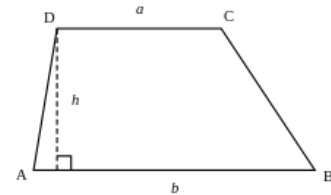


Music of the World

Chordophones: Zithers in Europe

The name **Zither** originates from the Greek *cithara* from which the word *guitar* is derived. Zithers are generally trapezoidal in shape, with metal strings stretched across the top. There are three basic kinds: concert, Alpine and chord zithers. There are fretted, fretless, bowed, plucked and hammered zithers.



The Romanian **Țambal** or **Dulcimer** was found in Rumania as early as the 16th century but became more prevalent in the 19th century when played by Gypsy musicians. It is played using two hammers and is often played by peasant or street musicians. Today, Gypsy orchestras are known to play the Concert Cimbalom (see below).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6Pkr8wDJA4>

The Hungarian **Cimbalom** is usually played by using two beaters against the strings. The steel treble strings that are grouped in fours are tuned in unison (the same pitches). The bass strings which are wound copper are grouped in threes and also tuned in unison. Here is a street musician: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N63gikqYyWI>



The **Concert Cimbalom** was made in 1874 in Budapest, Hungary, making it more similar to a small forte-piano in weight and dynamics. The legs were removable (*for gigging*). The tuning also became chromatic— meaning all the 12 notes from one pitch to the octave. Here is an amazing cimbalom performer playing *Flight of the Bumblebee*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLD05_pC8TY



The **Hammered Dulcimer** has two bridges, one with 15 strings at the treble and one with 14 strings at the bass. As the name implies, the dulcimer is “hammered” with mallets and is tuned as is shown on the right. Here is an explanation as to where notes are located on the dulcimer (a few minutes is more than enough):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plbrAtOHE6c>

Carol of the Bells: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c--oeGNx8Yw>

