

Bodhrán History

There is little documentation that supports the idea of the bodhrán being a long standing instrument of Celtic music. No known use of the term “bodhrán “ to describe a drum as been found before the 17th century. In fact, the bodhrán appears to have gained widespread acceptance during 1960’s when the revival movement of Irish music occurred. Before that, the bodhran was primarily heard during festival procession in the southwest of Ireland. The Chieftans and other Irish bands are largely responsible for the widespread popularity of the drum.

The word Bodhran

Lexicographers suggest three possible meanings for the word bodhran from Irish Gaelic

1. *bodhrán* means "skin tray"
2. *bodhor*, meaning soft, or dull sounding.
3. *bodhar*, meaning deaf.

Some assert that the bodhran replaced the tambourine and the term “bodhran” may be a corruption of the abbreviation “bourine”.

Scholars differ. We simply do not know the origins or intended meaning of “bodhrán”.

The bodhrán is in its golden age now. The current generation of bodhrán players often come to the drum was strong percussion backgrounds. Rock and roll drummers, jazz drummers, classically trained percussions are bring new styles and rhythms to performance. Builders are making beautiful drums with incredible voices. Sophisticated condenser microphones are being built into drums. This is the best of all times to become a bodhrán player.

Pronunciation

Bodhran is pronounced: Bow – rahn.

Bow like the front, pointy part of a ship

Rahn, like the nickname for Ronald - Ron