

Q U E N A



“Quena has been accompanying us since the ancient times. It was born among birds’ singing and wind energy, and decorated by Latin America peoples. It still sings today being honored witness of Music evolution history in our Peru...”



The Quena, also known as the Kena, originates in the Andes mountains, South America. It has been said that it predates the Incan civilization. Some quenas have been found made of clay, stone, bone and bamboo.

Modern quena is chromatic instrument with 3 octave range which allows to play successfully not only Andean folk music but also classical music and jazz. This instrument has six finger holes and one thumb hole and is open on both ends. There is no whistle, only oval notch cut into the end



To produce sound, the player closes the top end of the pipe with the flesh between his chin and lower lip, and blows a stream of air downward, along the axis of the pipe, over an oval notch.. Due to such design quena produces tender and a little bit husky sound which is very much alike human sorrowful voice. That’s why quena is Marcelo Peña sometimes called as “Flute of Sadness”

Marcelo Peña, the famous Bolivian virtuoso musician and quena-maker, began to play at 8 years old age

He has recorded about 30 records with different bands and singers and released 4 CDs as a soloist. Several times Marcelo carried out international tours into Peru, Finland, Switzerland, Denmark, France, Japan and the USA.

