

Iraqi Folk Instruments

A traditional Iraqi ensemble includes three string instruments, one wind instrument, and one percussion instrument.



oud

A pear-shaped instrument with 11 strings. Its name means “thin strips of wood,” which is what its body is made of.



RIQQ

A small hand drum with cymbals around it. It’s a lot like a tambourine.



QANUN

An Arabic harp that is more than 1,000 years old!

VIOLIN

A four-stringed instrument played with a bow. It’s the same instrument you find in an orchestra, but it’s played and tuned differently.



NEY

An ancient flute made out of cane. It is one of the oldest instruments still in use, and the only wind instrument used in traditional Arabic music.