# MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Musical instruments and their story have always been part of Human history and story of music begins with story of humanity. Music or sound, stood at the cradle of all civilisations. When primitive human struck a piece of rock, stone or skin, or blew into an old bone or hollow branch they perhaps concluded that what they heard was the voice of the object. The history of Musical Instruments ranges from pre-historic times to the present. It traverses throughout, and every stage of evolution, from primitive rattles and bull-roarers to the electric organ.

This process also involved a corresponding evolution from folk & ritual instruments to those intended for entertainment and art. There also evolved a new class of professional musicians. From this point musical instruments further sub-evolved into popular instruments, those used by professionals. The former evolved towards easier playing while the latter evolved towards musical effectiveness.

Just as music itself begins in the hazy mists of history, instruments also have vague origins; indeed the first musical instrument is the human body. The only definition that we can think of, then could be "Any object which can produce 'rhythmic sound' is a musical instrument", from a piece of stone or a leaf to the most complicated computerized electronic tone synthesizer.

This exhibit is classified further: 1.String, 2.Wind, 3. Percussion.

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### Biblography:

- 1. The History of Musical Instruments by Curt Sachs.
- 72 2. The Encyclopedia of Musical instruments 73 - 80 by Max Wade Matthews & Wendy Thomson.

### 1.1.Single string

### 1.String Instruments:

Music is produced by means of vibrating the strings over a sounding board or a resonating chamber. Plucking, bowing and striking are the three common techniques in creating musical sounds. The length and the tautness of the string effect the pitch and tone of sound produced.



#### Arababu

Single string played by swiping. It is made of bamboo and a resonance tube from half the coconut shell.

Over print **Bayar Porto**(postage Due)



Gusle

Maple wood, sound box covered with animal skin, bow made of 30 horse hairs.



**Kanyembe**Single sting fiddle.
Gourd resonator



Chordeophone
Gourd resonator,
bamboo bow
both ends tied
with animal hair.



Chitende

One string Gourd resonator, with a musical bow.



Chowdike - wooden or copper drum covered by leather. Two to two & half feet long thread is made of sheep Intestines. Cancellation depicting Chowdike



**Quijongo**Single string bow 149=0 Cm in length
Jicara or Calabash a gourd resonator.



Kaligo One-stringed tube fiddle of the Chewa people in southern and central Malawi.



Ektara is used in folk songs, bhajan, sankirtan and story telling.



The Okambulumbumbwa is one of the world's oldest instruments, shown in Stone Age cave paintings in France.



Ektara is a one-string instrument most often used in traditional music from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Egypt

Design: Anowar Hossain & Jasim Uddin



Berimbau is a single string percussion instrument, a musical bow, with its origins from Africa

\* Perforation: Rouletted



Pusline is an ancient Lithuanian string instrument and is made from a tree branch bowed by a catgut or waxed string.





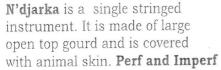
Riiti is a single-stringed bowed instrument of the Fula tribe of Western Africa

SENEGAL



Violon is made of large open top gourd & covered with animal skin with arched bow.







## 1.1.Single string

The resonator of this instrument is made up of half gourd, which is covered by the skin of goat, lizard or reptile. A wooden neck is inserted through the resonator, terminating in a spike at the base. The string is made of horsehair and runs from the spike at the base, over a small V-shaped wooden bridge placed on the skin, to the upper part of the neck where it is tied with rope. The sound hole is situated in the resonator. The instrument is played with a small convex bow. This stamp is designed and engraved by Gilbert Aufschneider.











Colour trail printed in monochromatic colours in the first three stamps and with combination of colours in the last two.

