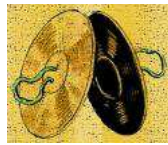


Intro to the Musical Instruments of the Old Testament



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Psalm 150:3-6

*Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet,
Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;
Praise Him with stringed instruments and
flutes!*

*Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him
with clashing cymbals!*

*Let everything that has breath praise the
Lord!*

II Samuel 6:5

Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the Lord on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on systums and on cymbals.

Stringed Instruments

Lyre



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Palestinian Lyre



The Lyre/Harp

- The *kinnôr*, regularly rendered 'harp' by av, is the first musical instrument mentioned in the Bible (Gn. 4:21) and is the only stringed instrument referred to in the Pentateuch
- Possibly Syrian origin
- Either Harp or Lyre – preferred Lyre
- Played either by hand or plectrum (pick)
- Number of strings unknown
- Wooden instrument made of cypress (2 Sa. 6:5), almug (1 Ki. 10:12). Josephus (*Ant.* 8.94) records that their framework was fitted with electrum, *i.e.* either a mixed metal or amber.

Psaltery Harp



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Psaltery (Harp)

- derived from Gk. *psaltērion*, an instrument plucked with the fingers instead of with a plectrum.
- Most translated as Hebrew *nēbel*
- It is generally accepted that it was a kind of harp
- Probably Phoenician origin
- made of cypress wood, and later of almug.
- May have served to provide the bass to musical pieces.

Lute



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The Asor (Lute)

- *Heb. Asor* appears three times in the book of Psalms (Pss 33:2; 92:3; 144:9).
- either a portable harp, or a lute, guitar (with bulging resonance-body at lower end)
- played at feasts and religious ceremonies
- identified with the Phoenician zither having ten strings

Percussion

Cymbals



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Cymbals

- Heb. *mešiltōyim* and *šelšelîm*. *Kymbalon*, derived from *kymbē*, which means a bowl or hollowed plate.
- In Ps. 150 the word is used twice in one verse with different adjectives.
- Two kinds of cymbals are known to have existed in ancient times. - -One kind consisted of two shallow metal plates held one in each hand and struck together.
- Others were cup-like in shape, one being held stationary while the other was brought down sharply against it.
- Used in religious ceremonies.

Timbrel



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Timbrel

- The instrument was a kind of tambourine held and struck with the hand.
- It was used as an accompaniment to singing and dancing (Ex. 15:20).
- Associated with joy and gladness in accompanying the merriment of feasts (Is. 5:12) & rejoicing of triumphal processions (1 Sa. 18:6)

Systrum



Queen Nefertari c. 1290–1255 BC holding a systrum



Systrum

Ancient percussion instrument consisting of a thin metal frame with numerous metal rods or loops that jingled when shaken, translated as “castanets” in 2 Samuel 6:5

Wind Instruments

Trumpet

- Heb. *ḥaṣṣōṣera*
- made of beaten silver.
- Moses was commanded by God to make two of them for summoning the congregation and for breaking camp. Nu. 10:1-10 contains God's instructions to Moses regarding the occasions for the blowing of the trumpet.
- It was principally a sacred and not a martial instrument.

Next slide: Interior of the Titus Arch in Rome. From right to left we can see a standard where probably was written the name of the defeated nation, the candelabrum with seven arms, symbol of the Jewish nation, the **silver trumpets** and the triumph gate.

Trumpets



To the place of trumpeting to...



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Pipe/Flute

- Heb. *ḥālîl* (root: *pierce*)
- Could be a reed instrument like an oboe.
- used in festival processions (Is. 30:29), at times of national rejoicing (1 Ki. 1:40)

Psalm 71:22-23

*With the lute I will praise You and your
faithfulness O my God!*

*To You I will sing with the harp, O holy
One of Israel.*

*My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to
You,*

And my soul, which You have redeemed.

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