



How to look after your Tuned Percussion Instrument

Instruments covered in this guide:	Steel Pan Xylophone	Marimba Glockenspiel
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We hope you are enjoying playing your new instrument. Below you will find advice on how to care for your instrument and what to do if it breaks.

CARING FOR THE INSTRUMENT

- Never leave your instrument next to a radiator, in direct sunlight or in a very cold or damp place.
- Never leave your instrument in the car on hot days (even in the boot!)
- If your instrument has a protective case, always store it in this case for protection.
- Do not try to tune your instrument yourself. Your teacher will make sure the instrument is fit to play.
- Do not ever play your instrument with anything other than the appropriate sticks or beaters. Playing it with anything else may cause damage.

Steel Pans (drums)

It is relatively easy to protect and care steel pans (steel drums). The main thing to remember is they are fragile! A well cared steel pan can be played for years.

Here are a few more tips

- Handle your instrument with care. Dropping your pan or dropping objects in the pan may cause it to go out of tune.
- Keep your instrument clean. Use a soft cloth to wipe your pan before each use.
- Store your instrument in a case or keep covered when not in use.
- Avoid exposing your instrument to extreme temperatures as this can affect tuning.
- Do not place any objects apart from pan sticks in the pan.
- **Contact a trained professional to tune or repair your instrument.** Do not attempt to tune or repair the instrument yourself. Even though pans are made of metal, they can be damaged, sometimes permanently, if handled incorrectly.
- Never rest frontline pans on their belly. The belly is the most fragile part of the pan! Rest the pan on its rim with the belly up if it is not in a case or hung on a stand.



REPAIRS

For EMS rented instruments	For personally owned instruments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If your instrument stops working properly or you have an accident with it, do not try to repair it yourself. Show your teacher at your next lesson and they will either mend it for you or fill in a repair slip for you to take to EMS with the instrument. This may incur a charge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If your instrument stops working properly or you have an accident with it, do not try to repair it yourself. Show your teacher at your next lesson and they may be able to mend it for you.• They will be able to give you advice on how and where to get it repaired. There are also some ideas on the EMS website.

The EMS website has lots of information regarding the EMS Instrument Hire Scheme, Music Events in Ealing, Ensembles available to join in the borough and advice on practicing.

www.ealingmusicservice.com