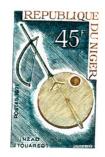




Perf and imperf of the final stamp



Cancellation depicting one string is also known as iktar, ektar, yaktaro



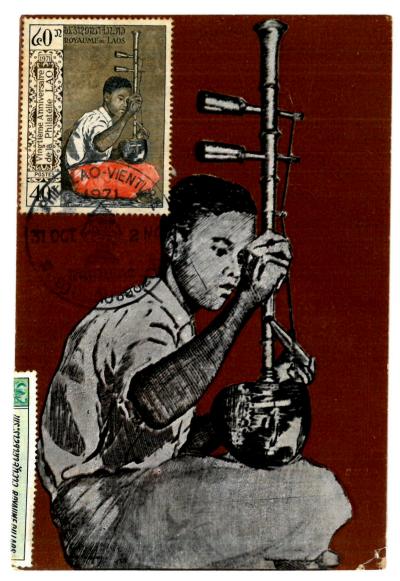


goge or goje, is known by gonjey, gonje, njarka, Mandinka, riti, and nyanyeru or nyanyero. Snake skin/lizard skin covers a gourd bowl, and a horsehair string on bridge. played with a bow

IMPRIMERIE DES TIMBRES-POSTE - FRANCE



2 Stringed Instruments featured in the 2002 Ethnic Musical Instruments Postage stamp featuring the **Erhu** a spike fiddle, **Pan-hu**, the wood panel fiddle and the **Morin khuur**, also known as horsehead fiddle.



Commercially used card to France - 1971 depicting Violin.





The Morin khuur, also known as the horsehead fiddle, is a traditional Mongolian two-stringed lute, The instrument consists of a trapezoid wooden-framed sound box, traditionally covered with camel, goat, or sheep skin to which two strings are attached. The strings are made from hairs from nylon or horses' tail.

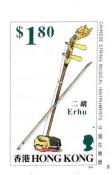




Volin **Perf** and **Imperf**. Engraver Jean Pheulpin



Erhu spike fiddle



Horse headed fiddle



The **Haegeum** traditional Korean instrument with a rodlike neck, a hollow wooden soundbox, and two silk strings, and is held vertically on the knee of the performer and played with a bow.



Full set of 2 values of stamps issued in 2003, featuring the The **Kobyz** which has two strings made of horsehair and the resonating cavity is usually covered with goat leather, and the **Dombra** which is a long-necked Turkic lute

Design: S. Kenzhetoreev



The **Erhu** is more specifically a spike fiddle, with the small resonator body (sound box) which is covered with python skin. Belonging to the "Huqin" family. It is said that its origin would be dated to the Tang dynasty (618-907).



The **Kudyapi**, is a Filipino two-stringed, fretted boatlute, popular among the Maguindanao people.



๓ สิงหาคม ๒๕๕๘

The **Saw duang** is a traditional Thai instrument, The sound is produced by the bow made from horsetail hair which goes between the strings made from silk and the sound box is covered with snake skin.

Colour registration on the tab



**Guitare** is made out of goat skin and it is a plucked instrument. Strings are made of horse hair.





The **Le Rebab**, is two-stringed, made out of wood and ornately carved with tuning pegs and a bow.





The **Harpe**, is a two-stringed, made out of maple wood and tuning pegs.

postage due
Bayar porto



commercially used registered cover with Matouqin instrument from China to India

Matouqin, also known as the Morinhuur (horsehead two-string fiddle). On the Mongolian grasslands goes such a **legend**. A lord killed a white horse with his bow. The pet's owner, named Suhe, was sorrowful and missed his pet day and night. One night the dead horse came into his dream, saying to him, "Make an instrument with my body. Then I can accompany you for ever". So the first type was made, with the horse bones as its neck, the horsehair as its strings, the horse skin covering its wooden soundbox, and its scroll carved into the shape of a horse head.

# 1.3.Three string

# 1.String Instruments:



**Kemenche** is a name used for various stringed bowed folk instruments, and are generally having, three strings played held upright. Water mark: Crown



The **Saw Sam Sai** literally means "three stringed fiddle". Its body is made from a special type of coconut covered with animal skin and has three silk strings.



The **Shudraga** is a spike-lute associated with ethnic groups like the Torguts. The resonator is an wooden ovalshaped. Snake skins are glued resonator openings.



