

# European Musical Instruments

Ebook



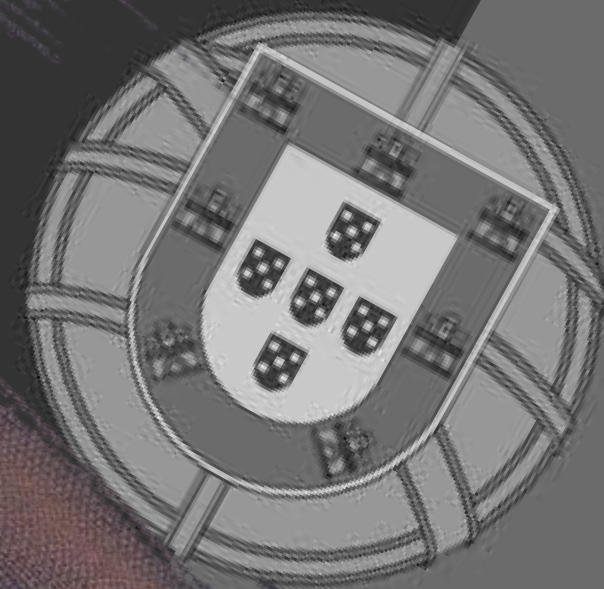
VOICES AND RHYTHMS: EXPLORING MUSIC TRADITIONS THROUGH PODCASTS

# Ebook



As part of the eTwinning project "Voices and Rhythms: Exploring Music Traditions Through Podcasts", students from Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece and Turkey got together and researched information about traditional instruments from their countries. The result is this ebook and the podcast "The Voices of Tradition: Understanding Traditional Instruments". Let's travel through the sounds of Europe!





Portugal

# Portuguese Traditional Instruments



Portugal has a rich and diverse musical tradition, with many traditional instruments that reflect the country's history and culture.

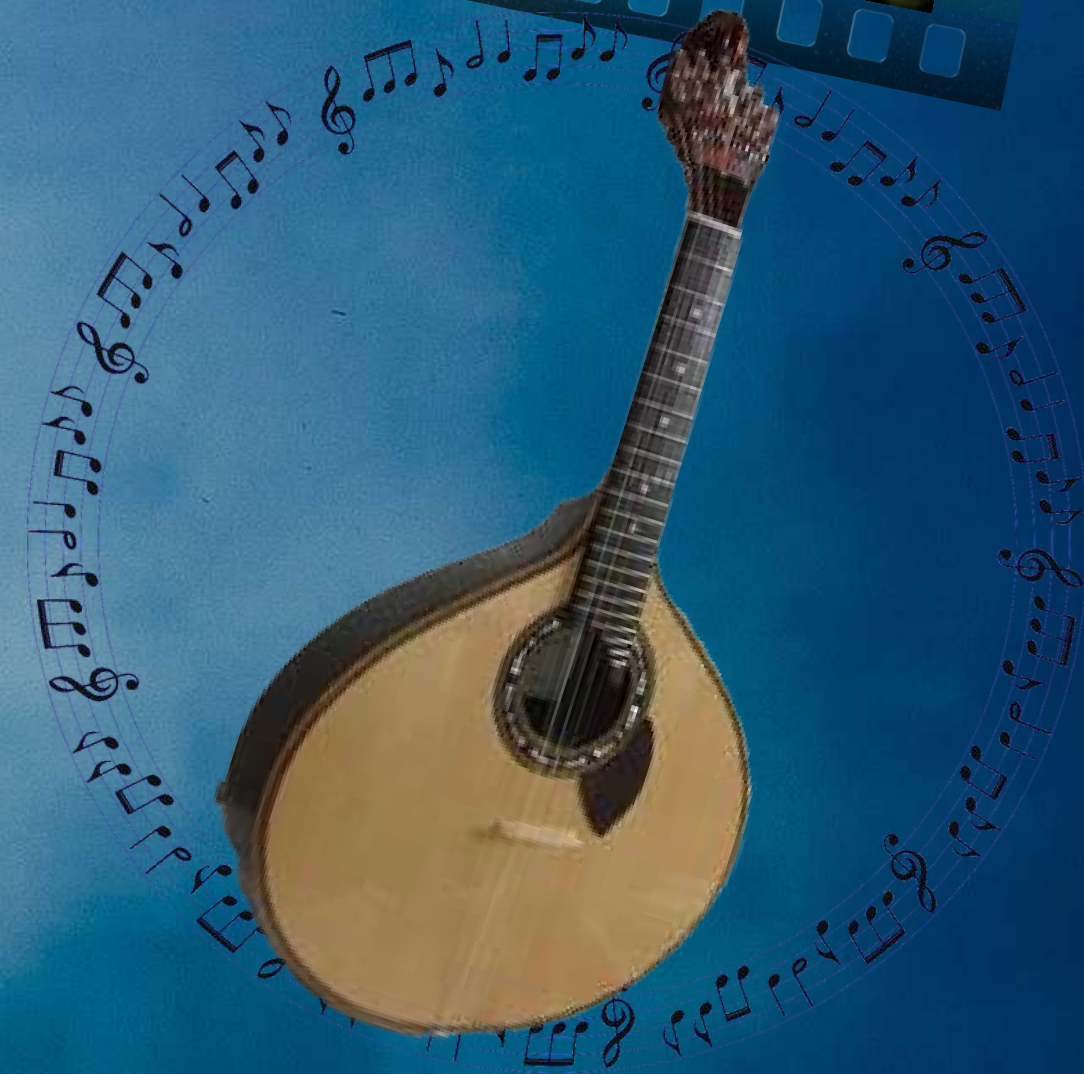
We will present the musical instruments that we chose to present in the podcast "The Voices of Tradition: Understanding Traditional Instruments". However, in this context, we researched more instruments that we present in another e-book, the link to which is provided at the end of this presentation.



# Guitarra Portuguesa



The Portuguese Guitar is a traditional chordophone with 12 steel strings, usually played with fingerpicks. It is most commonly used in Lisbon and Coimbra, where it plays a key role in Fado music. This instrument has its origins in the lute and cittern, brought to Portugal in the 18th century. Over time, it developed into the unique form we know today, with a teardrop-shaped body and a distinctive resonant sound. Although it is mainly associated with Fado, the Portuguese guitar is also used in folk and classical music. Skilled players create expressive melodies, making it one of the most iconic instruments in Portuguese culture.



# Cavaquinho



It is also a traditional Portuguese cordophone, widely played, with four metal or nylon strings. It is especially popular in the Minho province, our region, but it is also played in other parts of the country. The cavaquinho has been played in Portugal for centuries, and its origins date back to medieval times. Over the years, it has been used in folk music, traditional dances, and even some modern styles. It is a key instrument in "rancho folclórico", folk dance groups. One of the most interesting facts about the cavaquinho is its journey across the world. When Portuguese explorers and settlers traveled, they took the instrument with them. It arrived in Madeira, where it became the braguinha, and later, Portuguese immigrants brought it to Hawaii in the 19th century. There, it evolved into the ukulele, one of the most famous Hawaiian instruments today.



