

# FREE NOTES

HARMONY PARK™



White Papers

## Harmony in Discovery: Enriching Museum Experience with Music

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## A New Era of Museum Interaction

Today's museums are redefining engagement, moving beyond static exhibits to interactive, sensory-rich experiences that captivate the minds of all ages. Freenotes Harmony Park brings this vision to life with inclusive outdoor musical instruments designed to spark learning, community, and joy.

## Why Music Transforms Museum Experience

Music is a universal language that transcends age, ability, and background. Integrating musical instruments into your facility can:

- **Foster Engagement:** Interactive play captures attention, encourages exploration, and deepens learning across age groups.
- **Promote Inclusivity:** Designed for all abilities. No musical background needed!
- **Support STEAM Learning:** Aligns music with core educational themes.
- **Encourage Outdoor Exploration:** Inspires movement and curiosity outside the museum walls.

## Proven Benefits: The Science of Music in Museums

### Proven Developmental Benefits

- **Neurological Benefits:** Playing music enhances brain plasticity, supports language development, and improves executive function.
- **Emotional Well-Being:** Music reduces stress, fosters joy, and builds social connection.
- **Physical Coordination:** Percussive instruments encourage gross and fine motor skills, coordination, and spatial awareness.

### Stronger Visitor Engagement

- Encourages visitors to stay longer and engage more deeply with exhibits.<sup>1</sup>
- Helps children learn and retain information more effectively.<sup>2</sup>
- Supports attention, listening skills, and early childhood development through music.<sup>3</sup>
- Strengthens cultural participation and creates positive community impact.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A report by the Association of Children's Museums found that interactive sound installations increased time spent in exhibits by up to 40%.

<sup>2</sup> According to a study published in The Museum Journal, children retained 30% more information when educational content was paired with musical interaction.

<sup>3</sup> Research by Northwestern University indicates that musical exposure in informal settings, like museums, boosts auditory processing and attention in young children.

<sup>4</sup> The National Endowment for the Arts reports that communities with access to public music installations show higher levels of cultural participation and well-being.

## Harmony in Discovery: Enriching Museum Experience with Music

### How to Create a Meaningful Musical Exhibit

Creating a musical exhibit is more than placing instruments outdoors – it's about curating an experience.

Enhancement Ideas	
<b>Thematic Design</b>	Align instrument placement with exhibit themes (e.g., nature, sound, cultural heritage).
<b>Interactive Zones</b>	Create zones for solo play, group performance, and quiet reflection
<b>Integration with Storytelling</b>	Use signage or QR codes to offer interpretive content, music theory tidbits, or artist spotlights
<b>Educational Tie-Ins</b>	Develop programming or field trip materials that link instrument use to curriculum standard

### Why Choose Freenotes Harmony Park?

Freenotes instruments are purpose-built for durability, sound quality, and aesthetic appeal. With options ranging from melodic marimbas to resonant drums, each instrument is:

- **Weather-Resistant:** Engineered to withstand the elements with minimal maintenance.
- **Musically Tuned:** Designed by Grammy-Award Winning Musician, Richard Cooke, to create harmonious, mistake-free play.
- **Visually Appealing:** Sculptural and colorful, adding artistic flair to any environment.
- **Made in the USA:** Proudly crafted with high-quality materials and a commitment to excellence.

### Harmony in Motion

#### ImagineU Children's Museum

ImagineU installed Freenotes instruments to bridge learning and play in their outdoor exhibit. The instruments became a favorite among families and educators, adding value to field trips and repeat visits.

"Freenotes Harmony Park combines outside play and creating music! You do not have to be musically inclined to enjoy this fun, hands-on activity. All ages love to play and make music in Harmony Park at ImagineU!"

– Katy Young, Executive Director



The Serenade featured at ImagineU Children's Museum

## Harmony in Discovery: Enriching Museum Experience with Music



*The Tuned Drums featured at Miami Children's Museum*

### Miami Children's Museum

The Miami Children's Museum is making music a part of the experience, inside and out. They've transformed their outdoor courtyard with Freenotes instruments to create a more welcoming, hands-on space for families to explore. Inside, they took it a step further by incorporating our Manta Ray into one of their aquatic-themed exhibits, blending sound and sea for an unforgettable, interactive moment.

### Science & Nature Centers

Several nature centers and science museums across the country have created sound gardens and musical trails using Freenotes instruments. These installations serve as sensory-rich environments where visitors can explore the physics of sound, vibration, and resonance firsthand.

### Conclusion

Outdoor musical instruments provide more than just play, they create opportunities for connection, discovery, and delight. By integrating Freenotes Harmony Park into your facility, you invite visitors into an immersive, inclusive, and inspiring world of sound.

### Join the movement to bring music outdoors.

Freenotes Harmony Park  
544 Chestnut Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
[info@freenotesharmonypark.com](mailto:info@freenotesharmonypark.com)  
833-262-1569