**lijerica** is a pear shaped, three stringed with a bow. It is played traditional lindo dance.

Design: Sabina Rešic



The **Bouzouki** - its origins in Asia Minor. It is played with a plectrum and has a sharp metallic sound, reminiscent of a mandolin but pitched lower.

Water mark: Crown



The three-stringed instrument with the center string elevated than the outer strings is called **trew khmer**, and is bowed with a horse-hair.



The **Kamacha** is a ball shaped instrument with tuning pegs and bow. strings are made out of Horse hair



Baglama Üçtelli saz is a 3 string single course instrument. Baglama is perhaps the most commonly used string folk instrument in Turkey.



The **Gadulka** is a bowed string instrument. Its name means "to make noise, hum or buzz" and is an integral part of Bulgarian traditional instrumental ensembles.



The **Langspill** is a traditional drone zither that can be played by plucking the strings by hand with a bow or by hammering



The **Fidla** is a traditional instrument that can be described as a box with two brass strings and is played with a bow.



Basy Dlubane is bass fiddle and is a very old and popular Polish folk instrument.

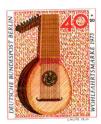
Design: Zbigniew Stasik





Stamps depicting a Violin and a Mandolin from the collection at the Music Museum in Markneukirchen.





Wohlfahrtsmarken' are a special 'Postage Surcharge' that was levied by Deutsche Post. In addition to the actual portage amount, a surcharge is levied, which is passed on for Social purposes (Charity). The Lute and the Drehleier depicted on such issues in 1973.



The Suka was a unique fiddle that was played vertically, on the knee or hanging from a strap, and the strings were stopped at the side with the fingernails. **Design: Zbigniew Stasik** 



The Rabeca or Rebeca is a stringed musical instrument played by bowing. It is considered to be one of th ancestore of the violin Perforation: Rouletted

### 1.4.Multi string

# 1.String Instruments:



Hurdy-Gurdy and the Tap, belonging to the Lute family depicted on a se-tennant issue.



Three exceptional instruments from the Leskowszky Instrument Collection – a **Jew's Harp**, a **Hit-Gardon** and a **Hurdy-Gurdy** – are illustrated in the miniature sheet'**Specimen**.



The **Kobza** is a Ukrainian folk music instrument Lutelike stringed instrument with a body hewn from a single block of wood and traditionally gut-strung.



Cancellation depicting Sarangi



The **Braguinha** is a 4 string Guitar, considered to be ancestor of the Ukulele, that is usually found in Madeira.



Cancellation depicting sarod



1000

# 1.String Instruments:



#### Rudra Veena

It has a long tubular body made of wood or bamboo. 2 large round resonators, made of dried and hollowed gourds. 24 brass-fitted raised wooden frets are fixed on the tube with the help of wax.



#### Sitar

It has a hollow body with resonators, made of teak wood 18 to 21 strings. 15 Strings are sympathetic strings are lugged into smaller tuning pegs.



#### Huobosi

Sanxian instrument, It has 3 strings. resonator is covered with python skin and dragon head scroll.

#### Veena

It has a hollow body and two resonating gourds under each end. One is pear shaped and the other is round. It has four main strings. This finds a mention in vedic literature, the Rigveda, and Samaveda.



#### Sarod

AIDH PUR

The neck and the peg box are made from one piece of teak wood. Sound board madeof goat skin stretched across the resonator. It has 17 to 25 stings.pegs for tuning.



#### Sarangi

It is made from single light wood, double chamber. Lower chamber covered with sheep skin. Bow made from horse hair.



# Veena

Cancellation depicting Veena is 1.5m long and made from jackwood. large, round body, wide neck, the end carved into head of dragon.

नेश्वरम 560 003 Malleshwarar 28-10-2017



#### Dan Ta Lu

Dan is 3 stringed lute is used Its sound box is a oval shape made of wood and bamboo



#### Esraj

It is a folk instrument, It has 4 main metal strings. Sound board covered with goat skin. The bow is made of horse hair.

