

Music of the World

Chordophones - Open Harps, Bow Harps, Harp-Lutes



The **Harp** has existed as early as 3500 BC, which is for about 5,500 years.

Harp have been found in ancient Egyptian burial pits along with **Lyres** and depicted in mosaics and murals (which are wall-covered paintings or drawings).

Left is the Persian **Chang** (4000 BC-17th century AD). The earliest harps were made from hunting bows with strings attached.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lye1LM7qHf8>



Saung, left, is a Burmese harp which has a long curved neck and 13 to 16 strings. It is played by sitting on the floor. It is thought to be 1,500 years old.

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

The **Çeng**, right, is a Turkish harp which is an open harp played both by women and men. It came in two sizes: one for sitting and one for standing up.

It is thought to be around 2,500 years old.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya-0J_jfGoQ



The **Inānga**, pictured left, is played in Mugamba, Burundi.

It was played at night for the king and for the cows who loved the sound. People whisper songs of their kings while

the gentle sound accompanies them. It is ironic that the eight strings are made from cow flesh tightened. Seven of the eight strings are used giving it five notes and two octaves making it pentatonic. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9YSVy4C_j0

Right, the **Kundi** is an arched African harp from Uganda. An *Abalanga*, a skilled performer/composer plays the five tone harp trying not to ever play the same song twice. This instrument is known for its ornately carved heads.

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



The **Kora**, left, is a West African Mandinka instrument that is both harp and lute—a double-bridged harp-lute. It has 21 strings that are plucked—eleven with the left hand and ten with the right. It's made from a large calabash that is covered with cow skin (membranophone) that serves as a resonator and a hard wood neck. The sound is beautiful.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHLZXT_DRkQ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7aPARVuy_0 (Kora and Djimbe conversation)