

We asked Ayşe Tütüncü:

Can I use anything as a jazz instrument?

If you like its sound, then of course you can. But how to play that thing, and which part you use are certainly things you'll need to discover. For example, you can tap with your fingers on a pot filled with water, or you can use a knitting needle to drum on an old faucet. You can take a handful of dry leaves and rub them inside your palms to make a rustling sound and accompany a tune. If you run a wet finger on the rim of a glass cup, you get a whistling sound. Who knows what other sounds there are in this world? The question is, does every sound go with every song? For example, a musician called Fred Frith lays his electric guitar on his lap and plays it by running a clothes brush along the strings. So first you need to listen to this different sound and then figure out which jazz song it would be best suited to. Alternatively, you could compose a brand-new jazz song that incorporates this sound.



IT'S YOUR TURN

Together we can make a musical instrument. We'll need 2 or 3 jars, and some lentils, chickpeas and wheat grains. Fill each jar with a different kind of cereal. It's up to you how much you fill the jars. Put on the lids and close them tightly. There you have your musical instruments. Now, just shake the jars at different speeds. If you like, you can try out different fillings in the jars to see what sounds they produce.

Tuna Ötenel

Tuna Ötenel was born in 1947 in Istanbul to musician parents. His father Cevdet Bey was such an excellent violin player that people who knew him suggested he take "Ötenel" (literally, "chirping hand" in Turkish) as his surname. As an immigrant from Bulgaria, Cevdet Bey wanted to honour his roots by naming his son after the Danube River. Tuna's musical talent became evident when he was only 2.5 years old, so his parents bought him a piano. Even before he graduated from primary school, Tuna had passed the entrance exam for the Piano Department of the Ankara State Conservatory. He became a student there,

but the school had one condition: playing jazz was forbidden. Nevertheless, Little Tuna was so smitten with jazz that he played it at every opportunity. In the end, he was expelled from the Conservatory. In 1964, he stepped into a professional career in music with Metin Gürel's Orchestra. Metin Gürel introduced him to a brand-new instrument by giving him an alto saxophone as a gift. In 1978, he collaborated with other musicians to publish Jazz Semai, the first jazz record ever to be published in Turkey. The record featured Tuna Ötenel (piano, saxophone, vocals), Erol Pekcan (drums) and Kudret Öztoprak (bass guitar, percussion). In 2018, Tuna Ötenel was presented with the Istanbul Jazz Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Write down the names of the instruments, matching the numbers with the right boxes.