

## Terms Used in Percussion

# Marimba

by Michael Rosen

*In this column, I invite readers to submit questions concerning the names of instruments, various nomenclature, playing techniques, etc., found in percussion music. I will do my best to answer these questions and will publish them in the next column and send a personal, more detailed letter if requested.*

Since this issue of *Percussive Notes* is emphasizing the Marimba, I have included several terms that one might find on a marimba part or that refer to the marimba. The order is simply alphabetical with (G) indicating German, (F)—French, (I)—Italian, (S)—Spanish and (L.A.) indicating a Latin American language (these words are often Indian).

auf dem Holzstabchen (G)—on the wooden bars or keys  
Bacchetta di gomma elastica (I)—rubber headed mallet  
Bacchetta di gomma elastica dura (I)—hard rubber mallet  
Bacchetta di gomma elastica mezza dura (I)—medium hard mallet  
Baquette de caoutchouc (F)—rubber headed mallet  
Baquette de caoutchouc dur (F)—hard rubber mallet  
Baquette de caoutchouc semi-dur (F)—medium hard rubber mallet  
Baquette de clavier (F)—generic term for a mallet used on keyboard instruments  
cajón harmónico (L.A.)—resonators  
claviers (F)—keyboard instrument  
enveloppée en fil de laine (F)—yarn wrapped  
étendue (F)—refers to the range of an instrument  
exécuté avec une archet sur la point du bois (F)—play with a bow on the edge of the wooden bar  
fibru tessile (I)—yarn

filato (I)—yarn  
fill (F)—yarn  
fusto in giunco (I) cane handle garnies (F)—generic term for coverings or wrappings  
Gepolsterterhammer (G)—wrapped mallet (does not indicate specific density)  
Gestell (G)—frame of a mallet instrument  
giunco (I)—cane; rattan  
glissando auf den Metallrohren (G)—Glissando on the metal resonators  
glissando auf den Schwarzentasten (G)—glissando on the black keys  
glissando le taste nere (I)—glissando on the black keys  
glissando sui risonatori (I)—glissando on the resonators  
glissando sur les tuyaux métalliques (F)—glissando on the metal resonators  
glissez les touches noires (F)—glissando on the black keys  
glissez sur les résonateurs (F)—glissando on the resonators  
gog (L.A.)—Guatemalan marimba  
goma (S)—rubber  
gomma (I)—rubber  
Griff (G)—grip or handle of a mallet  
Gummi (G)—rubber  
Gummikopfschlegel (G)—rubber headed mallet  
Halbharte (G)—medium hard  
Haltegriff (G)—handle of a mallet  
hampe (F)—shaft; stick; handle of a mallet  
harmonica de Madera (F)—marimba  
Hartgummischlagel (G)—hard rubber mallet (softer than Kautschuk)  
Hartkautschukschlagel (G)—hardest rubber mallet  
Klangplatte (G)—bar of a keyboard instrument  
Klaviatur (G)—keyboard  
koj (L.A.)—Guatemalan marimba  
kojom (L.A.)—Guatemalan marimba  
Laine filée (F)—woolen yarn

laine peignée (F)—yarn  
lame (F)—key; bar  
lames altérées (F)—sharps and flats  
lamina (I)—key; bar  
láminas (S)—key; bar  
maceta (S)—mallet  
manico (I)—handle; shaft of a mallet  
marimba de calabazaz (L.A.)—primitive marimba with gourd resonators  
marimba de tecomates (L.A.)—primitive marimba with gourd resonators  
marimba mit umgekehrten Schlegel (G)—marimba played with the back of the sticks  
Marimbaphon (G)—marimba  
marimbula (S)—not a marimba but rather a large thumb piano type instrument Central American in origins  
MBf (G)—abbr. marimba  
Metallrohren (G)—metal resonators  
mit Griff (G)—with the handle of the mallet  
nima kojam tepunawas (L.A.)—Guatemalan marimba  
organo de paja (S)—marimba  
palissandre (F)—rosewood  
pallina (I)—head of a mallet  
Peddigrohr (G)—flexible rattan handle piano africano (S)—marimba  
requinto (L.A.)—small Guatemalan marimba  
Resonanzröhren (G)—resonators  
ricoperta de lana (I)—yarn wrapped  
rivestita (I)—covered; wrapped  
Rohrsteil (G)—cane handle  
rotin (F)—rattan  
Schlagelköpfe (G)—head of a mallet  
scivolato (I)—glissando  
Selbstklinger (G)—struck idiophone  
sempre note reali (I)—sounds as written  
Silomarimba (I)—xylomarimba; xylorimba  
sonne à l'ive aigue (F)—sounds an octave higher  
son réel (F)—sound as written  
Spanischerohr (G)—flexible rattan

Tasten (G)—keyboard  
tastiera (I)—keyboard  
tenor (L.A.)—Guatemalan marimba(small)  
timbirimba (L.A.)—primitive Equador marimba  
timpano (L.A.)—marimba  
tubes-résonnateurs (F)—resonator tubes  
tubos resonadores (S)—resonator tubes  
tubi (I)—resonators; tubes  
tubi di rionanza (i)—resonator tubes  
tuyaux (F)—resonators; tubes  
umwickelt (G)—covered; wrapped  
Verstärkungsröhre (G)—resonators  
xilomarimba (I)—xylorimba **PN**