

# Resources For Bodhran Players

## **The Amazing Slow Downer**

I think this software is a MUST for all musicians. The software allows you to slow down music WITHOUT distorting the sound. It's as though the band was in your living room and you said "That was great. But, can you play it much slower". And they DO. At whatever tempo you want.

The software works for both PC and Mac. It costs about \$50.

<http://www.ronimusic.com/slowdown.htm>

## **Bodojo**

[www.bodojo.com/](http://www.bodojo.com/)

"World's Largest Bodhran Forum" Lots of videos, information and discussion. The great percussionist Paul Marshall runs this site. It is a first class resource for bodhran players.

## **TradAuction**

Looking for traditional musical instruments? This site filters the listings on Ebay so you don't have to struggle through all the junk. Pretty cool ☺

[www.TradAuction.com](http://www.TradAuction.com)

## **TradConnect**

Social networking for those interested in Celtic music. There is a special group for Bodhran. Free and valuable. Sign up! <http://tradconnect.com/>

## **Whistle and Drum**

[www.whistleanddrum.com](http://www.whistleanddrum.com)

Blayne Chastian is the proprietor of this company. He earned masters degree in traditional Irish flute from the University of Limerick. He KNOWS Celtic music and the tools players need. He sells only first class products.. You'll find drums from \$50 to \$500. Whistle and Drum is the exclusive U.S. dealer for Christian Hedwitschak bodhrans. Blayne also offers an online course on the bodhran.

## **Celtic and Renaissance Music**

[www.celticrenaissancemusic.com/bodhransale](http://www.celticrenaissancemusic.com/bodhransale)

A dizzyingly extensive list of bodhrans is available at this site. All sort sorts of configurations. The prices are very reasonable the quality is good too. I own one of these drums. They need to be worked on to make them sound good. An excellent source for a beginner's drum or a knock about drum for experienced players. These drums come from Pakistan. Don't let that put you off. They can be made to sound great with very little effort or expense. I have played one of these refurbished drums with a classical wind quintet in a Carnegie Library Musical hall and gotten raves about the quality of the drum voice!

## **Visit the Ceolas site for an extensive list of drum makers**

[www.ceolas.org/instruments/bodhran/makers.shtml](http://www.ceolas.org/instruments/bodhran/makers.shtml)

## **Tippers**

Made from used violin, cello and bass bows, these tippers are excellent for both top end and Kerry style players. See the website for details. The site is dedicated to selling bones. But the owner is also a bodhran player. I know of no other source for these unique tippers.

[www.bonedrymusic.com/top-end-thin-bodhran-tipper-cippin-beater-s/177.htm](http://www.bonedrymusic.com/top-end-thin-bodhran-tipper-cippin-beater-s/177.htm)

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Almost every builder has a line of tippers available.

### **Bodhran Courses Online**

<http://bodhranexpert.com/>

Michelle Stewart is a great player and fantastic teacher. She has many free videos on line. She also has set of very detailed bodhran lesson available by subscription. Possibly the most complete instruction on line. She teaches bodhran and snare drum in Canada and Scotland full time.

[http://www.blaynechastain.com/i-teach#bodhran\\_tab](http://www.blaynechastain.com/i-teach#bodhran_tab)

Blayne Chastian, the proprietor of Whistle & Drum, offers an online course in Bodhran.

### **High End Bodhrans**

**Metloef Drums:** [www.metloef.com/website\\_eng/index\\_eng.html](http://www.metloef.com/website_eng/index_eng.html)

My favorite innovator in bodhran design is Rob Forkner at Metloef Drums. He has developed a wide array of sizes, shapes and materials. His kangaroo heads are capable of producing marvelous tonality. His egg-shaped bodhrans are innovated and have great voices. His bodhrans run between €300 and €400.

**Hedwitschak Drums – Art Bodhran:** [www.bodhranmaker.de](http://www.bodhranmaker.de)

Christian Hedwitschak builds some of the finest bodhrans in the world. He is a fanatic about goat skin and quality workmanship. Even if these drums are out of your price range, visit the website. Lots of excellent information and eye candy 😊 His drums run between \$200 and \$600. The exclusive US dealer is Whistle & Drum: [www.whistleanddrum.com](http://www.whistleanddrum.com)

*There are many wonderful builders creating excellent bodhrans. I have not played them all much less owned them all. I do not recommend drums that I have not played extensively. I own both a Metloef and a Hedwitschak bodhran. Each has a unique voice. Both are wonderful.*

*I also own a Pakistani drum. I have sanded and taped the head and now this inexpensive instrument is really nice.*

*I also have an 18" bodhran with a tunable fiber-skin head. Useful when playing outdoors.*

**It is impossible to own too many bodhrans 😊**

More about the bodhran at this link: [www.billtroxler.com](http://www.billtroxler.com)