## 1.4. Multi string

# 1.String Instruments:



Guitare

The number of strings varies between 1 and 7. Made of wood



#### Cello

Made of Maple wood finger board and pegs ebony wood. Horse hair bow.



### Pipa

香港 HONG KONG

It is a pear-shaped wooden body with a varying number of frets ranging from 12 to 26.



#### M'Bolon

It has a gourd body stretched over an animal skin tuning on twisted leather 3 strings.



#### Oud

Oud is an S shaped towards the pegs made up of 20 layers of wood in the shape of a crescent. Stem is attached to the body by a wedge.





Dozo N'Goni

It has a gourd body stretched over an animal skin tuning on twisted leather 4 strings.



Commercially used post card from Thailand to Australia depicting Karchappi Instrument



Bangwe is stringed musical instrument, strings are the same length as its soundboard. 30 or 40 gut or metal strings are stretched.



#### Ruan

It has a circular body, and four strings & made of silk. It has 24 frets.



#### Gehu

It is bowed instrument and the body stretched animal skin horse, lamb or snake.

## 1.4.Multi string

# 1.String Instruments:



**Booklet pane** depicting Nyckelharpa played with a bow

Tambal/ cimbalom played by striking two beaters against the strings.



Front and back of the booklet pane



**Ghijak - Adrina** joint issue four-stringed bowed spike fiddle, table harp.





The **Morin khuur**, also known as the horsehead fiddle, is a traditional Mongolian two-stringed lute, The instrument consists of a trapezoid wooden-framed sound box, traditionally covered with camel, goat, or sheep skin to which two strings are attached. The strings are made from hairs from nylon or horses' tail.



**Throkhe:** three legs & an odd shape. It's frets are affixed with hot wax.

9. 10. 2012.



**Šargija** long necked chordophone is used in the folk music



**Janchir** is a Mongolian traditional Box Zitter with moveable bridges played by striking the strings.



**Khiil** is a traditional four stringed instrument, played rested on the knee.



**Jatga** is a Mongolian traditional plucked musical Box Zitter

Se-tenant sheeetlet issued depicting various modern instruments and their ancestors, Obe - Zuma, Violin - Rebab, Drum - Darbouka, Piano - Qanun, Guitar - Oud.



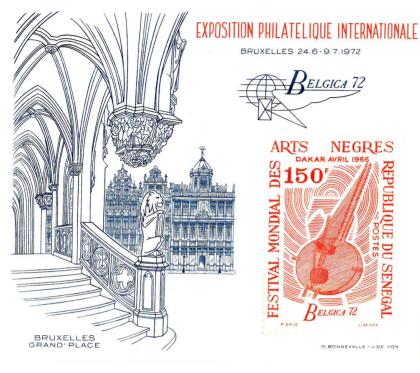
Se-tenant Miniature Sheet issued depicting various Thai traditional instruments, the Saw Sam Sai, the Jakhay, the Saw Duang and the Ranat Ayk.



### 1.4.Multi string

### 1.String Instruments:

The **Kora** is a 21-string lute-bridge-harp used extensively in West Africa. It is a mandinka harp built from a large calabash cut in half and covered with cow skin to make a resonator with a long hardwood neck. The skin is supported by two handles that run under it. Strings were traditionally made from thin strips of hide like antelope skin.





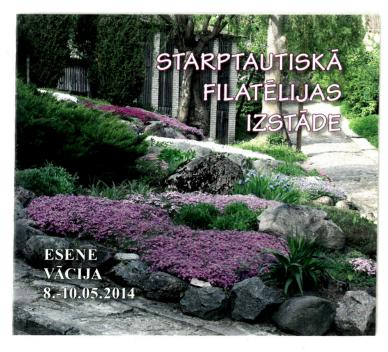






Se tenant stamp on sitar mirror image





The kokles has a hollow trapezoidal body carved out single piece of wood thin ornated wooden soundboard. Strings don't rest on a bridge,.

Booklet containing Kokle string Instrument



The **Kannel** is an Estonian plucked zither, one of the family of Baltic psalteries, making a resurgence after many years of decline. The tab portion has a wind instrument flute.