

## MONDOFOTO / PHOTOWORLD

### The musical instruments of the Ethnological Museum of Addis Abeba

Photos and text by Moreno Vergari

The Ethnological Museum is housed in the same building of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies in the main campus of Addis Ababa University. Among the various collections is the Ethno-Musicology section. The collection of more than 200 different musical instruments is divided in four categories between membranophones, chordophones, aerophones, and idiophones. Here some examples.

#### 1. Membranophones



Fig. 1 – Kettledrum (Amharic *nāgarit* ነጋሪት) with its drumstick.

#### References:

- TIMKEHET TEFFERA (2019) “Kettledrums: The Case of the Ethiopian Nāgarit, Insignia of Ancient Royal Power”, *Música em Contexto*, Vol. 13, 2: 85-118.
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Fig. 2 and 3 - Different kinds of percussions

1	Drum (Debe) Addis Ababa Wood, hide H. 16 cm ; Max. W. 36 cm IES Museum 1436 Bowl-shaped drum Donated by Mr. Guy Mwenzy	1 ከድ (ድቤ) አዲስ አበባ ጎጂጃት፣ ቀፋ ቁመት 16 ሳ.ጊ. የላቀው ስፋት 36 ሳ.ጊ. አዲስ አበባ መ-ዝያም 1436 ጭላ ቅርፅ ከድ በመስ. ጊ ጥራገሳ የተሰጠ
2	Drum (Kibaro) Borana (Oromyia region) Wood, hide H. 19.5 cm, Max. W. 15.5 cm IES Museum 7625 Donated by Public Housing and Rental Administration in 1977	2 ከድ ዕረር (ድብ-ዐ ኢትዮጵያ) አገጃጅ፣ ቀፋ ቁመት 19.5 ሳ.ጊ. የላቀው ስፋት 15.5 ሳ.ጊ. አዲስ አበባ መ-ዝያም 7625 በዚረሮ በፋት አስተዳደር ድርጅት በ1969 ዓ.ም. የተሰጠ
3	Drum (Kibaro) Origin unknown Wood, hide H. 44 cm ; Max. W. 35 cm IES Museum 8117 a Donated by the National Palace (Arat Kilo) in 1978	3 ከድ የሙዝባት ምድር ያልታወቀ አገጃጅ፣ ቀፋ ቁመት 44 ሳ.ጊ. የላቀው ስፋት 35 ሳ.ጊ. ኢትዮጵያ መ-ዝያም 8117 ሀ በአራፎ፣ ቤተ መንግሥት (አራት ኪሎ) በ1970 ዓ.ም. የተሰጠ
4	Drum (Kamba) Addis Ababa Wood, hide H. 31 cm ; Max. W. 25 cm IES Museum 1884 Cylindrical drum with double head, stretched with cow's hide	4 ከድ (ኮምባ) አዲስ አበባ ጎጂጃት፣ ቀፋ ቁመት 31 ሳ.ጊ. የላቀው ስፋት 25 ሳ.ጊ. አዲስ አበባ መ-ዝያም 1884 በኮምባ ቀፋ የተወጠረ ስፋ ዕለት ራስ፣ በርግሌ ቅርፅ ከድ

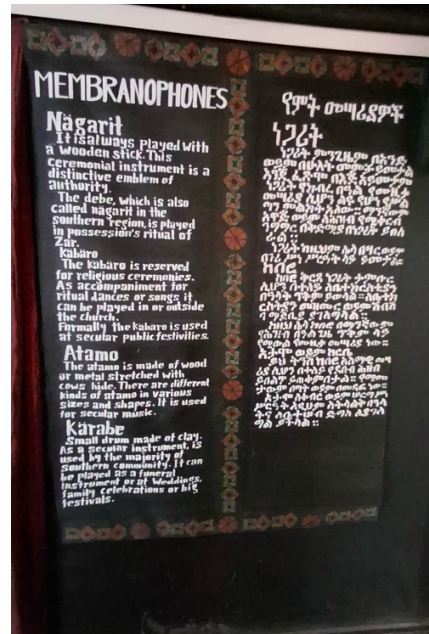


Fig. 4 and 5 – Descriptions in English and Amharic



Fig. 6 and 7 - Different kinds of percussions



References:

- POWNE, Michael (1968) "Percussion Instruments", in POWNE, M. *Ethiopian Music. An introduction*. Pp. 12-24. London: Oxford University Press.
- VALENTINI, Marianna (2004) "Membranofoni", in VALENTINI, M. *Strumenti musicali tradizionali dell'altopiano eritreo*. Pp. 51-67. Asmara: Scuola Italiana.

