Folk instruments
of the British Isles
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Tin whistle

The tin whistle, also known as the penny whistle, is a simple six-
holed woodwind instrument. It is a type of fipple flute, putting it in the same class as
the recorder, native American flute, and other woodwind instruments that meet such criteria.
A tin whistle player is called a whistler. The tin whistle is closely associated with Irish traditional music and Celtic music.

Traditional music from Ireland and Scotland is by far the most common music to play on the tin whistle and comprises the vast majority of published scores suitable for whistle players.

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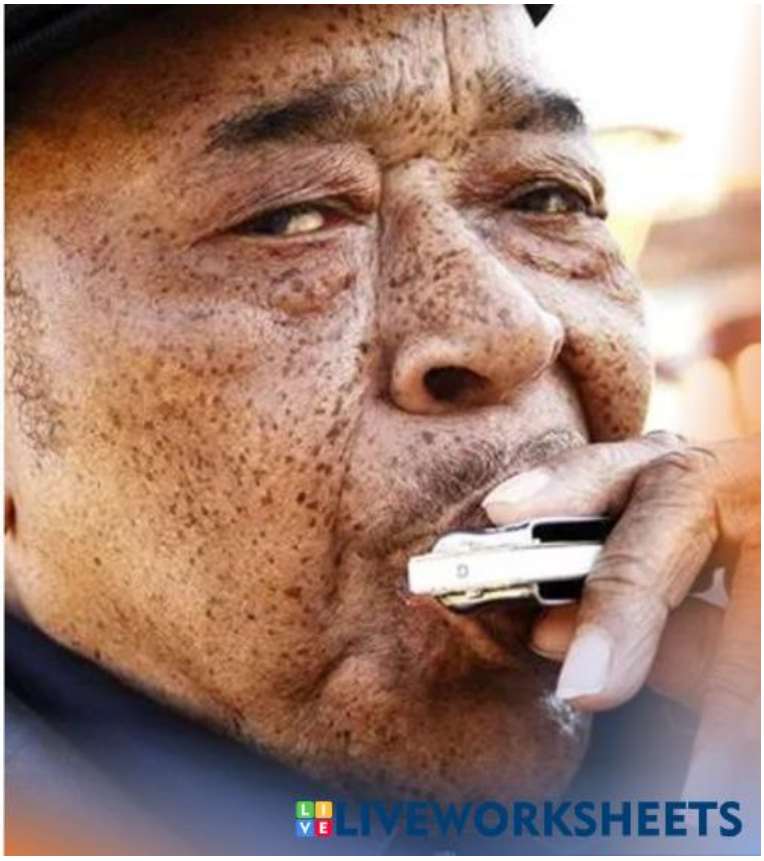
Harmonica

The harmonica (also known as a French harp, mouth harp or mouth organ) is a free reed wind instrument. It is used worldwide in many musical genres, notably in blues, American folk music, classical music, jazz, country, and rock. A harmonica is played by using the mouth (lips and tongue) to direct air into or out of one (or more) holes along a mouthpiece. Behind each hole is a chamber containing at least one reed. The most common type of harmonica has ten air passages and twenty reeds, often called the blues harp.

The basic parts of the harmonica are the comb, reed plates, and cover plates.



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Acoustic guitar

An acoustic guitar is a musical instrument in the string family. When a string is plucked, its vibration is transmitted from the bridge, resonating throughout the top of the guitar. It is also transmitted to the side and back of the instrument, resonating through the air in the body, and producing sound from the sound hole. Typically, a guitar's body is a sound box, of which the top side serves as a sound board that enhances the vibration sounds of the strings. In standard tuning the guitar's six strings are tuned (low to high) E_2 A_2 D_3 G_3 B_3 E_4.

Guitar strings may be plucked individually with a pick (plectrum) or fingertip, or strummed to play chords.

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Bagpipes

Bagpipes are a woodwind instrument using enclosed reeds fed from a constant reservoir of air in the form of a bag.
The Great Highland bagpipes are well known, but people have played bagpipes for centuries throughout large parts of Europe, Africa and parts of Asia.

Pipers usually refer to the bagpipes as "the pipes", "a set of pipes" or "a stand of pipes". A set of bagpipes minimally consists of an air supply, a bag, a chanter, and usually at least one drone.

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Accordian

Accordions are a family of box-shaped musical instruments. They produce sound as air flows past a reed in a frame. The essential characteristic of the accordion is to combine in one instrument a melody section (usually on the right-hand keyboard) with an accompaniment or Bass part on the left-hand.

The musician normally plays the melody on buttons or keys on the right-hand side (referred to as the keyboard or manual), and the accompaniment on pre-set chord buttons on the left-hand side. A person who plays the accordion is called an accordionist.

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Fiddle

A fiddle is a bowed string musical instrument, most often a violin. It has 4 strings and is used by players in all genres, including classical music. The fiddle is part of many traditional folk styles, which are typically aural traditions—taught "by ear" rather than via written music.

Among musical styles, fiddling tends to produce rhythms that focus on dancing, with associated quick note changes, whereas classical music tends to contain more vibrato and sustained notes. Fiddling is also open to improvisation in contrast to orchestral performances, which adhere to the composer's notes to reproduce a work faithfully.

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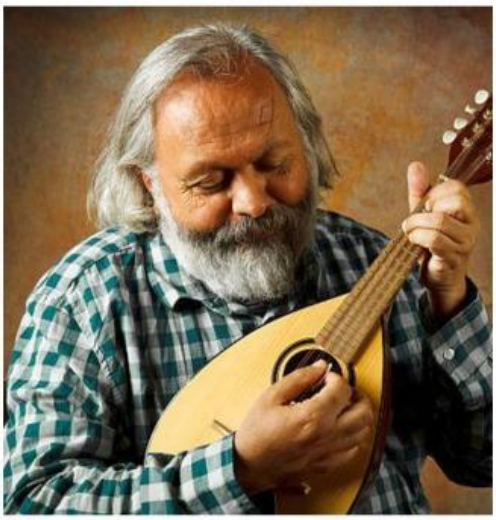
Mandolin

A mandolin is a stringed musical instrument in the lute family and is generally plucked with a pick. It most commonly has four courses of doubled strings giving a total of eight. Strings are typically made from steel.



There are many styles of mandolin, but the three most common types are the *Neapolitan* or *round-backed* mandolin, the *archtop* mandolin and the *flat-backed* mandolin. Flat-backed instruments are commonly used in Irish, British, and Brazilian folk music, and Mexican waltzes.

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