# Concertina

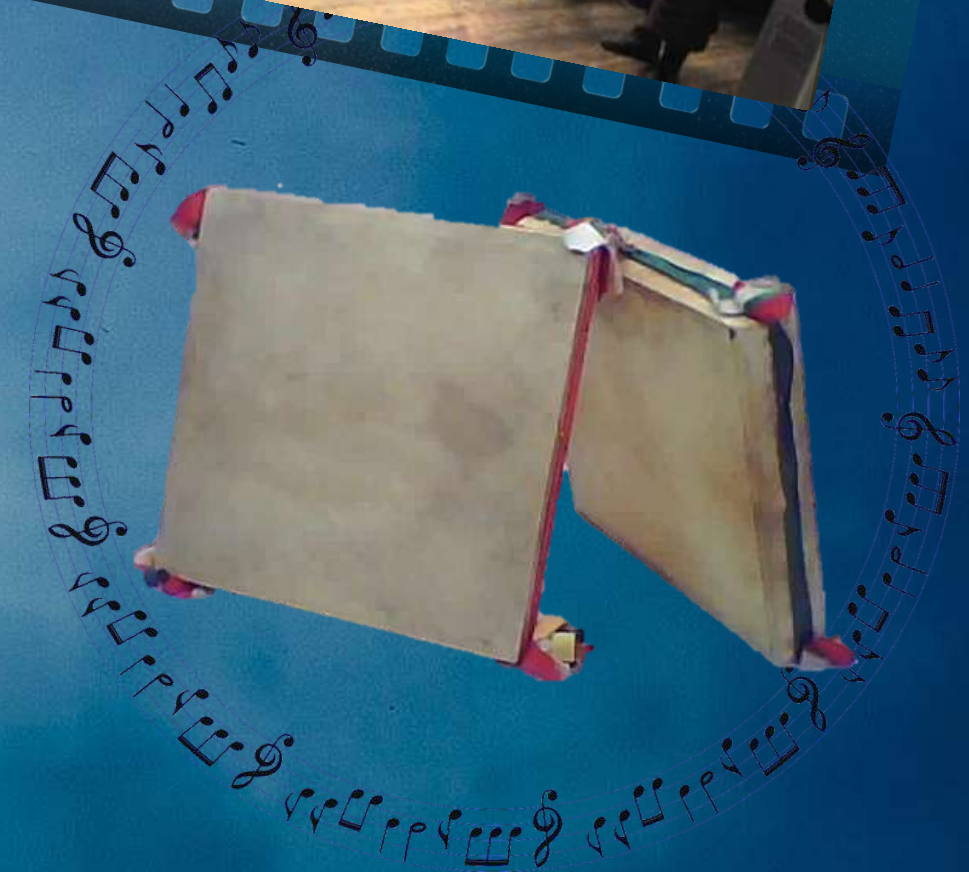
It is a traditional aerophone widely used in Portugal, especially in the Minho, Trás-os-Montes, and Beira Litoral regions. It was introduced to Portugal in the 19th century, inspired by similar European free-reed instruments. Over time, it became an essential part of Portuguese folk music. This instrument is commonly played in traditional dances, such as the "vira", "chula", and "malhão", and is often heard in folk festivals and popular celebrations. The concertina produces sound by pushing and pulling the bellows while pressing buttons that control the airflow through reeds. Today, it remains an important symbol of Portuguese musical heritage, with many players and groups keeping the tradition alive.



# Adufe



It is a traditional Portuguese membranophone, mainly used in the regions of Beira Baixa and Trás-os-Montes. It is a square frame drum, usually made of wood and goatskin, with small seeds or jingles inside to create a richer sound. The adufe has Moorish origins and has been played in Portugal for centuries, especially by women in rural communities, especially during religious festivals, folk celebrations, and work songs. It is mostly used in folk and religious music, often accompanying traditional singing and dances. Today, it is also present in modern and fusion music, keeping its cultural importance alive.



# Brinquinho

It is a traditional Portuguese percussion instrument classified as an idiophone. It is most commonly used in the Madeira region, where it plays an important role in local folk music. The brinquinho consists of wooden dolls dressed in traditional Madeiran costumes, attached to a frame with small castanets. When the frame is moved up and down (shaken), the castanets produce a rhythmic sound that accompanies folk dances and songs. It is mainly used in bailinho da Madeira, a lively and joyful folk music and dance. In northern Portugal, especially in the Minho region, there is a similar instrument called zuca-truca, which shares the same characteristics and function in folk music.



E-book prepared by Team Portugal students

TRADITIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

# PORTUGAL



# Instrument



History, sound, construction, ...



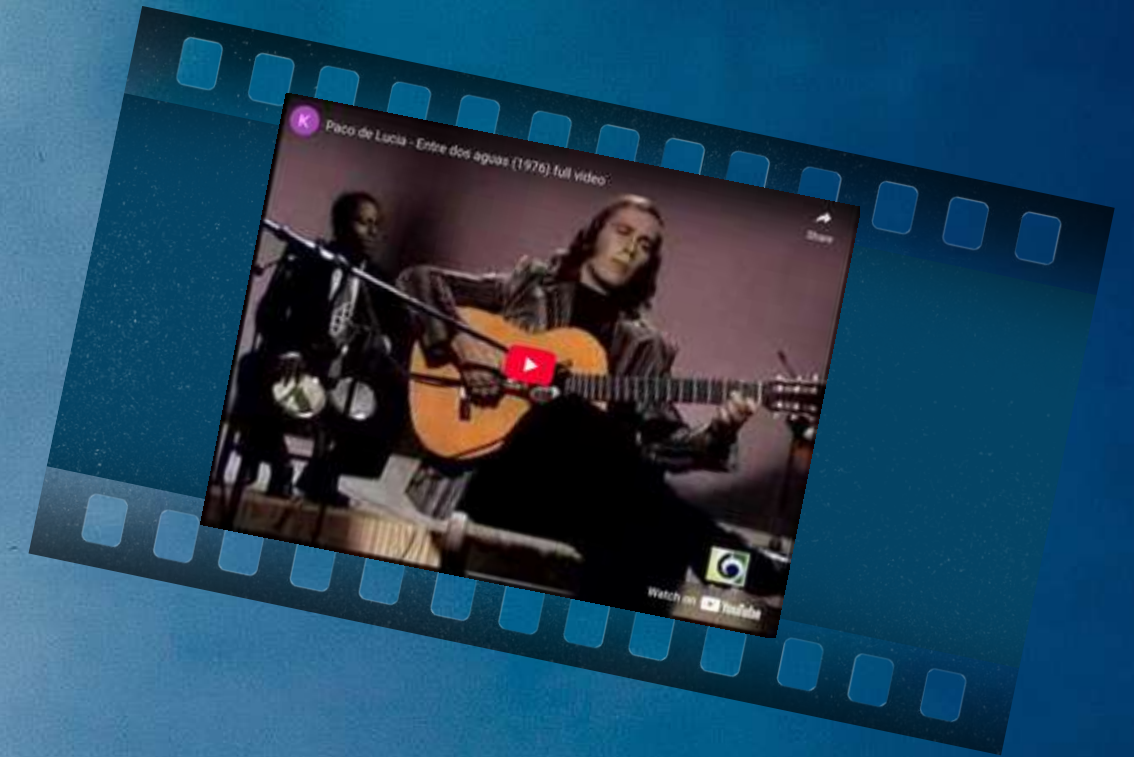


Spain

History, sound, construction,  
...dol

# Instrument

The origins and evolution of the guitar and its family are not very clear, since numerous similar instruments were used in ancient times, so it is common to follow the trajectory of this instrument through the pictorial and sculptural representations found throughout history. There is archaeological evidence in bas-reliefs found in Alaça Hüyük (northern modern Türkiye) that around the year 1000 BC. C. the Hittites and Assyrians created stringed instruments similar to the lyre (the simplest and oldest multi-stringed instrument in the world) but with the addition of a sound box, so they would be predecessors of the guitar. Representations have also been found in ancient Egyptian drawings that resemble the guitar.



