

ANCIENT MUSICAL INSTRUMENT HISTORY

Chronological Reference Chart

40,000 BCE

Divje Babe Flute

Constructed from the femur of a cave bear, representing the earliest known musical device.

SLOVENIA (PALEOLITHIC)

4,000 BCE

Bullroarer

An ancient ritual phon instrument used for long-distance communication and ceremonies.

MULTIPLE REGIONS

3,500 BCE

Silver Lyres of Ur

Intricate stringed instruments recovered from Royal Tombs, featuring bull-head ornaments.

MESOPOTAMIA (SUMER)

2,500 BCE

Long Zither (Guqin)

A plucked seven-string musical instrument of the zither family, favored by scholars.

ANCIENT CHINA

1,500 BCE

Sistrum

A percussion instrument used in religious ceremonies, particularly those dedicated to the goddess Hathor.

ANCIENT EGYPT

800 BCE

Kithara

A professional version of the lyre, used by ancient Greek virtuosic musicians (citharodes).

ANCIENT GREECE

300 BCE

Hydraulis

The world's first keyboard instrument, utilizing water pressure to stabilize air supply to pipes.

HELLENISTIC ALEXANDRIA