What is claimed is:

1. An ensemble comprising four or fewer acoustic steelpan musical instruments, wherein the ensemble is capable of covering the entire musical spectrum of G_1 to B_6 and a plurality of at least eight additional semitones, superfluous to the requisite musical range of A_1 to F_{6-2}.

~~2. The ensemble of claim 1~~ wherein the four instruments comprise a soprano instrument, a second instrument, a mid instrument and a bass instrument~~.~~

~~3. The ensemble of claim 2~~ wherein the soprano instrument comprises one drum and is configured to span the musical range C_4 to B_6, the second instrument comprises two drums and is configured to span the musical range D_3 to $C^{\#}_6$, the mid instrument comprises three drums and is configured to span the musical range A_2 to $G^{\#}$ and the bass instrument comprises six drums and is configured to span the musical range G_1 to C_4~~.~~ and

~~4. The ensemble of claim 3~~ wherein each instrument has a playing surface having an area of

$$S_{instrument} = kS_{B1}\alpha^J\left(\frac{1-\alpha^n}{1-\alpha}\right),$$

where S_{B1} is the area of a B_1 note, α is the ratio of the area between consecutive notes, typically 0.93, n is the number of notes on the playing surface and, for the playing surface in the form of a spherical bowl mutatis mutandis, the radius of said playing surface is

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{S_{instrument}}{\pi} - d^2}$$

where d is the depth of the bowl that forms the playing surface, and the number of drums of an instrument is given by $n_{drums} \geqq S_{instrument}/S_{soprano}$.

~~5~~2. The ensemble of claim ~~4~~ 1 wherein the soprano instrument has one drum having a playing surface area of

$$S_{soprano} = 1.1 A_{B1} \alpha^{J} \left(\frac{1-\alpha^{n}}{1-\alpha} \right)$$

or at least 4646.4 cm^2, a depth of no greater than d=10" or 25.4 cm, and a radius

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{S_{soprano}}{\pi} - d^2}$$

being at least 32.7 cm or 12.9 in.

63. The ensemble of claim 4-1 wherein the second instrument has two drums, each drum having a radius

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{S_{soprano}}{\pi} - d^2}$$

being at least equal to the radius of the soprano instrument drum.

74. The ensemble of claim 4-1 wherein the mid instrument has three drums, the mid instrument having a playing surface area of

$$S_{instrument} = 1.1 S_{B1} \alpha^{J} \left(\frac{1-\alpha^{n}}{1-\alpha} \right)$$

or at least 11100 cm^2 and each drum having a radius

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{S_{soprano}}{\pi} - d^2}$$

being at least equal to the radius of the soprano instrument drum.

85. The ensemble of claim 4-1 wherein the bass instrument has six drums, the bass instrument having a playing surface area of

$$S_{instrument} = 1.05 S_{B1} \alpha^{J} \left(\frac{1-\alpha^{n}}{1-\alpha} \right)$$

or at least 27535 cm^2 and having a radius

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{S_{soprano}}{\pi} - d^2}$$

being at least equal to the radius of the soprano instrument drum.

~~96~~. The ensemble of claim ~~4~~ 1 wherein the playing surface comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum and its alloys, copper and copper alloys, manganese alloys, magnesium, zirconium, zinc, nickel, titanium, carbon steels and stainless steels that are austenitic stainless steels stabilized by niobium or titanium that is non work hardened.

~~107~~. The ensemble of claim ~~3~~ 1 further comprising:
a pair of suspension wheels attached to each drum of each instrument; and
a support stand including a pair of support cups, the support cups constructed and arranged to rotatably support the suspension wheels without constraining each instrument to a fixed playing angle, thereby supporting each drum in a free swinging fashion.