

## CITES Species Summary for Musical Instruments

*Note: This summary is intended for use when orchestras are preparing to apply for U.S.-issued CITES permits for musical instruments shipped as cargo. This summary covers CITES-protected species typically found in instruments. Exemptions may apply for musical instruments as "personal effects" that individually cross borders as carry-on or checked baggage. Each country may apply additional species-related restrictions and exemptions.*

- Items containing **African elephant ivory** (*Loxodonta africana*) must have a CITES permit which can be granted if the ivory content in the item was removed from the wild prior to February 26, 1976. (Note: the prior restriction on permits for items purchased after February 2014 is removed effective July 6, 2016.)
- Items containing **Asian elephant ivory** (*Elephas maximus*) must have a CITES permit which can be granted if: the item is over 100 years in age, the Asian elephant ivory content has not been repaired or modified on or after December 28, 1973, and the item was either imported through a CITES designated port or imported prior to September 22, 1982, **or**, the item is less than 100 years in age, has not entered into commerce since December 28, 1973, and the Asian elephant ivory content has not been repaired or modified on or after December 28, 1973.
- Items containing **Brazilian rosewood** (*Dalbergia nigra*) must always have a CITES permit, which can be granted if the instrument is made from Brazilian rosewood that was harvested from the wild prior to June 11, 1992 (this would be called a "Pre-Convention" instrument).
- Items containing **tortoiseshell** (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) must have a CITES permit which can be granted if: the item over 100 years in age, the tortoiseshell content has not been repaired or modified on or after December 28, 1973, and the item was either imported through a CITES designated port or imported prior to September 22, 1982, **or**, the item is less than 100 years in age, was acquired on or before December 28, 1973, and has not entered into commerce since December 28, 1973, and sea turtle content has not been repaired or modified on or after December 28, 1973.
- Items containing **water monitor lizard skin** (*Varanus salvator*) must have a CITES permit. Any instruments created after July 1, 1975, and made outside the U.S., or purchased outside the U.S. after July 1, 1975, must have documentation to prove that the instrument was legally imported into the U.S. with a CITES permit, or hand-carried into the U.S. as a personal effect. If the instrument was made in the U.S. after July 1, 1975, documentation must demonstrate that the monitor lizard material was legally imported into the U.S. with a CITES permit or imported prior to July 1, 1975.
- Items containing **mother of pearl** do not require a CITES permit. Items included in cargo, must be declared on the USFWS Import/Export Declaration. Items with this material can be hand-carried without declaring the contents.
- Items containing **whalebone** (e.g., *Balaena mysticetus*) require CITES permits and are also subject to Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act requirements. A Letter of Determination must first be obtained from the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration before applying for the CITES permit. While permits are not impossible to acquire, they may take extra time to obtain, and international procedures can be unpredictable, as the countries through which musicians travel may have additional permit requirements.