

# The Kulintang



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The Brunei people first introduced the kulintang into Sabah, but it is also traditionally used by the Bajaus. It is played mostly on festive occasions such as weddings and religious ceremonies, when it is played usually together with other traditional Kadazan gongs.

The instrument consists of a set of about seven small brass gongs, which have different notes when they are struck. The gongs are placed loosely on a wooden stand, next to each other in a row. The player sits on the floor in front of the row of gongs and beats them with two small wooden mallets.

The music of the kulintang is very melodious, because there are both very high and low notes in it. It is pleasant to hear, but very difficult to play well.

During wedding ceremonies, the kulintang is played together with another instrument called the 'rabana'. The rabana is played when the people lead the bride and bridegroom to the place of the wedding, while the kulintang is only played in the house. The rabana is almost the same type of instrument as the kulintang, except that the notes are different and that the base of the instrument is covered with the skin of animals. The rabana has only five notes, and its gongs are not placed together like the kulintang.

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