# Instrument

cajón/Flamenco box

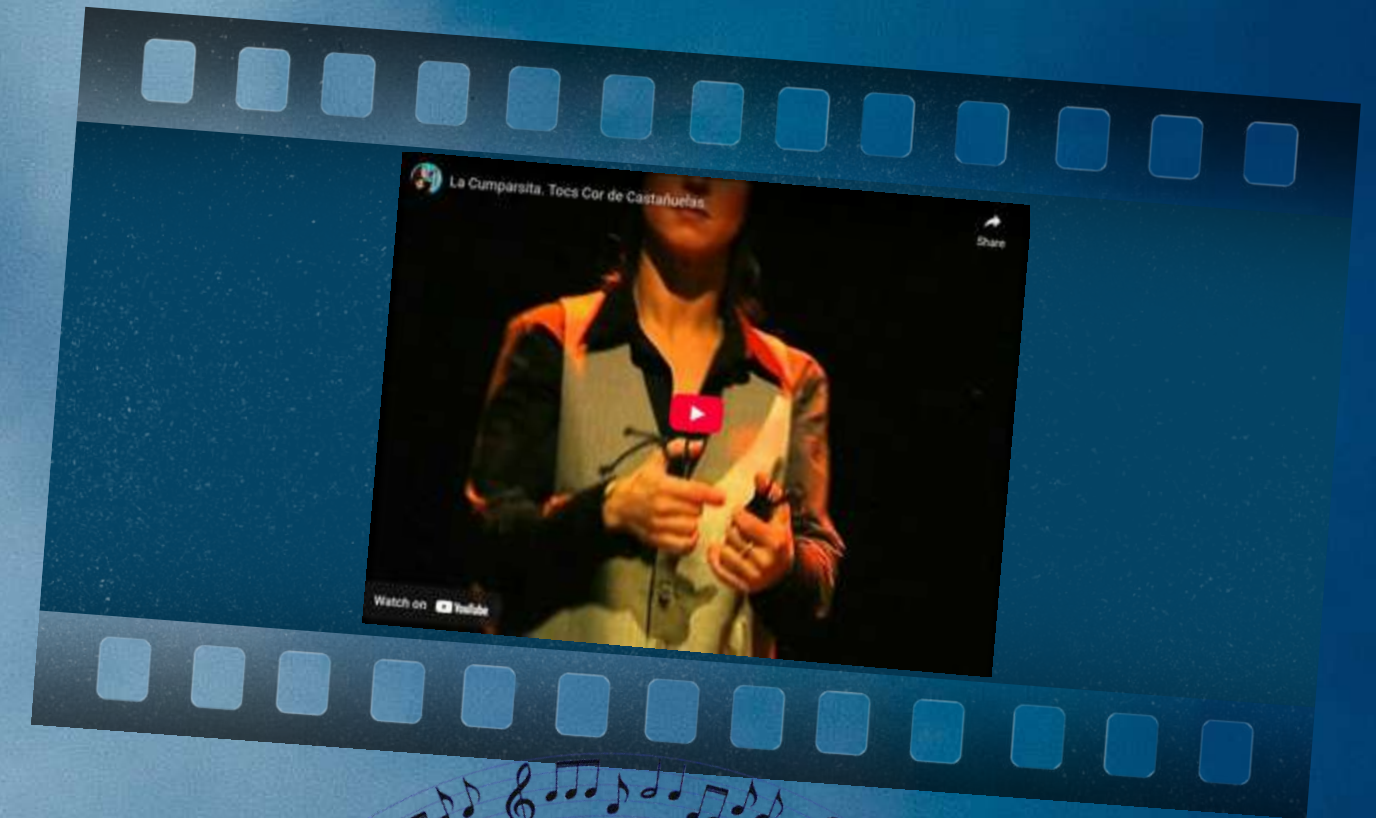


History, sound, construction,  
...dol

# Instrument

## CASTANETS

Its origins dates back to about 300 years age, when the Phoencions created this percussion instrument that, although many Mediterraneo countries, became a basic element of national folklore in Spain, known throughout the world thanks, above all, to the great expansion of flamingo.



## Dolçaina and Tabal

# Instrument

### TABAL:

its characteristics are : it has an approximate height of 20 cm. And a diameter of 30 cm. The skins were formerly goat skins ,but now they are made of plastic. The top one is called pell de batre and the bottom one bordone. The central body is made of wood with two rings and through the cords that are properly tensioned , a good sound is achieved. drums ticks of about 25 cm ACT as stikers . Long approximately.



# Instrument

bandurria



# Instrument



organillo





# Instrument



## Gaita/bagpipe Sound

The bagpipe is a woodwind instrument. To obtain the sound, the player stores air in a wineskin or sack by blowing through a tube or by operating bellows with an arm, and then pressing the wineskin causing the air to come out through another tube equipped with holes where the melody is played with the fingers.

## History

It is not known exactly when the bagpipe appeared, although there are paintings and engravings from Ancient Egypt depicting musicians playing an instrument very similar to today's bagpipes.

## Construction

The bagpipe is a wind instrument that consists of an air pocket, called a wineskin, which is inflated by a blowtorch or bellows; melodic tubes, such as the "chañera" and the "ronqueta"; and a tube called a "roncón", which produces a continuous and low sound.

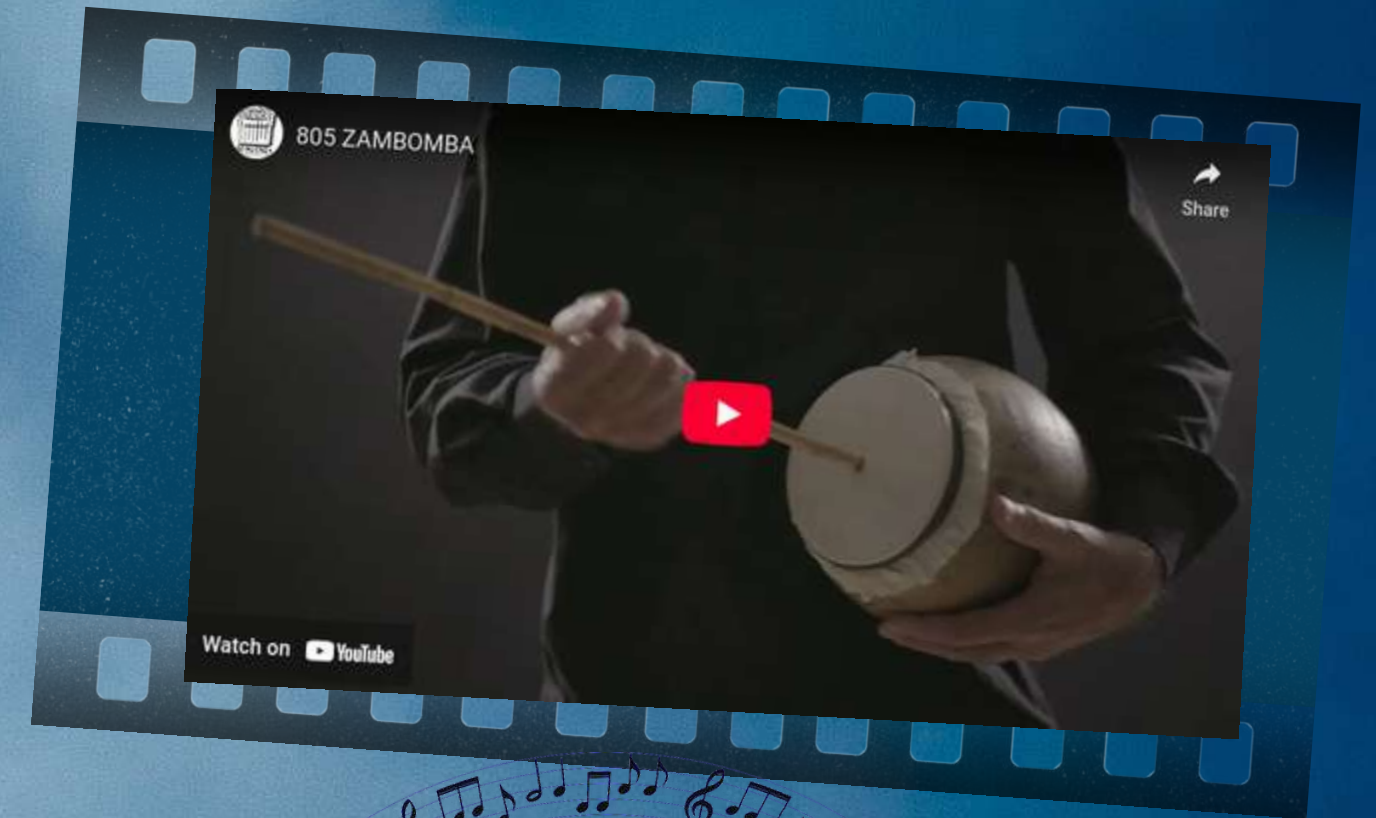


History, sound, construction,  
...dol

# Instrument

## ZAMBOMBA

The zambomba or runco is a musical instrument of friction. In Spain, the zambomba is an instrument that frequently accompanies the singing of Christmas carols, aguinaldos and popular songs. It is also used in many other countries of Latin America in their traditional music.



History, sound, construction,  
...dol

# Instrument

## Tambourine

The tambourine originated in mesopotamia,  
the Middle East, India, Greece and Rome.

The Romans brought us the tambourine and it  
we play

Christmas Carols. They feature two rows of non-  
aligned rattles interspersed to form a double  
line, nine or more pairs of alternating rattles.



