



Playback Theatre Instrument List

This material is made publicly available by the Centre for Playback Theatre and remains the intellectual property of its author.



PLAYBACK INSTRUMENT LIST

Playback musicians need to be able to create rhythm, melody, and harmony. Get the best ones you can afford—four or five good-quality instruments will be much more use than a suitcase-full of rhythm-band toys!

If you're a trained musician, use the instrument you know best, whether it's a trombone, a keyboard, or a cello. You'll still need to add some instruments from this list (or others).

Rhythm:

Frame drum
Tambourine
Woodblocks
Maracas or shakers
Cabasa
Cymbal

Melody:

Xylophone or resonator bells
Slide whistle
Recorder or flute
Ocarina

Harmony:

Guitar
Keyboard

Other sounds:

Kazoo
Bells
Flex-a-tone
Thundertube
Chimes
VibraTone

Plus various hard and soft mallets

These and other instruments are available in the US in big music stores and in catalogues such as Music Is Elementary (www.musiciselementary.com).