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.

**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.

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

**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.