

Overview

Translated as “long drum,” *glong yao* is a musical instrument from Central Thailand. *Glong yao* has a wooden elongated body, one end of which is the head and the other speaker. The instrument is usually played in a parade or a procession, especially in marriage and ordination (a Buddhist ritual in which one enters monkhood). A tuning paste is applied at the center of the drum’s head before playing to create a distinct tone color. *Glong yao* is often played in group, supplemented by other rhythmic instruments such as *ching* (small hand cymbal), *chaab* (flat hand cymbal), *grab* (wooden clapper), and *mong* (bossed gong). The players either rest *glong yao* on one’s lap while seated or suspend it or suspend it across one body while walking. Rhythmic patterns of *glong yao* are usually cyclic and repetitive, known technically as *ostinato*. Because of its upbeat rhythm, *glong yao* represents an entertaining and fun vibes of Thai people and society.



GLONG YAO

กลองยาว



Thailand (in red) as seen on the world map

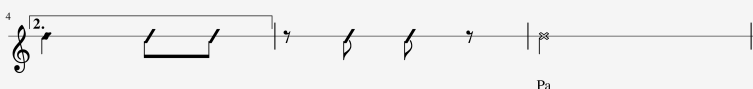
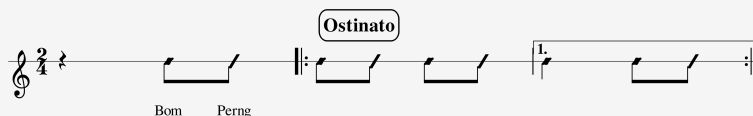
The Basics of *Glong Yao*

There are three fundamental strokes or “drum sounds” for *glong yao*:

- **PERNG** (as in learn without rolling the “r”) – hit the drum head away from its center, but not all the way to the edge.
- **BOM** – hit the center of the drum head using a flat palm or a clenched fist.
- **PA** – A damped stroke, slap the center of the drum head while pressing it with the other hand on the edge to create a muted sound.



Musicians play *glong yao* in a procession



Basic *glong yao* rhythmic cycle

Media References

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tjWGXh70ks>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUMY8TyCb_E