Italy



# Traditional Sicilian Instruments



Sicilian music is deeply rooted in history, blending influences from Arab, Greek, Spanish and Norman cultures. Each instrument tells a story, bringing the traditions of past generations into the present. Let's start with one of the most recognizable sounds of Sicily



# Marranzanu



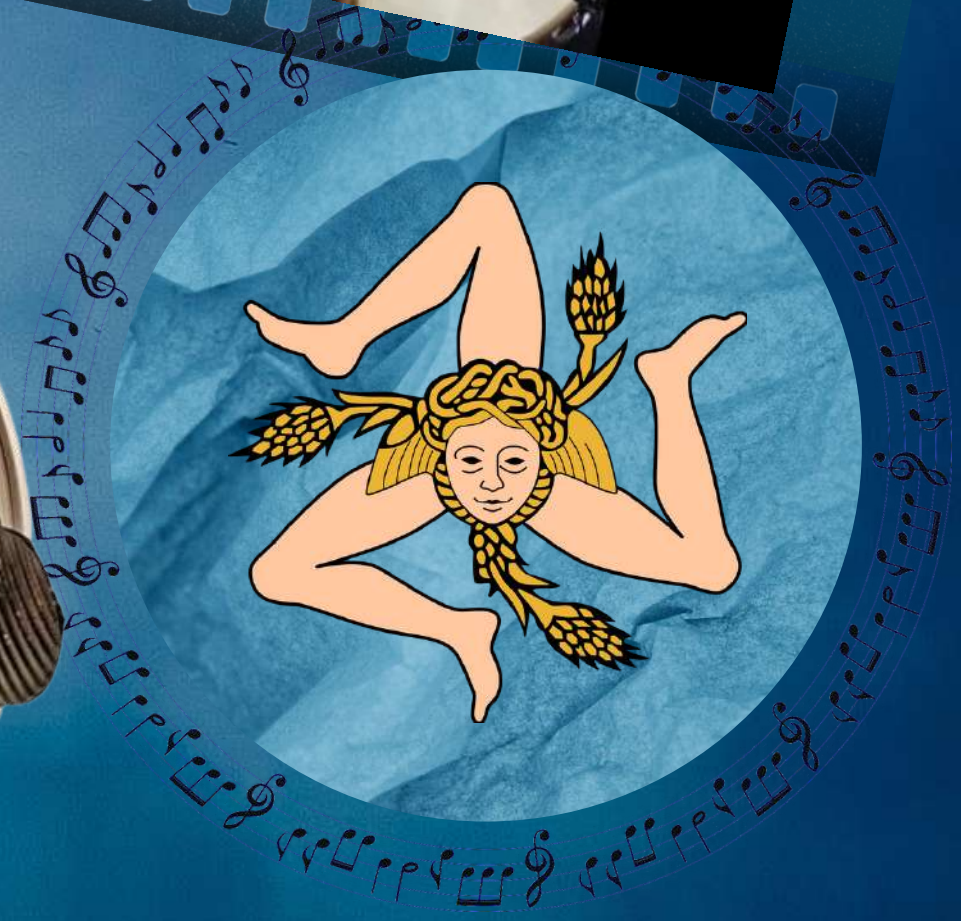
Have you ever heard that vibrant, strident sound that instantly transports you to the streets of Sicily? It's the "marranzanu", or Sicilian scacciapensieri! This small but powerful instrument is played by placing it between your teeth and plucking the metal tongue, creating a unique rhythmic murmur. It is often used in traditional folk music and even in modern genres to add a touch of Sicilian magic.



# Tamburo a Cornice



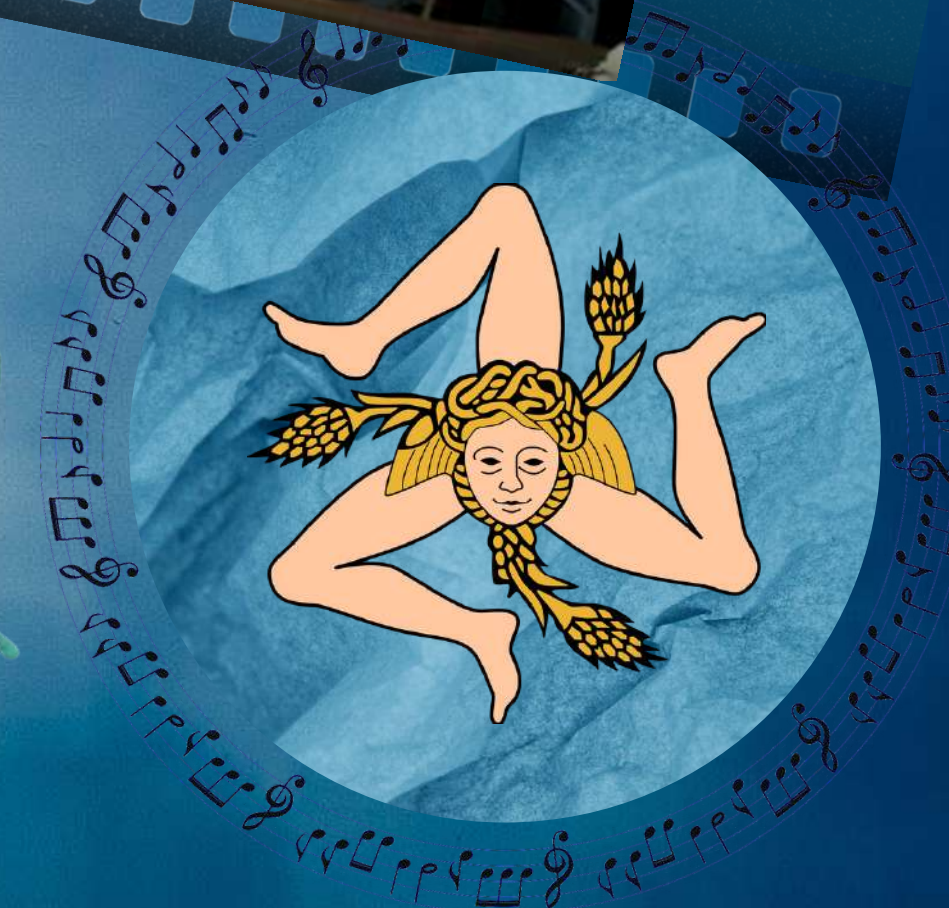
The frame drum is the beating heart of Sicilian folk music. Made from a wooden frame and a stretched animal skin, sometimes with rattles attached, this drum is played with fast, intricate hand movements. It is a key element in traditional tarantella dances, bringing energy and excitement to every performance.



# Bummulu



At first glance, it looks like just a simple clay water jug. But in the hands of a skilled musician, it becomes a fascinating percussion instrument! Played by covering and uncovering its opening while tapping the surface, the bummulu creates deep, resonant rhythms that add texture to folk music.



# Friscalettu



The friscalettu, the small but mighty Sicilian flute. Traditionally made of cane or wood, this shepherd's flute produces bright, high-pitched melodies, often played in rapid, intricate patterns. It is a key instrument in Sicilian pastoral music, conjuring up images of the island's rolling hills and open landscapes.



# Viola d'Amore, Mandolin

And there are even more fascinating instruments that enrich the Sicilian musical heritage!" We have the Viola d'Amore, known for its resonant and sympathetic strings, and the Sicilian Mandolin, a key instrument in popular serenades.



# Zampogna, Ciaramedda



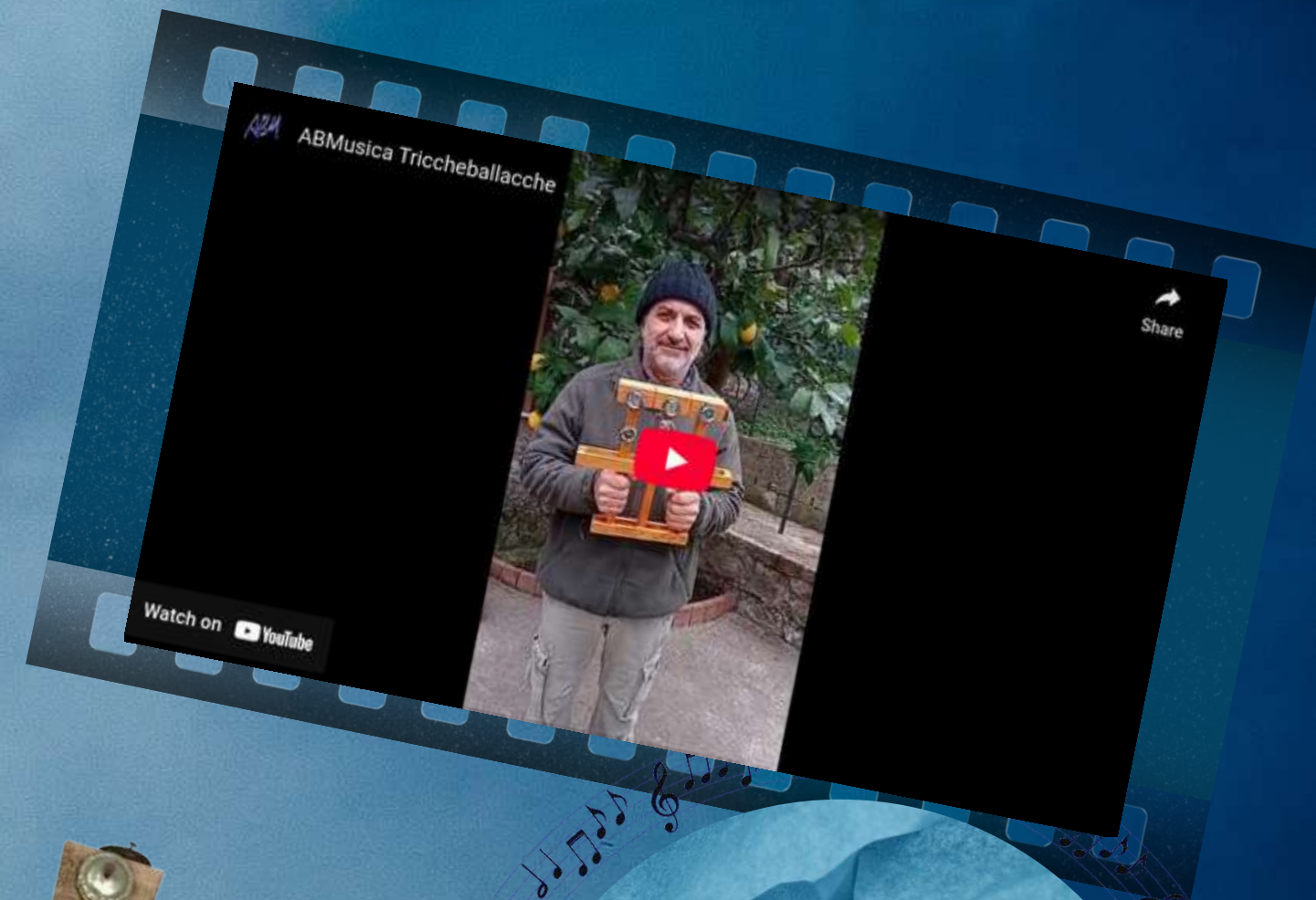
The deep, buzzing sound of the Zampogna and its close relative, the Ciaramedda, remind us of Sicily's pastoral traditions. Then there's the Brogna, a rustic horn once used in rural celebrations.



