

STRING INSTRUMENT EVOLUTION

A Chronological Reference Chart

c. 2500 BCE

The Lyre & Harp

Emergence in Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. Early plucked instruments using gut strings and wooden frames.

c. 1000 BCE

The Lute (Oud)

Development of the pear-shaped body in Central Asia/Middle East, introducing the concept of a neck and fretboard.

10th Century

The Rebab

A primary ancestor of the modern violin family, introduced to Europe via Islamic Spain. First widely used bowed instrument.

15th Century

Vihuela & Viola da Gamba

Renaissance instruments with frets. The Vihuela is considered a direct precursor to the modern guitar.

c. 1550

The Modern Violin

Andrea Amati perfects the four-string violin shape in Cremona, Italy. Establishing the standard for orchestral strings.

1850

Modern Classical Guitar

Antonio de Torres Jurado increases body size and perfects fan-bracing, creating the modern guitar silhouette.

1931

The Electric Guitar

Introduction of the "Frying Pan" by Rickenbacker, utilizing electromagnetic pickups to amplify string vibration.