

## Khene fact sheet

The khene (aka khaen, kaen; pronounced *cairn*) is a bamboo mouth organ from Thailand and Laos. It is one of a family of Asian mouth organs that includes the Japanese sho and the Chinese sheng.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khene>

<http://hajimaji.com/2009/12/06/instrumental-khaen-thailand/>

Here are videos of traditional players:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_u5w5d2xiQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_u5w5d2xiQ)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jpqx4gR6p4>

Scale:

G, A, Bflat, C, D, E flat, F, G;  
over 2 octaves.

The khene produces the same note blowing and sucking.

It can play a melody in single notes or in parallel octaves.

Chords can be made up from the available notes; using ten fingers. One note appears each time a hole is closed, so a maximum of ten notes can be played at once.

Traditional music is usually in a steady rhythm, often accompanying a singer performing semi-improvised poetry. The khene can also play slow or static music; improvisation is welcome.

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