



# Traditional musical instruments of Cyprus



↑  
pidkiavli



↑  
tampoutsia



↑  
laouto



←  
violin




↑  
mpouzouki

# General Information

- Music and dance are very important to Cypriots. The instruments which are traditionally used in Cyprus are the violin, the "laouto", the "pidkiavli" and the "tampoutsia". The commonest combination is the violin playing the melody, the "laouto" playing the accompaniment and the "tampoutsia" keeping the rhythm.
- Traditional Cyprus music uses instruments like the violin, the bouzouki, the laouto and the pithkiavlin. These are also often incorporated in modern Cyprus songs. Because Cyprus is the gateway between continents and has been colonised so many times, Cypriot rhythms have many influences.
- Old folk music songs were usually about love or heartbreak and some even sang of true stories that occurred in local villages.
- The music of the island of Cyprus is very strongly connected with the musical traditions of Ancient Greece, the Byzantine Empire and the Greek islands. Furthermore, Cyprus can be classified as one of the several cultural areas of the Greek civilization.

# The violin



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- If we look back in the history of the instruments we reach to the conclusion that the violin was imported in Cyprus in the mid of 19<sup>th</sup> .We also suppose that the violin had replaced the lyra, the very famous Greek instrument.
  - Having in mind the good relationship Greek and Cypriots had (and still have) we conclude that there a possibility that the violin was transported from the Greek islands where it has been used as well.




Μαρς (εμβατήριο)  
του γάμου



# The laouto



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- It is believed that the laouto has imported from Greece, since Greek and Cypriots had always the best relationship.
  - Laouto looks like the mandolin but its size it's bigger and it's sound different.
  - It' s a long-neck fretted instrument.
  - The laouto has a high string tension due to its longer neck and hence brighter in tone.
  - The laouto also tends to have only one sound hole (sometimes two).




Blue Sky



# The pidkiavlin




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- Pidkiavli is the Cyprian flute
  - It is the oldest musical instrument of Cyprus. It was hand made by rod or wood.
  - The "pidkiavli" was usually used by the shepherds out in the fields where they used to play some "fones" or other melodies, but it was also used for improvisations.
  - Very few of them are still alive and so you hardly listen this instrument today.





# The tampoutsia




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- The TAMPUTSA or TAMPOUTSIA is a big Cypriot traditional instrument made out of goats skin usually.
  - The skin of the tampoutsia instrument had a diameter of about 50-55 cm sometimes even smaller than that.
  - The tampoutsia is played with both of the users hands or with two small sticks in a horizontal position on the left hip of the musician.
  - The "tampoutsia" keeps the rhythm.





# The mpouzouki



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- The bouzouki is the central instrument to the “rebetika” songs and its music branches.
  - The front of the body is flat.
  - The instrument is played with a plectrum and has a sharp metallic sound, reminiscent of a madolin but pitched lower.
  - There are two main types of bouzouki. The trichordo (*three-course*) has three pairs of strings (known as courses), and the tetrachordo (*four-course*) has four pairs of strings.

