Traditional Korean musical instruments

1. String (Chordophones)
   Plucked
   • Gayageum - A long zither with 12 strings; modern versions may have 13, 17, 18, 21, 22, or 25 strings
   • Geomungo - A fretted bass zither with six strings that is plucked with a bamboo stick
   Bowed
   • Haegum - A vertical fiddle with two strings

2. Wind (Aerophones)
   Flutes
   • Daegeum - A large transverse bamboo flute with buzzing membrane
   Oboes
   • Piri - A cylindrical oboe with a bamboo body.
   Mouth organs
   • Saenghwang - A free reed mouth organ with 17 bamboo pipes; derived from the Chinese sheng

3. Percussion
   Drums
   • Buk - A barrel drum used primarily in pansori, pungmul, and samulnori. The term buk is also used in Korean as a generic term to refer to any type of drum.
   • Janggu or Janggo - A double-headed hourglass-shaped drum generally played with one stick and one hand
   Gongs
   • Kkwaenggwari - A small gong used primarily in folk music
   • Jing - A large gong; originally pronounced jeong
   Other
   • Bak - A wooden clapper used in ancient court and ritual music

Geomungo (6-string zither). To make the sounding case, the front board made of paulownia tree is attached to the back board made of chestnut tree. Silk strings of twisted silk threads are placed and the case to complete a geomungo. It is played with a bamboo stick and gives the broadest sound among all traditional Korean instruments
**Gayageum.** This 12-string gayageum is made of the same materials as the geomungo. It is categorized into classic gayageum and folk music gayageum and is played by the left hand pressing the strings and the right hand plucking or plunking them.

**Haegeum.** To play the haegeum, a bow is inserted between the two strings which are rubbed. This instrument allows a rich expression that enable diverse playing techniques. It is an essential part of any ensemble.

**Daeguem** is one of the three Silla Kingdom bamboo flutes together with the junggeum and sogeum. It is played by blowing. It is categorized as classical daegeum and folk music daegeum. The instrument gives off a clear and beautiful sound, and history records of the Three Kingdoms imparted a legend that says sea waves were calmed down by the sound of the daeguem.

**Piri** (Korean flute) is a wood instrument made of bamboo pipe and a thin-cut bamboo piece through which air is blown. It is categorized into hyangpiri, dangpiri and sepiri.
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<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td><strong>Saenghwang</strong> (mouth organ)</td>
<td>As the only chord instrument, the saenghwang is made by inserting bamboo pipes into the gourd and applying pressure on it. It makes sound by stopping the holes of the pipes at the bottom. It is like a harmonica that generates sound when exhaling and inhaling air.</td>
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<td><strong>Janggo</strong> (hourglass-shaped drum)</td>
<td>As a rhythm-functional percussion instrument, janggo is also referred to as janggu and seyogo. It is categorized into classic janggo and folk music janggo.</td>
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<td><strong>Jing</strong> (large gong)</td>
<td>According to the size, jings are referred to as jeong, geumjeong, geum, geumna, and na. They are played by striking it with a stick with the cloth-wrapped end, thus giving off a solemn, soft and long-echoing sound.</td>
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<td><strong>Kkwaenggwari</strong> (small gong)</td>
<td>Kkwaenggwari (small gong), also referred to as the sogeum and kkwaengmaegi, is played by striking it with a wooden stick with the handle made of string like jing. It was used to produce music for royal court ceremonies. Recently, the kkwaenggwari is played mainly to create farmer’s music and court dance music.</td>
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Yanggeum (dulcimer) Compared to the fact that other string instruments are made of silk threads, the yanggeum is made of 56 metal strings that give off clear metal sounds. This instrument is made by setting up two bars on a lozenge-shape box and placing metal strings between them. It is played by striking it with a bamboo stick.

Bak (6 wood-piece folding fan-like percussion instrument) is a percussion instrument consisting of 6 pierced wood pieces. With only one side bound, it unfolds and folds fast like fan ribs and as the player holds the other side, he strikes it to create sound. It is mainly used when music starts and ends.