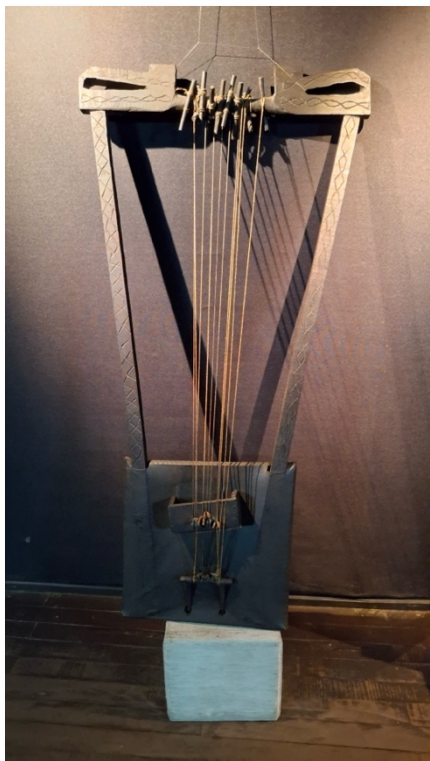
## 2. Chordophones



Fig. 8 - Ten stringed lyre (Amharic *bāgāna* በገኛ)



Fig. 9, 10, 11 - Other types of *bägäna*



References:

- KIMBERLIN, Cynthia Tse (1978) "The Bägäna of Ethiopia", in *Ethiopianist Notes* (currently *Northeast African Studies*), 2/2:13-29. Michigan State University: African Studies Center.
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Fig. 12, 13, 14 - One stringed fiddles (Amharic *mäsinqo መሲንቆ* or *mäsənqo መስንቆ*, *masinqo መሲንቆ*)



References:

- KIMBERLIN, Cynthia Mei-Ling (1976) "Masinqo and the Nature of Qəññət", Ann Arbor, Michigan: University Microfilms.
- KIMBERLIN, Cynthia Tse (2007) "Mäsinqo", in UHLIG, S. (ed.) *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica*, Vol. 3, 834b-836b. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag.
- POWNE, Michael (1968) "Masenqo", in POWNE, M. *Ethiopian Music. An introduction*. Pp. 39-42. London: Oxford University Press.
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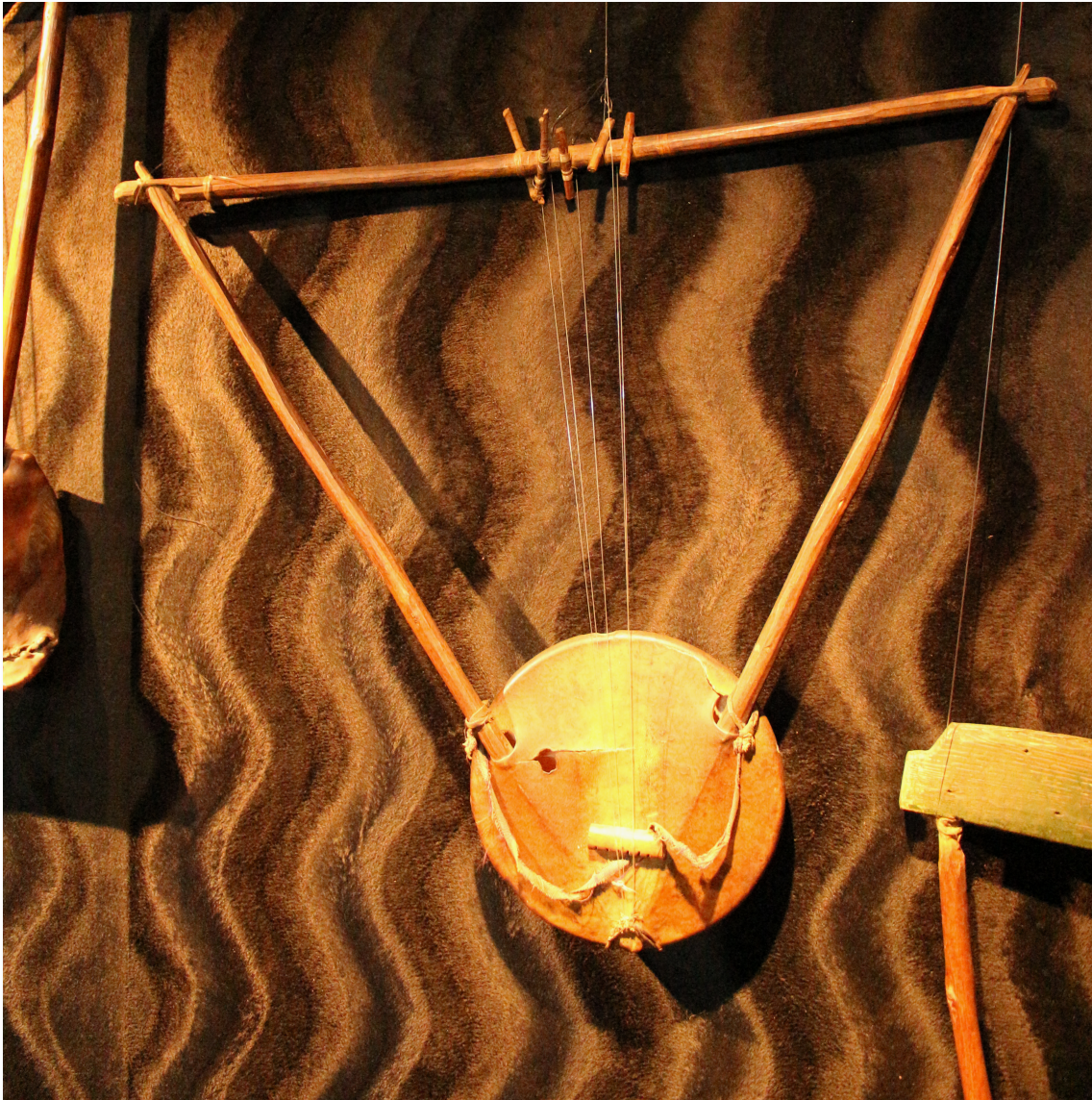


