

## The Traditional Arab Ensemble

The traditional Arab ensemble is known as 'takht' (literally meaning "bed" in Arabic). The composition of the ensemble may vary, but it is typically composed of the following six melodic instruments: the 'oud, qānūn, nāy, kamanja, riq, and darbūka. The ensemble may be joined by male or female vocalists. The takht ensemble employs the use of quarter tones in addition to whole and semi-tones, which gives the takht its unique and melodramatic sounds.

Source:

Qatar Music Academy, Arab Takht, [www.qatarmusicacademy.com.qa/explore-and-learn/learn/arabic-music](http://www.qatarmusicacademy.com.qa/explore-and-learn/learn/arabic-music)

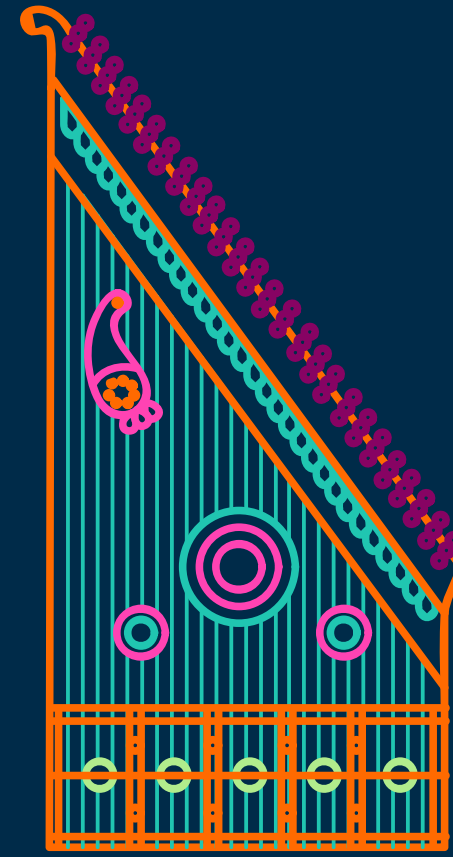
Lawrence University, Michigan Arab Orchestra Takht Ensemble. [www.lawrence.edu/conservatory/areas\\_of\\_study/musicology/con\\_brio/takht](http://www.lawrence.edu/conservatory/areas_of_study/musicology/con_brio/takht)



عود

### The 'Oud

The 'oud is a pear-shaped lute-type stringed instrument with 11 or 13 strings grouped in five or six courses.



قانون

### The Qānūn

The qānūn resembles a harp, or zither, and has a thin trapezoidal soundboard that is known for its unique melodramatic sound.

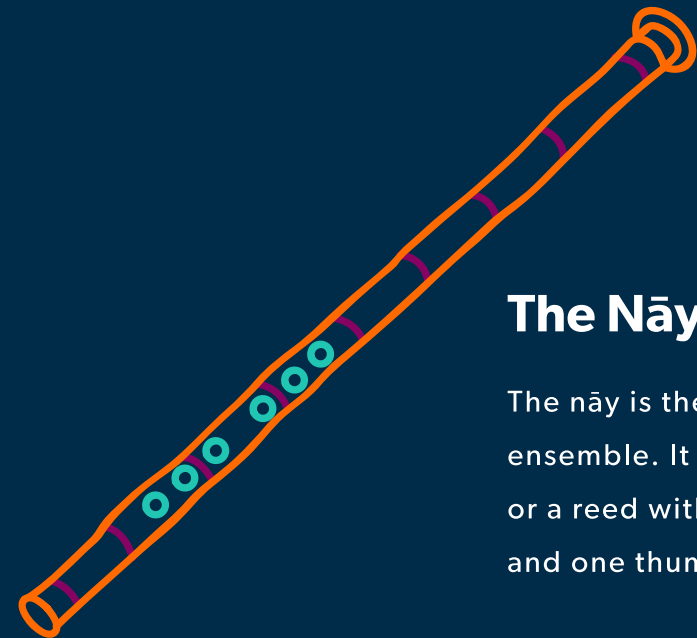


كمنجة

### The Kamanja

(alternatively the violin)

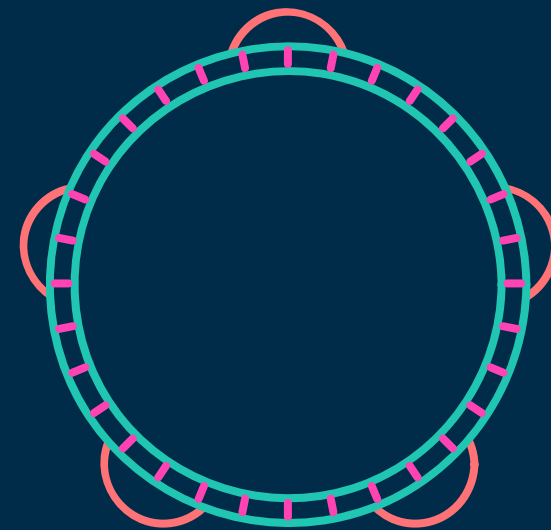
The kamanja is an Iranian bowed string instrument, played with a variable tension bow. In 2017, UNESCO added this instrument to its Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists.



ناي

### The Nāy

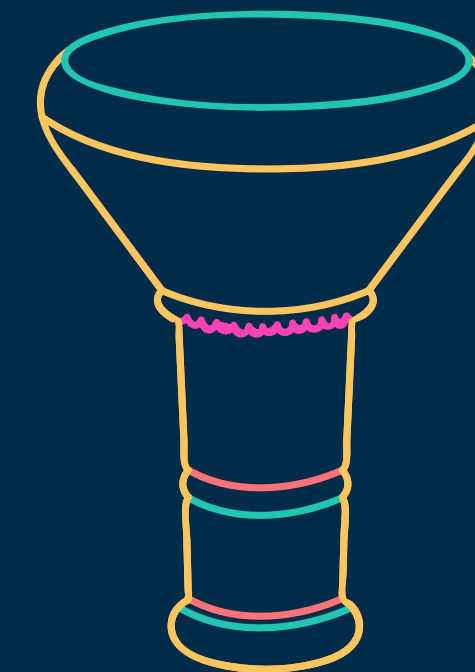
The nāy is the wind instrument of the ensemble. It is a flute made of cane or a reed with five or six finger holes and one thumb hole.



رق

### The Riq

The riq is a type of tambourine. Traditionally, it has a wooden circular frame wrapped in fish or goat skin, with brass cymbals spaced evenly around the frame. The frame of the riq is adorned with decorative wood, mother-of-pearl, or ivory.



دربوكة

### The Darbūka

The darbūka is a drum known for its goblet shaped body. It is a single head membranophone, and is played under the arm or resting sideways on the player's leg. It is played with quick, light finger strokes that is known for its quick rhythms.



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