

## Turkish Folk Music Instruments

**Bağlama** is a string instrument which relates back to Asian originated Kopuz, and is a continuation of Kopuz or Komuz in Anatolia.

The *kopuz* or **komuz** differs from the bağlama in having a leather covered body, a fingerboard without frets, and two or three strings made either of horsehair, or of sheep or wolf gut. It is played by beating with the fingers, rather than being plucked with a plectrum.

### Tar

The tar is a long-necked, waisted lute found in Azerbaijan, Iran, Armenia, Georgia, and other areas near the Caucasus region. The word tar itself means "string" in Persian. It is played with the help of a pick made from horns.

### Kabak kemane (gourd violin)

The kabak kemane is a bowed Turkish folk instrument. Shows variation according to regions and its form. It is known that instruments known as Kabak, Kemane, Igil, Rabab, Hegit at Hatay province, Rubaba in Southeastern Turkey. It is used mostly in the Western part of Turkey.

### Kemençe

A kemenche is a bottle-shaped, 3-stringed type of fiddle from the Black Sea region. The kemenche is played in the upright position, either by resting it on the knee when sitting, or held in front of the player when standing.

### Zurna

The zurna is an Anatolian woodwind instrument with a double reed. It has a very high pitch and strong sound and that's why it is accompanied by drums. It is a very popular instrument played especially during weddings, fair celebrations. In history, zurna was played in the Janissary band before a war.

### Mey

Mey is a Turkish folk instrument of the wind type. It consists of three parts. Mey which is made of wood from plum walnut, beech etc. has sound distance of about one octave. It has a total of eight melody keys with seven on top and one underneath. It is originated from the Middle-East and known as Balaban.

### Sipsi

It is popular around the Aegean Region. The sipsi is a Turkish woodwind instrument. It is a clarinet-like, single-reed instrument with six finger holes, used mainly in folk music. Its size varies from region to region. The word "sipsi" is probably onomatopoeic, and is related to "zıpçı", meaning "whistle".

### Kaval

The kaval is a chromatic end-blown flute traditionally played throughout Turkey. It has a very strong sound. The kaval plays two octaves and a fifth, in the chromatic scale. Its sound is warm, melancholic and pleasant.

### **Çığırtma (a small fife)**

This wind instrument is well known around Elazığ and the Toros Mountains. It has 6-7 finger holes in the front and one at the back. It has nearly one octave sound range.

### **Davul**

Drums have both a deep bass sound and a thin treble sound due to their construction and playing style, where different heads and sticks are used to produce different sounds on the same drum. Players often use a rope hooked to the drum to hold the drum sideways, so that one head is accessible with the left hand and one with the right. Each hand is usually dedicated to playing one side of the drum exclusively, though this can vary by local style and tradition.

### **Dümbelek (The Goblet Drum)**

Goblet drums are played with a much lighter touch and quite different strokes. It is popular across Turkey, especially among women.

### **Tef (Tambourine)**

The tambourine is a musical instrument of the percussion family consisting of a frame, often of wood or plastic, with pairs of small metal jingles, called "zils". Classically the term tambourine denotes an instrument with a drumhead, though some variants may not have a head at all. It is a popular instrument especially among women festivities.

### **Kaşık (Spoon)**

Wooden spoons are used to beat the rhythm and it is popular in Silifke and Konya.

## **CLASSICAL TURKISH MUSIC INSTRUMENTS**

### **UD (The Lute)**

Lute can refer generally to any plucked string instrument with a neck (either fretted or unfretted) and a deep round back, or more specifically to an instrument from the family of European lutes.

The European lute and the Near-Eastern oud both descend from a common ancestor, with diverging evolutionary paths. The lute is used in a great variety of instrumental music from the early renaissance to the late baroque eras. It is also an accompanying instrument, especially in vocal works, often realizing a basso continuo or playing a written-out accompaniment.

### **KANUN**

Kanun (qanun) is a string instrument found in Near Eastern traditional music based on Maqamat. It is basically a zither with a narrow trapezoidal soundboard. Nylon or PVC strings are stretched over a single bridge poised on fish-skins on one end, attached to tuning pegs at the other end. It has 3,5 octave range and is known as an instrument close to the piano.

## **NEY**

In some of these musical traditions, it is the only wind instrument used. It is a very ancient instrument, with depictions of ney players appearing in wall paintings in the Egyptian pyramids and actual neys being found in the excavations at Ur. This indicates that the ney has been played continuously for 4,500–5,000 years, making it one of the oldest musical instruments still in use. It is a forerunner of the modern flute. It is one of the base instruments of the Suphi music.

## **TANBUR**

The tambura is a type of stringed instrument found in different versions in different places around the world; most are plucked lutes. It has two octav range.

## **CÜMBÜŞ**

The cümbüş is a Turkish stringed instrument of relatively modern origin. Developed in the early 20th century by Zeynel Abidin Cümbüş as an oud-like instrument that could be heard as part of a larger ensemble. In construction it resembles both the American banjo and the Middle Eastern oud. A fretless instrument, it has six courses of doubled-strings, and is generally tuned like an oud. In shape, though, it closely resembles the banjo with a metal resonator bowl and skin body head. It has a loud, metallic, resonant tone and is widely heard in Middle Eastern popular music.

## **BENDİR**

The bendir is a frame drum used as a traditional instrument. The bendir is a frame drum with a wooden frame and a membrane. It creates different tones according to the spreading of the shockwaves moving across the skins itself. The bendir is about 14 to 16 inches. The drum is played kept vertical by inserting the thumb of the left hand in a special holes in the frame.