

- A-ak: Confucian ritual ensemble from Korea.
- Bayin: The Chinese organological system.
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- Biwa: A fretted, pear-shaped, plucked lute from Japan.
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- Bon: Festive dancing from Japan.
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- Bugaku: A Confucian ritual ensemble from Japan that includes dance.
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- Bunraku: A popular form of puppet theatre from Japan.
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- Chobo: The narrator and accompanying shamisen performers of the Kabuki theatre in Japan.
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- Chou: The comic role-type in Beijing Opera from China.
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- Ch'un Hyang Ka: The five stories performed in Korean p'ansori.
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- Cultural Revolution: social A ten-year period (1966–76) in China's history marked by severe and political upheaval.
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- Dan: The female hero role-type in Beijing opera from China.
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- Diao: The key used in a music performance from China.
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- Dizi: A transverse flute from China.

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- Dung-chen: A long metal trumpet from Tibet.
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- Dung-kar: A conch-shell trumpet from Tibet.
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- Erhu: A fiddle from China.
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- Gagaku: A Confucian-derived ritual ensemble from Japan.
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- Geisha: A Japanese girl or woman trained to provide entertainment, including musical entertainment.
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- Harhiraa: A type of throat-singing from Mongolia.
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- Hichiriki: A double-reed aerophone used in gagaku music from Japan.
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- Jing: The warrior role-type in the Beijing Opera from China.
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- Jinghu: The lead fiddle of the Beijing Opera's instrumental ensemble.
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- Jingju (also, Jingxi): Beijing Opera from China.
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- Kabuki: Popular music theatre form from Japan.
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- Kang dung: A trumpet from Tibet made from human thighbones.
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- Kayagum: A plucked zither from Korea.

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- Key: relationship A tonal system consisting of several pitches in fixed to a fundamental pitch.
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- Khoomei: Throat-singing tradition from Mongolia.
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- Kisaeng: A professional entertainer from Korea.
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- Komuso: Lay-priest associated with Zen Buddhism from Japan who performed the shakuhachi.
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- Koto: A plucked zither from Japan.
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- Ko-tuzumi: A small, hourglass-shaped drum from Japan that is held on the shoulder.
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- Morin Huur: A fiddle from Mongolia with a distinctive horse-head ornament.
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- Nga bom: A double-faced drum from Tibet.
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- Node: A point of minimum amplitude on a vibrating string.
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- Noh: Classical drama form from Japan.
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- Nohkan: A transverse flute from Japan.
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- Nongak: Style of folk music from Korea associated with farmers.

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- Overtone: tone that is heard above a fundamental pitch, and that is one of the ascending group of tones that form the harmonic series derived from the fundamental pitch.
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- P'ansori: Narrative vocal performance style from Korea.
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- Pipa: A pear-shaped lute from China.
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- Puk: Drum used to accompany Korean p'ansori performance.
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- Qin (also, Guqin): A bridgeless plucked zither from China, the playing of which is characterized by the frequent use of overtones.
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- Ryuteki: A transverse flute from Japan.
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- Samul-nori: A type of folk music from Korea.
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- Sanjo: An instrumental form from Korea.
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- Sankyoku: A classical ensemble type from Japan, consisting of koto, shakuhachi, and shamisen.
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- Shakuhachi: A vertical flute from Japan.
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- Sheng: A mouth organ from China. Also the term for the male hero role-type in Beijing Opera from China.

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- Sho: A mouth organ from Japan.
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- Sizhu: An ensemble comprised of “silk and bamboo” instruments from China.
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- Suona: A double-reed aerophone from China.
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- Taiko: Generic term for drum in Japan.
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- Urtyn Duu: A Mongolian vocal form described as “long song”; performers are accompanied by the morin huur.
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- Yang ban xi: Chinese term for post-1949 Beijing Operas infused with Communist and nationalist political messages; translated as “Revolutionary Peking (Beijing) Opera.”
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- Yang qin: A hammered zither from China.
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- Yue qin: A plucked lute from China.
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- Zheng: A plucked zither from China.