# Triccheballacche



Rhythm also plays a crucial role, with instruments like the Triccheballacche, which produces a lively, clicking beat, and the Nacchere Siciliane, which add to percussive energy to traditional dances.





*Greece*

# Santouri



Santouri is a stringed percussion musical instrument of trapezoidal shape. Its name comes from the Greek word psaltery through the Persian santur. A decisive role in its establishment was played by the companies of Asia Minor musicians who settled in Greece. It is made mainly of fir wood and has a lining of maple or beech. Its origin is from Persia.



# Oud



Oud is a musical instrument that originated in Ancient Egypt, moved to Persia, and finally came to Greece. It has a uniquely shaped body that resembles an anthill. This body is made of wood and is carefully selected to provide the desired sound. The long, narrow, textured surface of the body is the canvas for the creation of musical notes.

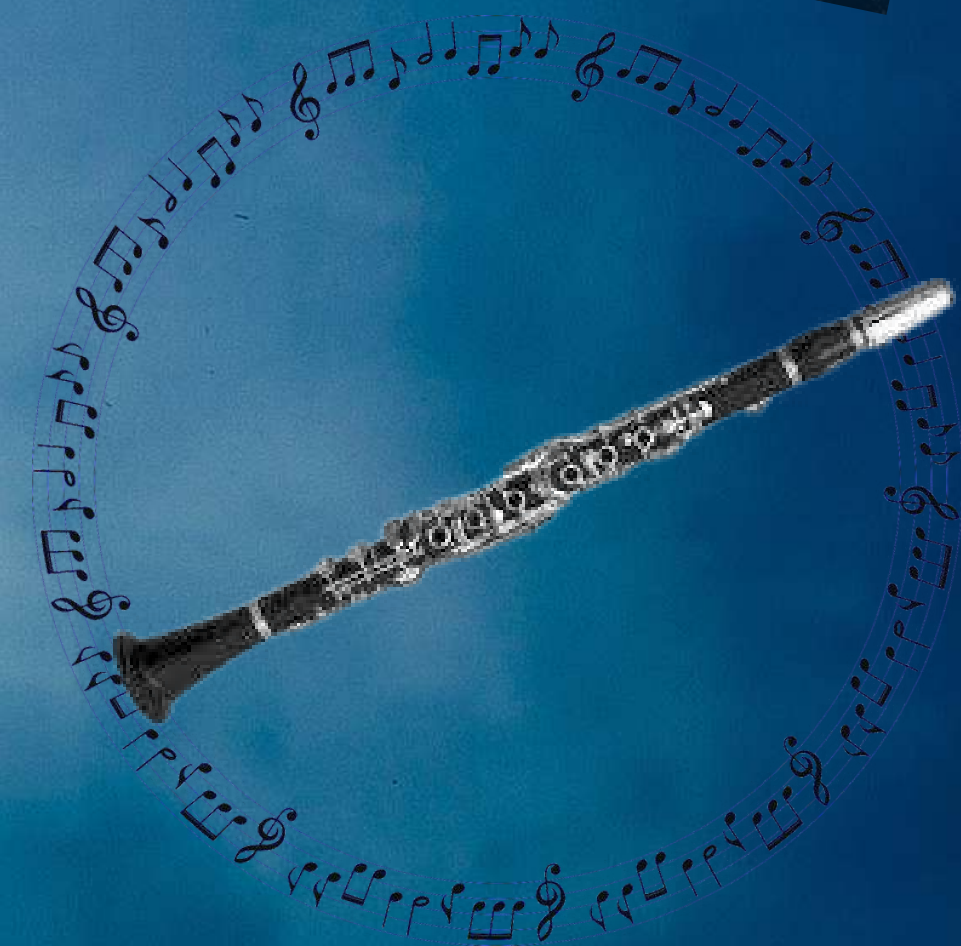
The oud has 11 or 13 strings, depending on the type. These strings are made of various materials, such as wool or nylon, and are carefully tuned to produce the desired notes.

It requires excellent technique from the musician playing it, and the fingers must move quickly and expressively over the strings to produce the desired timbre and the required sound.



# Epirus clarinet

The Epirus clarinet is the most characteristic musical instrument of Epirus and plays a central role in the music of the region. It is known for its melodic, mournful and deeply expressive sound, which conveys emotion and strong feelings. The clarinet came to Greece in the late 18th century from the West, but in Epirus it evolved into a unique musical instrument, acquiring strong oriental and Byzantine elements. In traditional Epirus music, it gradually replaced the flute and became the main instrument of festivals and social events. The Epirus clarinet is a musical language full of emotion that keeps the tradition alive.



# Ney

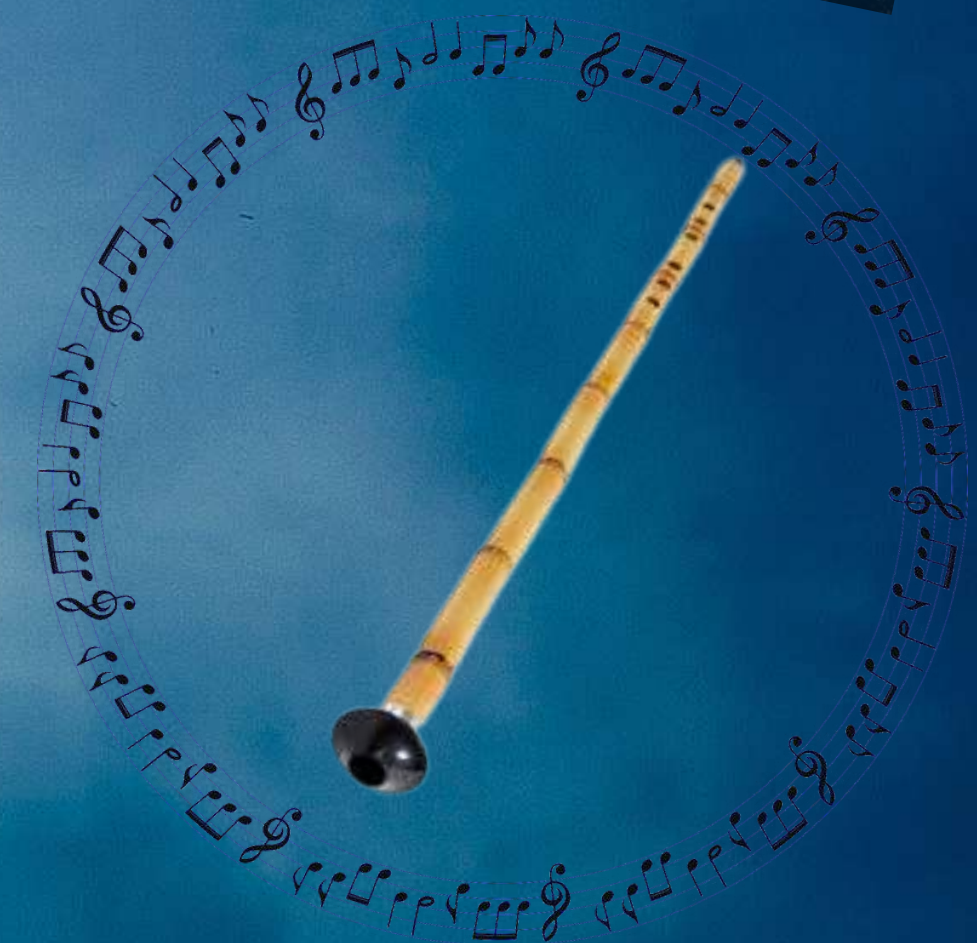


It is a long, narrow wind musical instrument found in Arab countries, Iran and Central Asia. The term ney comes from the ancient Persian word meaning reed, or bamboo and by extension a reed flute.

