

YouGov Survey: Musical Instrument Experiences



Sample 3000 U.S. Adult Citizens
Conducted June 2 - July 4, 2022
Margin of Error ±2%

1. Which of these instruments have you learned to play at some point in your life, either informally or formally? Even if you no longer play the instrument, please select the ones you learned.

Piano	29%
Electric piano	9%
Guitar	18%
Electric guitar	8%
Drums	10%
Violin	8%
Viola	3%
Flute	9%
Clarinet	9%
Trumpet	7%
Trombone	3%
Saxophone	5%
Cello	2%
Bass	3%
Electric bass	4%
Recorder	10%
Harmonica	6%
Ukulele	4%
Banjo	2%
Harp	1%
Other	5%
None	34%

2. What role did your parents take in your learning to play an instrument?

Asked of those who have learned to play an instrument

My parents made me play an instrument	14%
My parents encouraged me to play but didn't make me	50%
My parents discouraged me from playing but allowed me to	6%
My parents did not allow me to play an instrument	3%
No influence	25%
Not sure	3%

3. Do you feel that playing an instrument is generally something that comes naturally to you or not?

Asked of those who have learned to play an instrument

Comes naturally	36%
Does not come naturally	50%
Not sure	14%

4. What words describe how it feels for you to play music? Select as many as apply.

Asked of those who have learned to play an instrument

Frustrating	20%
Releasing	23%
Intense	13%
Relaxing	37%
Joyous	25%
Boring	6%
Exhilarating	17%
Nerve-racking	12%
Satisfying	40%
Inspiring	26%
Creative	33%
Other	3%
None of these	6%
Not sure	6%

5. When playing music, have you generally played from reading sheet music, playing by ear, or freestyling?

Asked of those who have learned to play an instrument

Reading sheet music	62%
Playing by ear	33%
Freestyling	25%
Not sure	6%

6. Do you wish you had learned to play an instrument?

Asked of those who have not learned to play an instrument

Yes	50%
No	36%
Not sure	14%

7. Which of these instruments do you most wish you knew how to play?

Asked of those who have not learned to play an instrument but wish they had

Piano	47%
Electric piano	1%
Guitar	22%
Electric guitar	7%
Drums	8%
Violin	2%
Viola	0%
Flute	1%
Clarinet	0%
Trumpet	1%
Trombone	0%
Saxophone	2%

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Cello	1%
Bass	1%
Electric bass	1%
Recorder	0%
Harmonica	1%
Ukulele	1%
Banjo	2%
Harp	1%
Other	1%
None of these	1%

8. With the following instrument(s), did you mostly learn from taking music lessons or a class, from someone teaching you informally, or from being self-taught?

Asked of those who learned to play this instrument

	I took lessons or a class	Someone taught me informally	I was self-taught	Not sure
Piano	60%	21%	19%	1%
Electric Piano	23%	24%	50%	3%
Guitar	39%	25%	36%	0%
Electric Guitar	19%	25%	52%	3%
Drums	27%	24%	47%	2%
Violin	59%	21%	17%	2%
Viola	47%	32%	17%	5%
Flute	62%	20%	14%	3%
Clarinet	73%	12%	12%	2%
Trumpet	66%	20%	9%	4%
Trombone	68%	19%	11%	2%
Saxophone	63%	18%	15%	4%
Cello	49%	24%	20%	7%
Bass	12%	28%	55%	5%
Electric Bass	16%	27%	50%	7%
Recorder	70%	15%	12%	2%
Harmonica	9%	22%	65%	4%
Ukulele	18%	18%	62%	1%
Banjo	26%	25%	43%	5%
Harp	20%	43%	25%	12%

9. Do you still play the following instrument(s)?

Asked of those who learned to play this instrument

	Yes	No	Not sure
Piano	32%	66%	2%
Electric Piano	40%	57%	3%
Guitar	39%	57%	4%
Electric Guitar	42%	49%	9%
Drums	32%	63%	5%
Violin	25%	72%	3%
Viola	36%	55%	9%
Flute	21%	77%	2%
Clarinet	11%	86%	3%
Trumpet	24%	73%	3%
Trombone	18%	73%	9%
Saxophone	21%	79%	0%
Cello	25%	71%	5%
Bass	54%	42%	4%
Electric Bass	52%	45%	3%
Recorder	12%	85%	3%
Harmonica	27%	68%	5%
Ukulele	36%	57%	7%
Banjo	38%	51%	11%
Harp	67%	27%	7%

10. Do you regret quitting this instrument?

Asked of those who learned to play this instrument and quit it

	Yes	No	Not sure
Piano	48%	43%	9%
Electric Piano	40%	50%	10%
Guitar	51%	40%	9%
Electric Guitar	55%	41%	3%
Drums	43%	49%	9%
Violin	37%	53%	10%
Viola	31%	59%	9%
Flute	29%	64%	7%
Clarinet	20%	71%	10%
Trombone	11%	74%	14%
Saxophone	38%	52%	10%
Cello	40%	47%	12%
Bass	32%	67%	2%
Electric Bass	40%	58%	2%

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Recorder	9%	88%	3%
Harmonica	21%	70%	9%
Ukulele	35%	56%	9%
Banjo	44%	39%	17%
Harp	40%	60%	0%

Interviewing Dates	June 2 - 5, 2022 June 6 - 9, 2022 June 29 - July 4, 2022
Target population	U.S. Citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, geographic region, and voter registration) was selected from the 2018 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2018 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement.
Weighting	The sample was weighted based on gender, age, race, education, news interest, and 2020 Presidential vote (or non-vote). The weights range from 0.105 to 5.936, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.493.
Number of respondents	3000
Margin of error	± 2% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	54 questions not reported.