Fig. 15 - Five or six stringed plucked lyre (Amharic *kɛrar* ክሬር)

References:

- ASHENAFI KEBEDE (1967) "The Krar", in *Ethiopian Observer* 11, 3: 154-61.
- KIMBERLIN, Cynthia Tse (2007) "Kɛrar", in UHLIG, S. (ed.) *Encycloaedia Aethiopica*, Vol. 3, 389a-391a. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag.
- POWNE, Michael (1968) "Krar", in POWNE, M. *Ethiopian Music. An introduction*. Pp. 43-52. London: Oxford University Press.
- VALENTINI, Marianna (2004) "Crar", in VALENTINI, M. *Strumenti musicali tradizionali dell'altopiano eritreo*. Pp. 76-81. Asmara: Scuola Italiana.

### 3. Aerophones

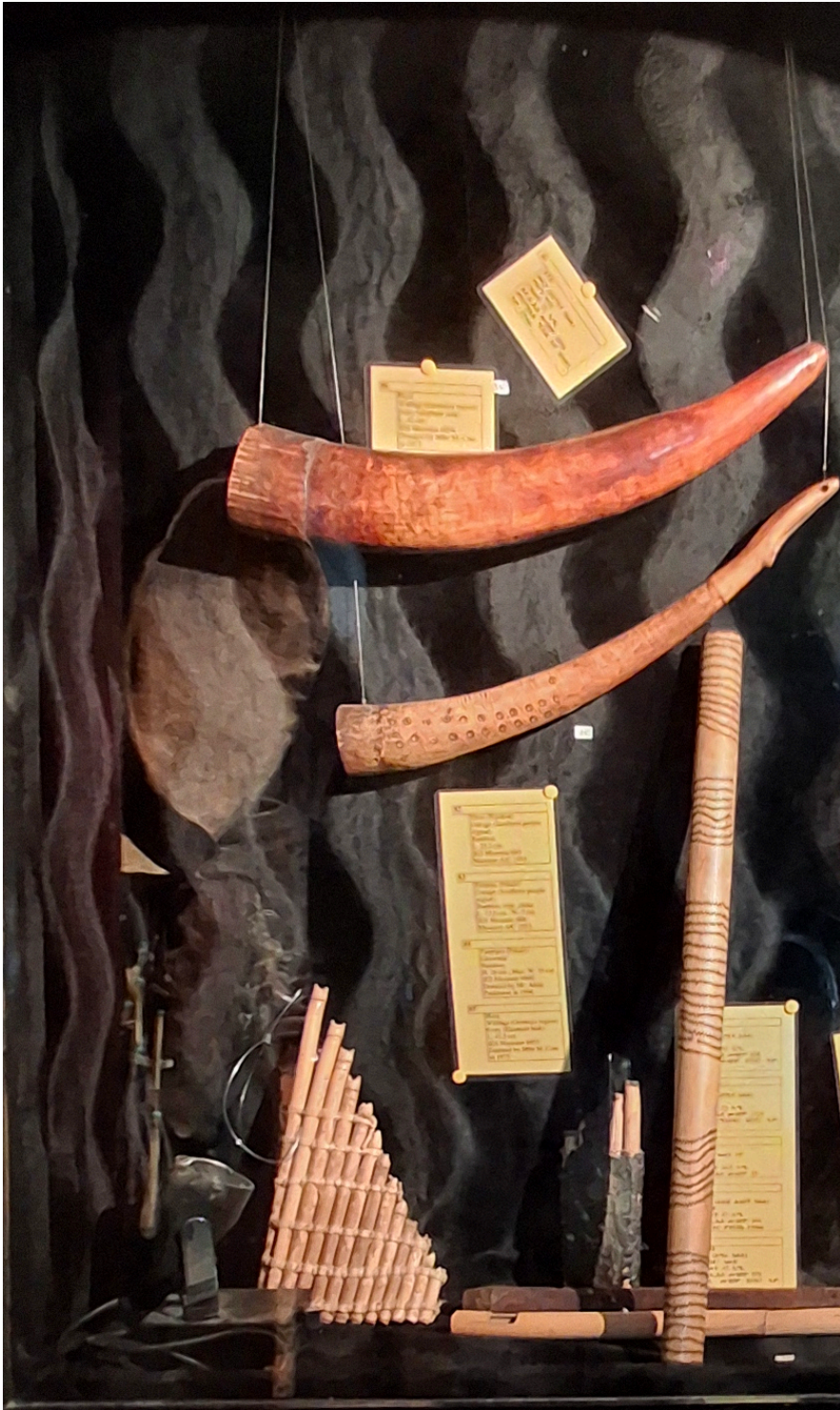


Fig. 16 - Horns (Amharic *hulduduwa* ሁዲዲዊ), flutes (Amharic *wasənt* የሸንት [Tigrinya *šambəqqo* ሻምባቆ or *šambuqqo* ሻምባቆ] and *əmbilta* አምቢልታ)





Fig. 17 - Different types of flutes with descriptions in English and Amharic



Fig. 18 - Bamboo trumpets (Wolaytta *çakaze*) and Fig. 19 - Metal trumpets (Amharic *mäläkät መለኮት*)



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BARBLAN, Guglielmo (1941) *Musiche e strumenti musicali dell'Africa orientale italiana*. Napoli: Edizioni della triennale d'oltremare.  
