Egg Shaker/Mini Maraca
The egg shaker and mini maraca are both shaker-style instruments from the maraca family. There are lots of ways to play the MINI MARACA. By holding the mini maraca horizontally, you can make a delicate staccato sound by sharply tapping the ball of the maraca with the fingers of your other hand. You can make a quiet swirling sound by pointing the maraca downward while rotating your wrist in a circular motion. By holding the maraca upright and shaking it quickly back and forth, you can make it sound like a rattlesnake. By slowing down the shake to a steady pulse, you will produce a familiar maraca rhythm. For faster rhythms, the maraca can be played in an up and down motion, alternatingly striking the thigh and the open palm of your free hand. The EGG SHAKER can be played by holding it lightly in the palm of your hand. Move your hand up and out for the first beat and then down hard for an accent on the next beat, repeating this motion over and over again, accenting every other beat.

Castanet
CASTANETS are an important part of Spanish Flamenco music. You will add a special sound to your band with the castanets. Simply put the castanet in your hand and push the two pieces together in rhythm. If you are daring, try quickly tapping the one side with your fingers to produce a “roll” or to play fast rhythms.

Tambourine
Like the maraca, the TAMBOURINE can also be played in many ways. It can be held in the air and shaken by rotating the forearm. It can be shaken back and forth to the beat of the music and struck with the fist of the free hand on the off beats. The tambourine can be held vertically and struck with your open hand on the edge of the rim to produce a sharp accent.

Sleigh Bells
To play rhythms, the SLEIGH BELLS can be hand held and shaken. Tap rhythms by holding the bells in one hand and hitting the fist of that hand with your other fist. You can imitate a horse sled by tapping the bells at a speed that reminds you of a sled ride.

Recorder
The RECORDER is a very old instrument. It most likely originated in Italy during the 14th century. It could be found in many countries throughout Europe during the Renaissance period. England’s King Henry VIII was known to play the recorder. Although not usually considered an “orchestral” instrument, the recorder is an important part of music by such well-known composers as Bach, Handel and Vivaldi. Today, the recorder is a popular instrument for playing many different styles of music.

Hold the recorder in both hands, so that the first four fingers of your right hand cover the lowest four finger holes on the recorder. Fingers 1, 2 & 3 on your left hand should cover the top three finger holes, and your left thumb should cover the thumb hole in the back. Blow gently into the recorder. The hardest thing about playing the recorder is getting the right pitch, or note, from this starting position. With all the finger holes and the thumb hole covered, the note you should be able to produce is called “middle C.” If you get a high-pitched squeak, keep practicing until you can consistently produce a nice sounding tone by making the air flow from the back of your throat. The Fingering Chart (below) shows how to play a chromatic scale (both the white and black keys on a piano). To play a C Major scale, just play the notes labeled C, D, E, F, G, A, B, c.