 The didgeridoo is an old instrument. Aboriginal people in Australia have played it for about 2,000 years.



Part of Aboriginal culture

The didgeridoo is played at special events in some Aboriginal communities. There are often dancers and singers too.



Jeffrey Gurakpuy is a didgeridoo player.

Popular instrument

Today people around the world play the didgeridoo.

How do you play this instrument? You blow into it. You breathe in a special way so the sound does not stop.

Making a didgeridoo

This Aboriginal man is making a didgeridoo out of a tree trunk.



Djalul' Gurruwiwi is famous for his didgeridoos.

✓ First, he looks for a hollow trunk. It is hollow because termites have eaten the inside.

termite




✓ Then, he cuts the trunk. He takes off the bark. He cleans out the inside.

✓ He might paint the didgeridoo too.

Art—banner, termite, hollow trunk, tape & record: Guy Parsons • Photos—Jeffrey Gurakpuy playing didgeridoo, Djalul' Gurruwiwi making didgeridoo: Guan Lim • Special thanks to Guan Lim, iDIDJ Australia <www.ididj.com.au>

 More on page 2

John plays the didgeridoo

 John Towill is a musician in Edmonton. He plays the electric bass guitar. He plays the didgeridoo too.

Photos: Bev Burke



Met musicians from Australia

In 1988, John met some Aboriginal musicians from Australia. They were visiting Edmonton.

John became friends with the musicians. They gave John a few lessons on the didgeridoo.

John liked the didgeridoo. So he bought one.

Practiced a lot

After that, John taught himself how to play the didgeridoo. He practiced a lot.

John listened to records and tapes. He learned to breathe in a special way.



Made four didgeridoos

John has six didgeridoos now. He made four himself.

Trip to Australia

John would like to go to Australia one day. He wants to learn more about the didgeridoo.