

Oceania

All territory encompassing Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and all Pacific Island through Hawaii.

Populated by eastward migration from Australia and SE Asia

Most people survive on subsistence farming, hunting, gathering- tourism and large-scale produce export are also common economic drivers

Many customs considered among the oldest in the world- relatively isolated and remote has meant limited contact with Europeans in many cases- many belief systems focus on close relationship with nature- Animistic (as in Africa)

Songs are believe to be “given” or “borrowed” from ancestral spirits

Christian influence through missionaries and colonization (English and French are predominant languages in the area, although over 1200 are spoken).

Instruments tend to be small and portable- mostly percussion (idiophones and membranophones) and flute-type instruments

Australia

Native people are called Aborigines- among the oldest cultures on earth- relatively insulated from Western influence

Song (melody), Clapsticks (pulse), Didgeridoo (drone) [*Australian Aborigine Song*]

Didgeridoo is a trumpet-like instrument made from Eucalyptus branch hollowed by termites- mouthpiece is covered with beeswax to protect mouth and create effective seal

Different sounds mimic different animals [*YouTube- How to Imitate Animal Sounds on the Didgeridoo*]

Usually only one plays at a time as the drone pitches are rarely the same or in tune

Didgeridoo is often incorporated into Electronic Dance Music because of its drone and timbre [*Yulara*]

Bullroarer- idiophone used for communication- a flat wooden board tied to a string [*YouTube- Bullroarer in Action*]

New Zealand

Native Maori people not as marginalized as Aborigines or Native Americans, more effectively integrated into NZ society, much cultural exchange between

Haka- chant/dance used to challenge/intimidate opponents [*YouTube-Original Maori Haka Dance*]

Now used by NZ Rugby team (the All-Blacks) as a pregame ritual- many other Pacific nations have adopted the practice by integrating their their own traditions [*YouTube- All Blacks Haka vs Fijian Cibi*]

Each unit of the military also has their own Haka. Hakas are also used to celebrate and honor for various occasions, including for fallen soldiers, to tell the gods/spirits that the spirits of mighty warriors will soon be joining them [*YouTube-2nd 1st Farewell their Fallen Comrades with a huge haka*]

Tahiti

Largest island in French Polynesia, known primarily as a resort destination

Drumming used to accompany solo Male and Female dancers- many different traditions through the region are similar (NZ, Tonga, Cook Islands, Hawaii)

Performed on log drums of various sizes and with large and small drums

Very fast interlocking parts played at a variety of speeds for different effects
[YouTube- Tahitian Drumming Teazy]

Kiribati

Originally a trading port for English/US whalers and trade ships

Vocal choirs- use of Western harmony brought by missionaries; developed out of tradition of unison singing- harmonies were added to increase status in music/dance contests *[Kiribati Group Song]*

Hawaii

Drum-Dance Chant- indigenous tradition, assists with native language retention and maintenance, single vocalist playing two drums, larger with hand, smaller with rope beater. Simple homophonic texture.

Smooth phrasing of words due to Hawaiian language having most words ending with vowel sounds.

[Hawaiian Drum-Dance Chant]

Ukelele- guitar-like instrument originally brought by missionaries- use of Western harmony, style NOT native to Hawaii, although the Slack-Key Guitar style IS a local development *[YouTube- Somewhere Over the Rainbow]*

In recent years the instrument has evolved into a virtuoso instrument in its own right and has also been adopted as a school instrument in a number of countries *[YouTube- Jake Shimabukuro- Bohemian Rhapsody]*