

Name

Instructor's Name

Course Name and Number

Date

The Violin

The violin is an instrument that is classified under to a larger family of instruments. It is in the same family but different from the double bass, viola, and cello due to its high pitch. The following image depicts a violin.



(Rice 20)

The violin is a 4-stringed instrument that is tuned in perfect fifths. Another name for the violin is fiddle.

The word violin is derived from the Germanic Latin name, vitula. This name means stringed instrument. Germanic tribes a large and originally resided in the forests that are now part of modern Germany. This was before they invaded large parts of Italy, France, England, Spain, Portugal, and North Africa. The Germanic tribes established themselves as rulers of these areas

after their defeat of the Romans. Prior to invading territories occupied by the Romans, history shows that they have been fighting the Romans for centuries. Germanic tribes either had an instrument that was a precursor to the modern violin or they named winded instruments from borrowed names in Latin to refer to the instrument (Rice 10).

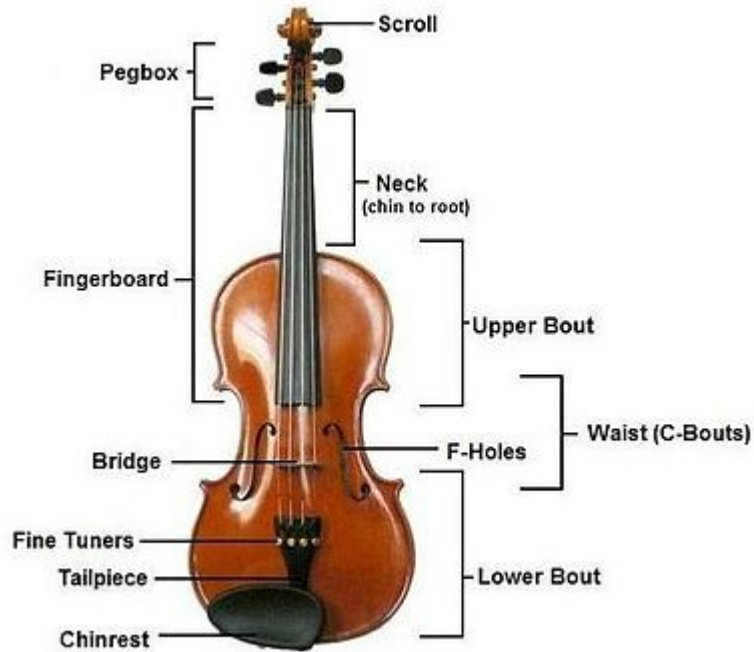
Asian Nomads were the first to use winged instruments. Turkic, particularly Mongolian people, were possibly the world's first fiddlers, and early instruments of their time had strings made from horsehair and the instruments were played with horsehair bows.

These early versions of the violin spread from Central Asia to ancient civilizations of China, India, the Middle East, and the Byzantine. The instrument developed uniquely; however, the early Central Asian features remained.

Around the 16th century, the version the violin reached northern Italy through the Silk Road. This was a popular trade route that began in China and proceeded to the Middle East or the Mediterranean region. History shows that the original fiddle were from Central Asia was adapted into the modern violin by the Byzantine tribe. By 1556, this instrument was being widely used throughout Europe. At that time, violins only had three or four strings. The first 4-stringed violin appeared in 1555, made by Andrea Amati, the oldest violin, which still exists.

In the 18th century, the first notable changes are the heavier bass and long lengths were widely adopted in Europe. The neck angle of the instrument also changed. The first violins that was used by performers prior to the 18th century were worth a much and were valued by collectors. The following images shows the parts of a violin.

Parts of a Violin



(Rice 20)

The violin's body is shaped in an hourglass-like form. The type of wood determines the sound of the violin. Factors like the shape of the body or the thickness of the top and back of the instrument also affect the sound. Additionally the varnish used to coat the violin also influences the sound (Rice 22). Most of the joints in the body of the violin are held together by animal glue, due to animal glue sticking better than wood glue. As far as size, violins can be large or small; however, smaller violins were developed later and their history is not well known.

Works Cited

Rice, Anne. *Violin*. New York: Ballantine, 1999-1997. Print.