 POWNE, Michael (1968) "Wind instruments", in POWNE, M. *Ethiopian Music. An introduction*. Pp. 25-38. London: Oxford University Press.  
 TESHAYE LEMMA(1975) *Ethiopian Musical Instruments*. Addis Abeba.  
 VALENTINI, Marianna (2004) "Aerofoni", in VALENTINI, M. *Strumenti musicali tradizionali dell'altopiano eritreo*. Pp. 87-103. Asmara: Scuola Italiana.

#### 4. Idiophones



Fig. 20 and 21 - Dancing bells (Konso *chancha*) and rattles



Fig. 22 and 23 - Lamellophones used in South-Western Ethiopia (*tom* or *tum*)



Fig. 24 - Sistrum (Amharic *šānašəl* ጸናጸ-ል) and bell (Amharic *qačəl* ቃጭል)

References:

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- DAMON-Guillot, Anne (2010) "Şänaşəl", in in UHLIG, S. and BAUSI, A. (eds.) *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica*, Vol. 4, 521a-522a. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag.
- LACOMBE, Claire (2007) "Les bandes magnétiques de musiques traditionnelles dans les archives de l'Institute of Ethiopian Studies: État des lieux, projets de valorisation, proposition d'analyse", in *Annales d'Éthiopie*, 23:224-229.
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