

The Music and Cultures of Thailand

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Thailand is a country located in Southeast Asia, just about the opposite of the United States on the world map. It is known internationally for beautiful beaches, flavorful cuisine, elegant Buddhist temples, and kickboxing, among other things. Thai is the country's official language with its own script consisting of 44 alphabets plus vowels.



Some Basic Thai Phrases:

สวัสดีครับ/ค่ะ *Sawatdii khrup/khaa* = Hello
 ขอบคุณครับ/ค่ะ *Khophkun khrup/khaa* = Thank you

Thai classical music has been a part of Thai culture for a long time. The instruments are unique and come in different shapes and forms. Besides creating interesting sounds and fun rhythms, these instruments hold great value to Thai musicians. They are treated with respect, for example, stepping over and touching with feet are avoided.



Top Thailand on the world map
 Bottom The flag of Thailand

SOME THAI MUSIC INSTRUMENTS



Ranaat ek

Ranaat ek is a xylophone. It leads an ensemble called *piphat*. It has two important parts: the keys and a resonating box, both made of wood. There are twenty-two keys, each tuned with a tuning paste underneath. The keys are threaded with a string and suspended on a boat-like resonating box. *Ranaat ek* is played with a pair of mallets. Soft, padded mallets are used for indoor performance and hard mallets for outdoor.

Media reference: [Ranat ek performance in piphat ensemble](#)



Khim

Khim is a Thai dulcimer. Originated from China, this instrument has a lot of strings suspended across either sides and on two bridges. It is a part of *khrueng sai* or string ensemble. A pair of thin bamboo stickers are used to play the instrument. Because of its soft and mellow sound, *khim* is one of the most common instruments learned by Thai students.

Media reference: [Khim performance](#)



Ching



Chaap



Krup



Moong