



THE  
**SHELDON**  
Arts Without Borders

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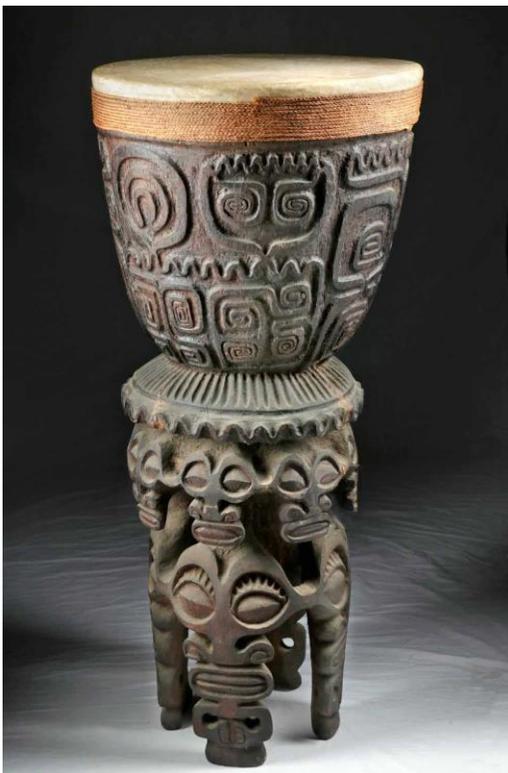
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## THE SHELDON FEATURES COLLECTION OF INSTRUMENTS FROM THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon Art Galleries presents ***St. Louis, A Musical Gateway: The Far East and Oceania***, November 6, 2020 – January 30, 2021 in the Gallery Music. A free public opening will be held **Friday, November 6 from 12 - 9 p.m.** Visitor capacity for the opening will be limited to 10 visitors per 15-minute time slot. Advanced registration is required at [TheSheldon.org/events/fallopening/](https://TheSheldon.org/events/fallopening/). *Registration ends at 10 a.m. on November 6.* Gallery hours are Tuesdays – Fridays, Noon – 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Admission is free. Visitor capacity will be limited to 25% or less of full capacity. Reservations are not required or accepted for regular public hours. All staff and visitors age 9 and older will be required to wear masks while visiting the galleries. For more information on exhibitions and health and safety guidelines, visit [TheSheldon.org](https://TheSheldon.org).



The third in a series that celebrates St. Louis' multicultural communities, this exhibit offers a glimpse into the dramatic and regional traditions of Eastern cultures – China, Korea, Japan, Mongolia and Tibet, and into the lively masquerade traditions of Oceania – Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Drawn from the Hartenberger World Music Collection, musical instrument masterpieces from these geographical areas are featured, paying tribute to the rich and varied immigrant heritage of the people who journeyed to our great Gateway City. The exhibition is curated by Dr. Aurelia Hartenberger.

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The first two rooms of the display feature musical instruments from East Asia. The examples from this region demonstrate the musical intersections influenced by travel and trade among the peoples of China, Taiwan, Mongolia, Japan, Tibet and South and North Korea. The musical traditions in this region have been shaped over centuries, as people traveled by land and sea along trade routes spanning vast territories. Merchants and travelers exchanged silk and spices as well as languages, ideas, music and musical instruments. By the 11<sup>th</sup> century, musical instruments from the Middle East and Central Asia could be found in both Europe and in parts of East, South and Southeast Asia. In ancient China, musical instruments were divided into "eight sounds" — based on the materials used in their construction: metal (*jin*), stone (*shi*), silk (*si*), bamboo (*zhu*), gourd (*pao*), clay (*tao*), leather (*ge*) and wood (*mu*). Today, instruments associated with this early classification system are reconstructed for use in ensembles that perform in museums and historical buildings, while musical performances by indigenous people of these countries help sustain their unique cultural identities.

The third room highlights the many tropical islands in the Pacific Ocean, making up the region of Oceania. These island nations include Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, as well as Australia and New Zealand. The indigenous peoples of this region show a strong connection between music and dance in their musical traditions. In the Melanesia region of Papua New Guinea and eastern Indonesia are the fancifully carved flutes, slit drums, distinctive handheld hourglass drums, and a full-body fiber mask from the Asmat people of western New Guinea. Polynesian instruments include the many hand tapping gourd drums, flutes, shell trumpets and of course Hawaiian ukuleles. From New Zealand are the Maori instruments that today have all but disappeared. Micronesia includes the Palau Island ceremonial Triton shell trumpet, and from Australia, the aboriginal people's iconic didgeridoo accompanied by traditional clap sticks.

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Image caption: Hartenberger World Music Collection, Oceania, Marquesas Islands (French Polynesia) Drum, c. 1940s, 50" x 22." Wood, hide, fiber twine.