Music of the World

Chordophones - The Harp: Closed



Modern **Harps** are triangular structures made of wood with originally gut strings but the modern harps may consist of nylon, synthetic fluorocarbon, wire: steel core or nylon core, but remain mostly gut. The wound strings are

for looser tension and are on the bass end of the harp. Gut strings tend to have a warmer more mellow sound while the nylon are longer lasting and give a brighter sound. The colored strings usually are red for C and black for F, but some manufacturers of nylon strings use purple for C and blue for F.



There are Pedal harps, Lever harps, **Celtic harps** (shown left)

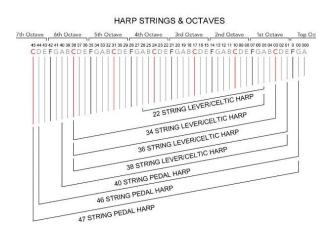
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTe6t6eyUQ4 and Troubadour harps. As shown by the chart, the number of strings can vary from 22 to 47. The red harp (below right) is a 34 string harp. Below, left is a 47 string Concert Grand Pedal Harp. The pedals are used to change the key. The two

How the harp works: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGiojTVnUbM

lower strings are not changed by the pedal.

Waltz of the Flowers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijXtH0MCTtE

Fantasie by Saent-Saens: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7KyfpP-eoQ





The crown on harps can be quite ornate as shown below. Notice the range of the Concert Grand Pedal Harp and look at the pedals.



I hope you enjoy 20th century comedian/harpist/mime, *Harpo Marx*:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GArbUV_yv2k https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=569Gy8BE5P4







