

Music

**What are the roles of different percussion instruments,  
and how can we best describe their sounds?**

Mr Chapman



# Percussion instruments in West Africa

Are the following instruments tuned or untuned? Why?

**Djembe**



**Sabar**



**Gankogui**





# Percussion instruments in West Africa

Are the following instruments tuned or untuned? Why?

**Axatse**



**Balafon**



**Tama**





# Non-percussion instruments in West Africa

Are the following instruments tuned or untuned? Why?

**Kora**



**Ngoni**



**Senegalese bongo**



# Role of instruments

Instruments can have different roles and functions in an ensemble.

## Melodic

Provides the melody for the music

Tuned / pitched instruments

Usually high pitch

Can play an improvised melody

## Harmonic

Accompanies the melody

Usually chords

Tuned / pitched instruments

## Rhythmic

Adds rhythmic interest

Untuned instruments

Establishes the tempo

Keeps players in time



# Role of instruments



Resume once you're finished

Melodic

Harmonic

Rhythmic

Balafon

Balafon

Axatse

Gankogui

Ngoni

Kora

Sabar

Tama

Balafon

Do the same exercise with the instruments in a typical standard rock band or orchestra



# References

- Slide 2 - Djembe, Ghana by ZSM - Wikimedia Commons [Attribution: ZSM / CC BY-SA]
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