

**Grade 10**

# **Western Music**

## **Instruments and Voice**



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Plucked strings instruments are instruments that used frets underneath the strings and strings are plucked with the fingers using a plectrum (pick) most of the plucked strings instruments work on the same principal as the bowed ones.

They have a resonating body and a neck along which the strings are stretched with a system of pegs and bridges, the player stops the strings against a finger board attached to the neck.

## The Guitar



A very popular instrument among folk singers and pop groups. The guitar is similar to those played today were known in Spain in the 16th Century and the Spanish type of guitar is still used. The strings of the guitar are plucked and the finger board has metal strings called frets, set into at intervals. The player presses down on the finger board behind the required frets so that only a part of each string vibrates.

Six strings of the guitar is tuned to **E. A. D. G. B. E** the strings of the highest pitch is made of gut or nylon and the others of fine silk or nylon covered with thin coiled silver wire. The guitar player mostly sit or stand to play. He fingers the strings with the left hand and pluck the strings with his right hand . There are two primary families of guitars- acoustic and electric.

**Electric guitar** – is similar to the Spanish guitar usually it has 6 strings but the vibrations of the plucked strings are magnified by a hollow wooden body by an electric amplifier and speaker.



## The Banjo



The banjo has a rounded drum like body. It has 4 or 5 strings and a long finger board with frets. Sound is produced by plucking the strings while the different notes are formed by fingers of the left hand stopping the strings at the frets. The banjo is often played in Jazz and Pop groups and it was used to accompany enslaved Africans in Colonial America.

## The Mandoline



A member of the lute family(plucked or strummed) Its eight wire strings are tuned as four pairs (G.D.A.E) as on the violin and it is played with a plectrum. The shortest notes are produced by a rapid to and fro movement of the plectrum. This gives a vibrating quality to the sound of the mandolin. It generally has a round or tear-drop shape.

## The Harp



Is one of the oldest instruments. It has about 45 strings. The C strings are coloured red and the F strings are coloured blue, so that the player can easily distinguish the different strings. The harp has seven pedals which are used to change the pitch of the strings. The seven pedals are for the 7 strings, by this the player can change the tuning of the Harp when he wishes to play different keys. Sound is produced by plucking the strings when he wishes to play in different keys. Sound is produced by plucking the strings. The Harp may be played while held on the lap or while it stands on a table or on the floor. A person who plays the harp is called a “harpist” or harper.

## Other electric instruments

- Electric synthesizer
- Electric violin
- Electric Drum Kit