The ney is a traditional musical instrument with a long and special history since it is characterized as an instrument of sacred music and not entertainment, which is its main use today.

Its ancestors are the tubular flutes found in various cultures, such as the bone instruments found on Parnassus and exhibited in the Delphi museum.

These instruments were played by the priestesses of the oracle during the festivals of the vernal equinox.



# Lyra



• **Lyra (Λύρα):** The Cretan lyra is a three-stringed bowed instrument, similar to the violin but with a distinct shape. It is central to Cretan folk music and played with a bow, often accompanied by singing. The lyra is typically used in traditional dances and celebratory events.





# Laouto

The laouto is a stringed instrument similar to a lute, with a long neck and a pear-shaped body. It is played with a plectrum and often accompanies the lyra, providing a harmonic and rhythmic foundation for Cretan music.

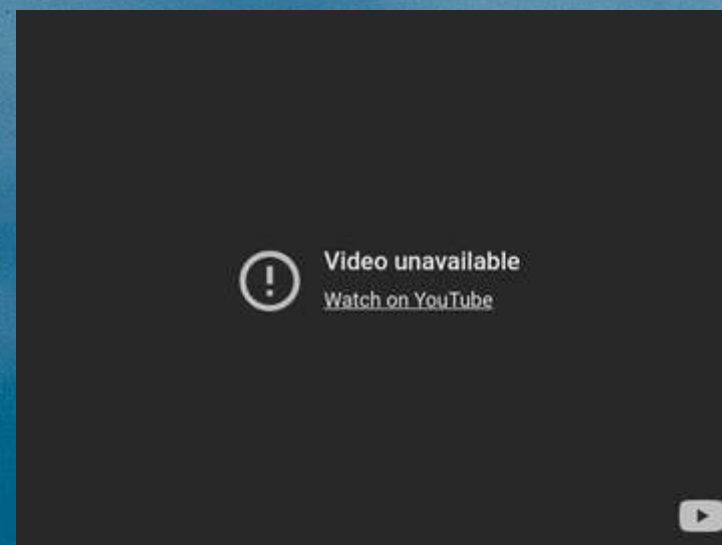
# Zournas

- **Description:** The zournás is a double -reed wind instrument , similar to the oboe but with a louder, sharper sound.
- **Construction:** Made of wood (usually apricot or cherry), with a conical bore and a flared bell at the end. It uses a double reed to produce sound.
- **Use:** Often played in pairs accompanied by a large drum (daouli). It is popular in folk celebrations, weddings, and religious festivals, especially in northern Greece and Macedonia.
- **Sound:** Piercing and bright, ideal for outdoor festivities.



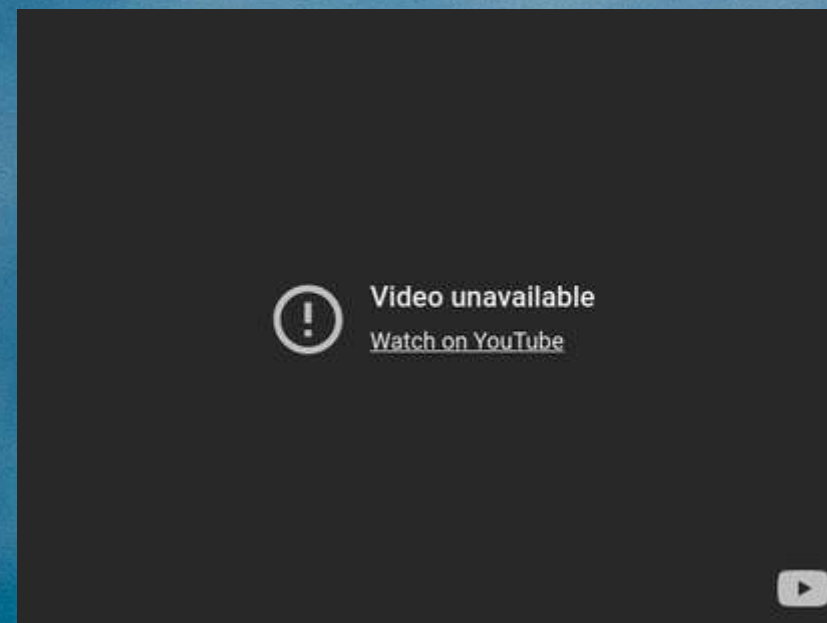
# TSAMPOUNA

- **Description:** The tsampouna is a type of bagpipe traditionally found in the Aegean islands.
- **Construction:** Made from a goat or sheep skin bag, wooden or bone pipes, and a reed mouthpiece. It usually has one melody pipe and one or two drone pipes.
- **Use:** Commonly used in festive occasions like weddings and local festivals, particularly in the Cyclades, Dodecanese, and Crete.
- **Sound:** Continuous, drone-like sound with a melodic overlay.



# GAIDA

- Description:** The gaida is another type of bagpipe found in mainland Greece, especially in Thrace and Macedonia.
- Construction:** Made from a goatskin bag, a wooden chanter for melody, and a single drone pipe.
- Use:** Played during village festivals and traditional dances. It is a key instrument in the music of northern Greece.
- Sound:** Drone-like with a strong, rich melody.



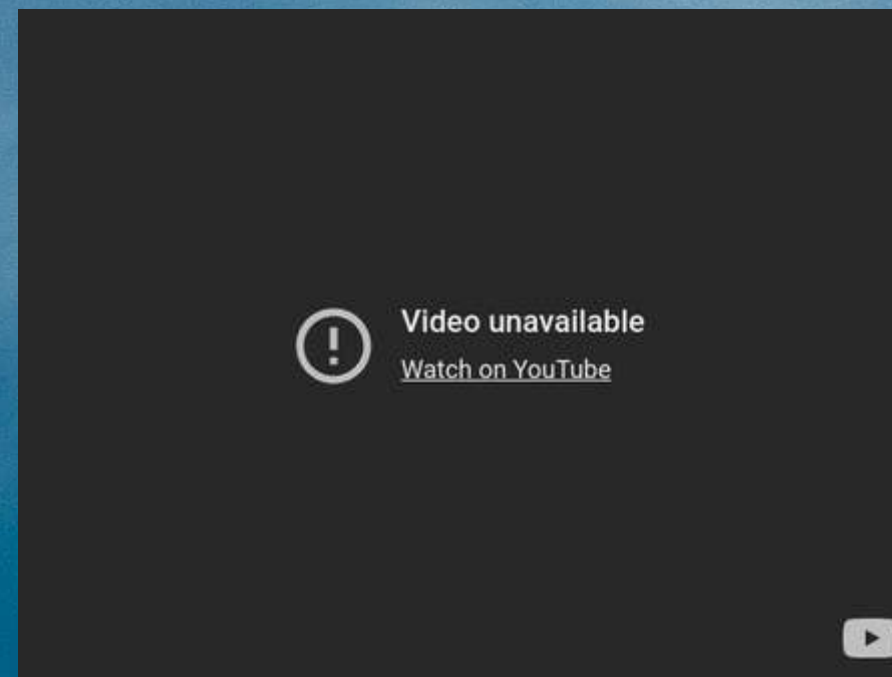
# FLOGERA

**Description:** The "Flogera" is a traditional Greek flute, usually made of wood or cane.

**Construction:** A simple tube with six to eight finger holes and no reed.

**Use:** Played solo or as part of a folk ensemble, often in rural and pastoral settings. It is associated with shepherds and traditional dances.

