

Music of the World

Chordophones: Lyres and Lutes

A **Chordophone** is an instrument that uses a vibrating string or strings as a method of sound, sometimes stretched between two points.

Lyres have been found as early as 2500 BC in Mesopotamia (which is modern-day Iraq).

Pictured left, is *Lyre of Ur*. Lyres can have any number of strings with 4, 7 or 10 strings being favored. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27opckxcg1c>



Left, the **Talharpa** or *Tagelharpa* (tail-hair harp) is a four string bowed harp from northern Europe now mostly played in Estonia.

Right, the **Jouhikko** is a three stringed bowed lyre from Finland and Russia. It has experienced a revival and is played today.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3g_s5_U0R1o

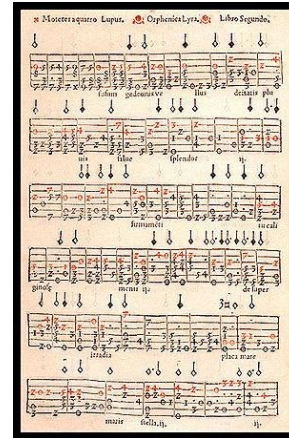


The **Lute** dates back to 2000 BC. The name indicates that it has a long neck that is both a handle and also stretches the strings. Left is an ancient Egyptian tomb depicting the playing of long necked lutes. The lute has pegs or tuning posts at the

neck. It can be fretted or unfretted, which means it can have raised lines on the fingerboard. The lute is plucked or strummed.

Medieval to late Baroque performers in Europe used the lute for secular (popular) music. By the Renaissance, a sophisticated tablature or notation could be read by the lutist.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5spw5QITM5s>



Below is the Greek or Turkish **Classical Kemenche** which is a neck bowed lute. The bow is called the *yay*. The player's fingers do not touch the strings but touch the fingerboard beneath.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvNEtHaHkWk>

