and we also have a range of space-saving wall-mounted instruments.

From drums to [xylophones](#), [chimes](#), [marimbas](#) and even [floor pianos](#), our impressive catalog of instruments knows no limits and there is something for everyone.

***“The children enjoy playing the instruments and making music, and because of how the instruments are tuned, they always sound nice. It’s a great way to entice children to come in and explore the museum.”***

♪ Gavin Robb ♪

Children’s Science Museum Exhibit technician and designer



# Choosing Your Sound

## ♪ Ensembles

These crowd-pleasing ensembles and collections, suitable for beginners as well as those who are a little more advanced, are a great way to get your outdoor music project moving quickly!

You know you want a great combination of outdoor musical instruments, but just don't know where to begin to ensure the different instruments you select will work together harmoniously. Don't worry, we've done the hard work for you!

We've carefully considered the character and sound each instrument produces to ensure the absolute best combinations of our instruments - saving you both time and money and guaranteeing a memorable and unique sound.

An [Ensemble](#) allows players the opportunity to explore several outdoor percussion instruments, experiment with different playing techniques, practice improvisation and learn the fundamentals (and sheer enjoyment) of outdoor group multi-percussion performance.



## ♪ My Tunes

[My Tunes](#) are a unique concept and great fun to play for all ages. Anodized aluminum notes are suspended between stainless steel posts and arranged sequentially so that by simply striking the notes in order a familiar tune is played.

Choose from well-known favorite songs or personalize to suit the instrument's location or target audience.

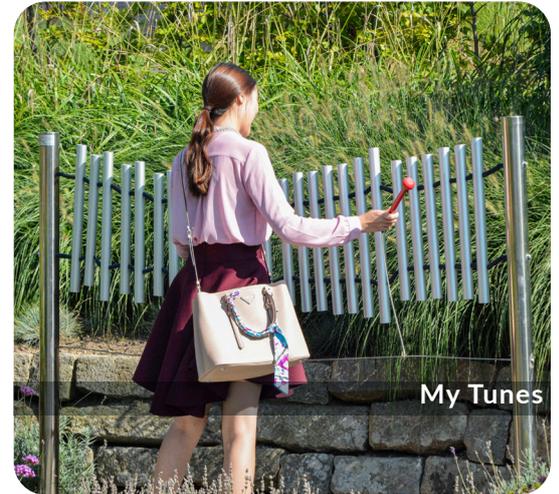
Some examples of our My Tunes projects to date include: Old MacDonald Had a Farm, Teddy Bear's Picnic, Grand Old Duke of York, Frere Jacques, Amazing Grace, Darling Clementine, Ode to Joy, and I do like to be beside the Seaside.

## ♪ Inspired By Nature

Where music, nature and creative thinking meet.

We've been completely inspired by the great outdoors with this collection of nature-themed botanical outdoor musical instruments.

This blossoming collection of botanical outdoor musical instruments encourages a more active engagement with nature and combines learning with pleasure. It includes fabulous floral, fungus, and plant-inspired designs and shapes with superior acoustic qualities.



**My Tunes**



**Petal Drum**



**Harmony Flowers**

# Unplugged Music Champions

If you are interested in bringing the power of inclusive musical play to your family or visitor attraction, then get in touch today. You'll be joining an impressive list of organizations who have already discovered that when friends and families make music together in the great outdoors something magical happens.

Here is a small selection of attractions we have worked with to date:

## ♪ National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

Young children and their families are invited to explore the accessible 'musical maze' and discover the six hidden musical instruments one at a time. Asked why they chose to create a musical maze, Ivor Robinson, who runs the farm with his brother, Tom, told us, "As part of continual investment in the Adventure Farm, we wanted to add a new activity to our outdoor play area that improved the visitor experience. It was important to create a unique attraction accessible to children (and adults) of all ages and abilities."

"Feedback has been fantastic with families telling us how much they enjoyed the maze with their children. It has also inspired families to visit the Adventure Farm to come and try them out!"



## ♪ Tattershall Farm Park, Lincoln

Tattershall Farm Park expanded their sensory area by opening its brand-new Melody Garden earlier this summer.

The owners firmly believed in the power of music and were passionate about bringing the benefits of music to all their visitors, especially those with disabilities.

“Exploring the outdoors and music-making in the open air is a hugely positive experience. Our beautiful brand-new area has the ability to promote inclusive play and benefit everyone.”

## ♪ Farmer Palmers, Dorset

Farmer Palmers, located in the beautiful Dorset countryside, is a family-run, award-winning farm park where everything is designed and aimed at families with younger children. The Palmers decided to include a ‘music lawn’ in spring 2018, having seen the Percussion Play instruments at the Family Attractions Expo at the NEC the previous year. They decided upon a colorful set of [Rainbow Sambas](#) and [Rainbow Cavatina](#) xylophone.

Sandra Palmer-Snellin told us, “The instruments are really popular with our target age group 8 years and under, and they’ve added value to our attraction. The music lawn is a small bright, colorful, and inviting area designed to encourage creativity and dynamic interaction.”



Sunflower Petal Drum



Rainbow Sambas

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