



# From Mud to Music

*By Barry Hall*

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## From Mud to Music By Barry Hall

This book is about a truly remarkable transformation: how the simplest of materials clay or mud can be used to make tools for producing one of the most complex human expressions music.

With a history reaching back to ancient times, creating ceramic musical instruments is a vibrant pursuit for many innovative artists today. From **Mud to Music** explores the vast array of ceramic musical instruments, from their historical traditions in world cultures to modern variations and innovations. All instrument families are represented: percussion, winds, strings, and even unique hybrids. For each type of instrument, special construction techniques specific to clay are explained. In addition, there's a chapter providing detailed, step-by-step instructions showing how to build several ceramic instruments. A companion audio CD contains 43 diverse tracks of ceramic instrumental music ranging from the refined melodic strains of Vivaldi and Tchaikovsky to the earthy, primal wailings of bizarre pre-Columbian wind instruments. Hundreds of color photos present the work of artists from around the world spanning the last 3000 years, from ancient Peruvian water whistles and Mesopotamian rattles to contemporary seven-chambered ocarinas and ceramic bagpipes. In-depth profiles explore a number of today's artists, their work, and their inspirations. Whether you are a musician, ceramist, or just a fan of art and music, you are invited to embark on an incredible journey...from mud to music!

**From Mud to Music** includes a CD of music performed on clay instruments featured in the book. So you not only get the opportunity to see the variety of shapes of these clay instruments, you get to hear them in action.

Cellular Activation - Rafael Bejarano

Performed on a huaca and ehecatl built by Rafael Berjarano.

Clay Shaker and Claypans - N. Scott Robinson

Performed on a clay shaker and Claypans built by Stephen Wright.

Neolithic Fanfare - Barry Hall

Performed on ceramic horns built by Barry Hall.

Nutcracker Suite - Geert Jacobs

Performed on a ceramic barrel organ built by Geert Jacobs.

Earth - Joe O'Donnell

Performed on a clay violin built by John Stevens.

Gravity Chime - Ward Hartenstein

Performed on the Gravity Chime built by Ward Hartenstein

The Purest Expression of the Human Spirit

Some potters find their voice in the clay; sometimes the clay gives voice to the music within. Very often, we cannot fully control what comes to life on the wheel. Many times, the clay will tell us what it should be, how it should form. We are partners in the process, not the masters. We must incorporate our vision of what the clay can become with what it wants to be. We hear its music, and when we're lucky, we can bring that music to life in form, shape, and sound.

The primal voice of ancient civilizations lies within its musical instruments. All we need do to unlock a link to the past is draw breath, draw back a bow, raise a mallet or a hand and the sounds of the past come rushing across the great span of history, spilling into our consciousness. It is truly a remarkable experience to hear the sound of ancient instruments that last sounded thousands of years ago. The people may be gone, the civilization shattered for whatever reason. But we can travel back in time, hear the sounds they heard, by listening to (or even playing!) musical instruments of their time.

Few of us will ever have the honor of playing an authentic instrument from an ancient culture. But we can explore our connection to cultures of ancient ages, hear the music of their time played on instruments of our own making instruments made from the very same material: clay.

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### **From Mud to Music By Barry Hall Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

Review

### **Beautiful to See, Ethereal to Hear**

**From Mud to Music** includes a CD with 43 tracks of music, all performed on clay musical instruments featured in the book. So you not only get the opportunity to see the variety of shapes of these clay instruments, you get to hear them in action. Imagine: Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" on ocarina - well, actually - ocarina ensemble. Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" on a ceramic organ. But those are just familiar pieces played on instruments you've most likely seen or heard before. What about the others? Imagine the sounds of...

**DNA Huaca by Rafael Bejarano:** Rafael's huaca is a three-chambered ocarina with F# and C# set as the fundamental tones. Why? Because biologists measuring the frequency of human DNA found that our cells resonate at those notes.

**Ceramic Didjeridu by Barry Hall:** Musician Stephen Kent brings the ancient sound of the Aborigines into a contemporary context.

**Triple Pipe by Susan Rawcliffe:** Three pipes merge into a single mouthpiece, giving the player a variety of voices.

**Naggara Drums by Ken Lovelett:** Foot-operated bellows alter the pitch of five ceramic drum heads.

**Jaltarang by Stephen Freedman:** 26 porcelain bowls arranged in a seven-foot circle.

**Bassoon Drum by Dag Sorensen:** A clay interpretation of a road pipe.

--Sumi von Dassow, *Pottery Making Illustrated*

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## Users Review

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jennifer Frederick:**

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or maybe goal; it means that book has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They are really reading whatever they take because their hobby is reading a book. Think about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man feel need book once they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you should have this From Mud to Music.

#### **Judith Roemer:**

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or all their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, likely to beach, or

picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? May be reading a book could be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the publication untitled From Mud to Music can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

#### **Shirley Akins:**

The particular book From Mud to Music has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. Tom makes some research ahead of write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after reading this article book.

#### **Gregory Anderson:**

This From Mud to Music is great e-book for you because the content which is full of information for you who all always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it information accurately using great organize word or we can state no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but tricky core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having From Mud to Music in your hand like getting the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen second right but this reserve already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt this?

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