**Sound:** Soft and airy, evocative of pastoral life.



# FLOGERA

The "flogera" is a traditional Greek wind instrument, often associated with the music of the countryside. It is made from wood and has a unique sound that is both deep and melodious. The instrument is usually played by blowing air through a mouthpiece, with a reed that vibrates to produce sound. The flogera is similar to a flute, but it has a distinctive character that comes from its construction and the way it is played. It is often used in folk music and is a symbol of the rural lifestyle in Greece.

The flogera has been part of Greek culture for centuries, and it is usually played during festive events such as weddings, festivals, and celebrations. Its music can evoke a sense of nostalgia, reminding people of simpler times in rural villages. The instrument is often accompanied by other traditional instruments like the lyre or the bouzouki, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere. Musicians who play the flogera are highly skilled, as it requires a certain level of technique to master its unique sound.

# KAVALI



**Description:** The kavalí is an end-blown flute similar to the Middle Eastern ney.

**Construction:** Made of wood, cane, or metal, with a narrow, cylindrical bore.

**Use:** Found mainly in Thrace and northern Greece, used in folk music and traditional dances.

**Sound:** Warm, melodic, and often haunting.



# Defi

- **Description:** The defi is a large, round, frame drum, very similar to the tabor, but usually larger in size. The instrument is often covered with goat or lamb skin and decorated with colorful fabrics.
- **Role in Music:** The defi is used in a wide range of Greek folk music and is especially prominent in the music of the islands. It is played by striking with the hands or shaking it to produce a jingling sound.
- **Cultural Significance:** Like the tabor, the defi is integral to the rhythm section of Greek folk ensembles and plays a key role in enhancing the dance and festive atmosphere of traditional gatherings.



# DACHARES



- The dachares is a tambourine with a large diameter that is quite widespread in the regions of Macedonia and Thrace.
- The dachares is made of a large wooden sieve.
- They also place on the wooden frame at equal distances small handmade brass zillas (cymbals) hammered to match their voices. The history of the dachare is lost in the depths of time and is related to the ancient Greek drum.





# Tuberleki

- The tuberleki is a Greek percussion instrument without a handle, known since antiquity, which is often found in Greek traditional, folk and rebetika music.
- It is also called tarabuka, stamna, dubeleki, tabuleki in Cyprus, chiburleki or tuberleki.
- The tubeleki is a miniature drum. It is open below and covered with stretched leather above. Its base is not clay like the tarabuka, but usually made of metal. It is played with the hands, as the right hand "marks" the strong times and the left the weak ones and often includes bells hanging around the perimeter.

# Dauli

- The dauli is a large wooden, cylindrical, bass drum, which looks like a drum shell.
- The drum shell is made of hard wood.
- Instrument players usually use a rope attached to the drum to hang it sideways so that one membrane is accessible from the left hand and the other from the right. Each hand is usually played exclusively on one side, although this can vary according to local playing style and tradition.
- It is found especially in areas such as Thrace, Macedonia, Crete and Pontus.



# TUBBY

- The Tubby is a membrane-sounding instrument.
  - It comes from Greek folk music
  - Its sound is produced when the player strikes its surface using two reeds or his hands, or alternatively using the reed on the right and his hand on the left.
- 
- The high-pitched, simple stringed musical instrument is associated with traditional Punjabi music and today's very popular Western bhangra music.
  - This small drum, along with other well-known Greek instruments such as the lyre, the lute, the santouri and the tsambouna, is part of the most common combinations in a popular island orchestra.



Traditional Turkish Music Instruments are divided into two.

1-Turkish Classical Music Instruments

2-Turkish Folk Music Instruments

*Turkey*

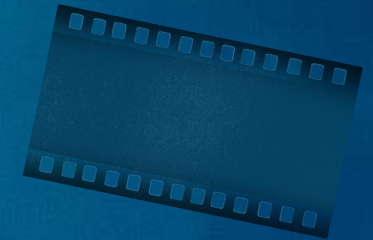


# 1-Turkish Classical Music Instruments

*Turkey*

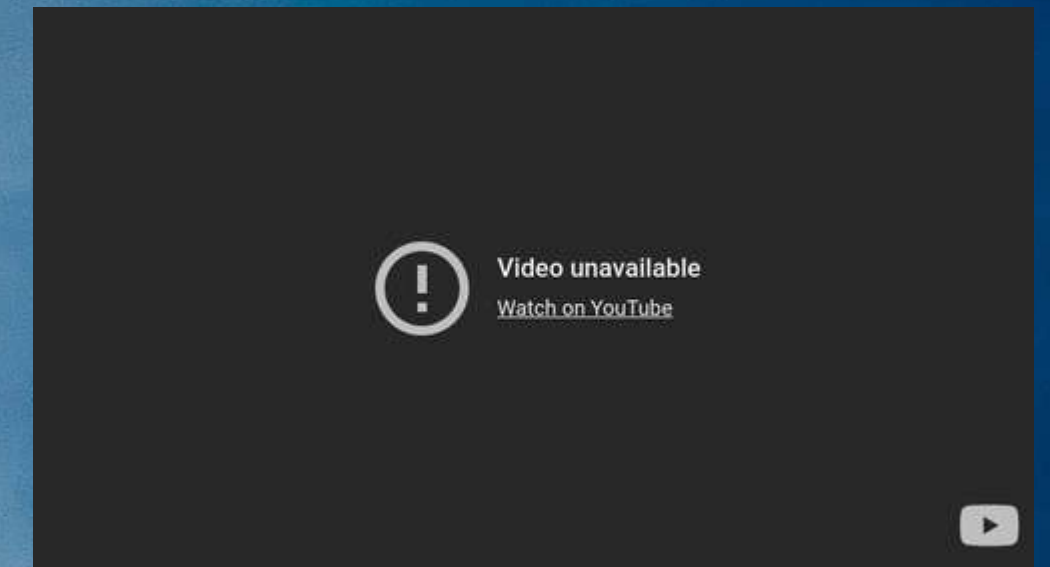


# KANUN



It is a musical instrument with 24-27 frets. 3 strings resonate the sound in each fret. With this structure, it resembles the sound system of the harpsichord. The strings are made of nylon wire specially produced for musical instruments. In its early stages, stringer wires made of intestine were used instead of nylon wire.

The body board of the zither, which has an upright and crooked body, is mostly made of plane tree, the bottom base is made of linden or compressed plywood, the peg board is made of linden, which is a soft wood, and the pegs are made of hardwoods such as rose, boxwood or ebony. Each fret consisting of three strings has pegs that can adjust sharp, flat and coma sounds.

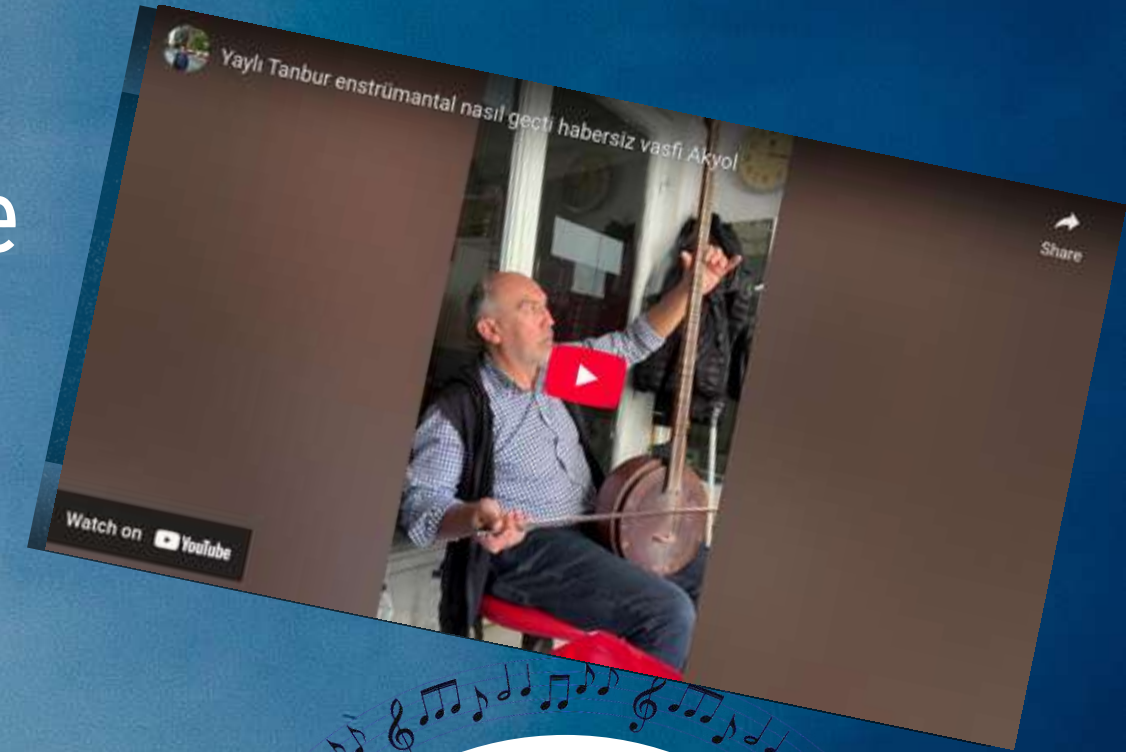




# YAYLI TAMBUR



String drum; It is played with a bow similar to a cello bow, with the body placed on both knees and the neck perpendicular to the ground. The sound range is two octaves, but sometimes it can go up to two and a half octaves by using the middle string. It is said that it is the instrument closest to the human voice in Turkish music. While all the strings of the plucked drum are at the same height, the leftmost two lower strings of the stringed drum are approximately 2 mm higher, and these two strings are combined on the body and played as a single string. Most drums have a total of 6 strings in four rows, but up to 7–8 strings can be attached. In the lower wire, wires between 0.32 and 0.36 mm are preferred.



