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Text in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish. This book is an extraordinary pictorial dictionary of musical instruments from around the world, containing over 1500 drawings. Each instrument has been selected to provide a balanced historical overview of musical development: aerophones, idiophones, membranophones, chordophones, mechanical and electrical instruments are all equally represented. All of the drawings have been created specifically for the details of features such as strings, frets and keys, together with characteristic decorative patterns, have been painstakingly reproduced. The oldest hand-made instruments illustrated date back over 50,000 years, while the newest are the product of a sophisticated machine and electronic age. This work, unlike many encyclopedias of music makes extensive use of detailed and scale pictorial presentation. You will find fascinating instruments used in tribal cultures, such as the sixth century bullroarer from Papua New Guinea to the Polyphonic Synthesizer invented by Robert Moog in 1982. The drawings are organised into categories by type and are positioned relative to one another on a time line. In the index, instruments invented in a specific year are labelled accordingly; in cases where musical historians have not been able to attribute an exact year of invention, the date indicates the century. World Musical Instruments will serve both as a source of information and as an object of fascination for: scholars, musicians, artists and designers. The accompanying CD-ROM with high-resolution jpeg illustrations of all the instruments provides the reader with an invaluable resource. CONTENTS: World Musical Instruments Oversized Musical Instruments\Bows, Beaters & Other Implements Index Recommended Reading & Museums CD Rom housing all illustrations Web sites