

GLOBAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT HISTORY

A Chronological Evolution of Sound

c. 40,000 BCE

Bone Flutes (Divje Babe)

Earliest known melodic instruments crafted from bird bone and mammoth ivory.

EUROPE / GLOBAL

c. 3,500 BCE

Harps and Lyres

Development of stringed instruments in Sumerian and Egyptian civilizations using wooden frames and gut strings.

MESOPOTAMIA

c. 500 BCE

Qunqin (Zither)

A seven-stringed instrument associated with refinement and the philosophy of Confucius.

EAST ASIA

c. 800 CE

Oud

The short-neck lute reaches its classic form, becoming the ancestor of the European Lute.

MIDDLE EAST

c. 1700 CE

Pianoforte

Bartolomeo Cristofori creates a keyboard capable of varying dynamics through a hammer-strike mechanism.

ITALY

1931 CE

Electric Guitar

Introduction of the "Frying Pan" lap steel, utilizing electromagnetic pickups to amplify sound.

NORTH AMERICA