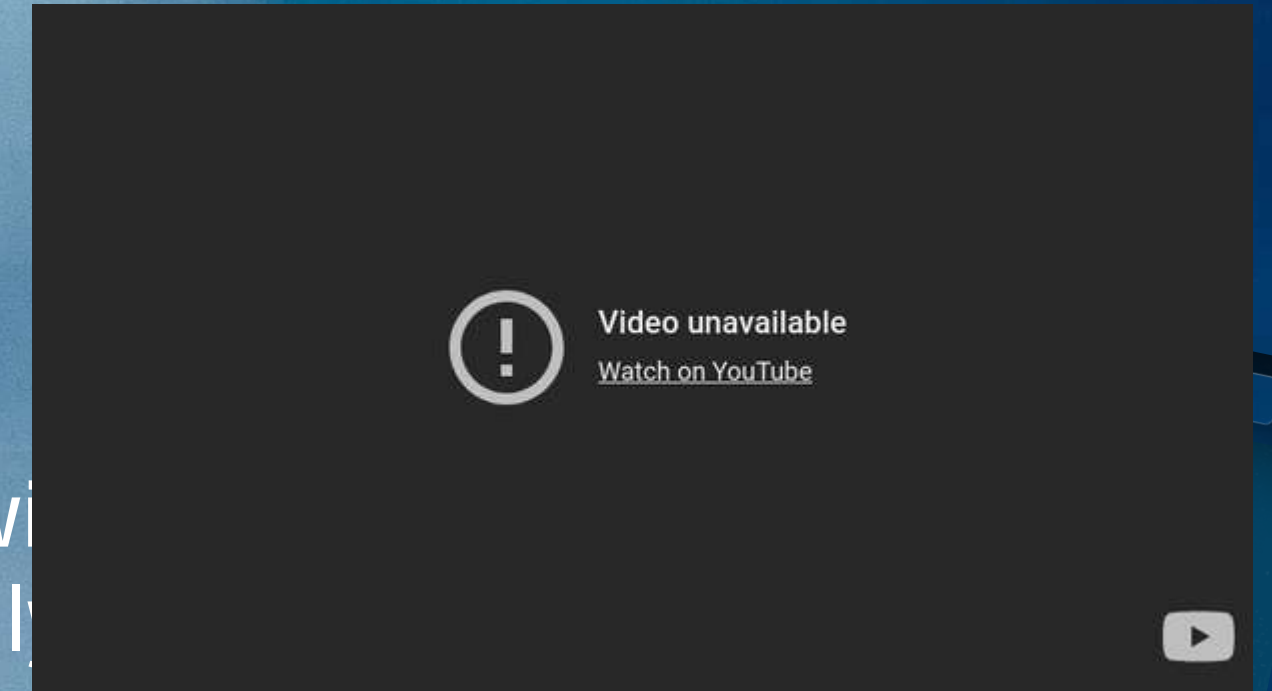
# TAMBUR



The origin of the drum and when it appeared is unknown. There is information that it comes from the Sumerian word "pantur". Arabs say that the word comes from "dumba-i bara" meaning "lamb's tail". The word was later used in Iran and Central Asia as the name of pear-shaped, long-necked instruments that are more similar to baglama. The tambur, which European travelers (e.g. Charles Fenton and Toderini) wrote about visibly reflecting the sound system of Turkish music due to the fret ties on its neck, is perhaps the only instrument used only in Turkey today. Those who perform the saz are called "tamburi".



# BENDİR



Bendir is a form of percussion instrument known as circle or tambourine in Classical Turkish Music and especially in Mevlevi Turkish Sufi Music, specific to the Maghreb countries (especially Morocco and Algeria). The name bendir, taken from Maghreb Arabic, became widely used in Turkey after the 1980s. Its standard diameter is 52 cm. Sound quality varies depending on the hoop and material of the bendir. It is made of plastic or leather. In bendirs made of leather, the sound tone changes as you tighten the screws on the pulleys, and at the same time, a better quality sound is obtained when the leather is heated with the help of a lighter and matches for about 2 minutes.



# NEY



When the history of Ney is researched, it turns out that it is one of the oldest known wind instruments. The oldest examples of musical instruments made of reed were found in excavations in Mesopotamia. Sumerians expressed the reed pipes played by blowing from top to bottom with words such as 'ka-gı', 'tigi', 'ni', 'na'. Since pipes with tongues are called 'nâ' in Sumerian, it can be said that the word nây comes from this name. Considering that reed is called 'kargı' in many parts of Anatolia, the similarity of the word 'ka-gı' with the reed plant from which ney is made can be mentioned.



# 1-Turkish Folk Music Instruments



# BAĞLAMA



Baglama or saz is a type of stringed instrument commonly used in Turkish folk music. It is played by striking the strings with a plectrum made of cherry tree bark, called Tezene. The body is carved from a log and is pear-shaped.

Depending on the technique used, it is played with a plectrum or fingers. The technique of playing with fingers is called şelpe and has a traditional tattoo. It usually has a total of 7 strings: two steels and a woven bam wire at the bottom, two steels in the middle, and a steel and a woven bam wire at the top. It is played with Tezene.





# KABAK KEMANE

Kabak kemane is the only example of a stringed, stringed and leather-covered instrument in Turkish folk music. Its origin is based on Central Asia. Kabak kemane is a widely used instrument in Turkey, especially in the Aegean Region in Western Anatolia. It is known by names such as pumpkin, kabak kemane, rebap (rubaba in Southeastern Anatolia, hegit in Hatay region) and ikliĝ. The instrument called Gijek by the Central Asian Turkmens and used under the name Kemanĉa in Azerbaijani folk music is also from the same root. It is a folk instrument with a body of gourd or coconut, a leather chest, and two or three strings. It varies depending on the region.





# KARADENİZ KEMENÇESİ



Plum wood, juniper, mulberry, walnut, cedar, acacia, etc. are used in making the body, dowel and handle of the instrument. trees are used. The soundboard is made of spruce, high quality pine or fir. Traditionally, it is accepted that the best kemenches are made of plum wood. If the growth rings of the tree used in the soundboard are close to each other, high frequencies are played better, while if the growth rings are sparse, low frequency sounds are played better. Generally, the densest rings are at the bottom of the kemenche.





# ASMA DAVUL



It is a leather–strung percussion instrument with a cylindrical structure of large diameter but short length. In Anatolia, it is played by carrying it around the neck with a strap, accompanied by a zurna, and hitting it with a stick (mallet) on one side and a stick (staff) on the other side.





# ZURNA



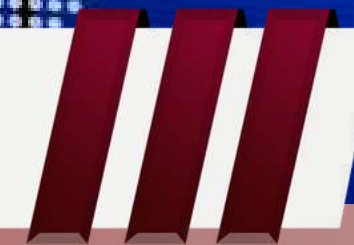
**Zurna is used in many parts of Turkey. It is a type of wind instrument made using wood, metal and reed, which is loud and therefore played with large drums, and is therefore suitable for use outdoors.**





**VOICES AND  
RHYTHMS**

Exploring Music Traditions Through Podcasts



*Breaking news will show soon on this channel*



OUR  
PODCAST



See You

IN OUR NEXT PODCAST  
ABOUT TRADITIONAL DANCES



# Voices and Rhythms: Exploring Music Traditions Through Podcasts



eTwinning



2024-2025