

## Course Content - Strings

### Historical Facts about String Instruments

- A string instrument is any instrument that makes a sound by vibrating the strings that are on it.
- The oldest String instrument known to man is the Lyre, it is over 4000 years old.
- The sound the strings make on a String instrument are determined by three things: the length, thickness and tightness of the string.
- The Resonator is the part of the String instrument that is hollow and amplifies the sound the strings make.
- The Resonator of a Lyre was made from a Tortoise Shell.
- The Banjo gets its unique sound from the drum head that makes the face of the instrument.
- The Doppio Borgato Pedal Piano has 330 strings – the most of any String instrument.

### Plucked or Strummed String Instruments

- There are three categories of String instruments: Plucked or Strummed, Tapped or Hit and Bowed.
- Some types of Plucked or Strummed instruments are the Harp, Guitar, Ukulele, Banjo and Gayageum.
- Orchestras usually include one or two harps. Harps usually have 47 strings.
- The Ukulele was invented in Hawai'i, primarily by Portuguese immigrants.
- The Gayageum is the oldest and most well know instrument in Korea.

### Music in Life Lesson:

The Music in Life lesson is a moment to engage in active listening. The Music in Life lesson song for this course is "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Israel "IZ" Kamakawiwo'ole. Students are invited to think about how the music makes them feel, think, and move. Music is an individual experience; active listening encourages students to choose their own musical path.

### Struck or Tapped String Instruments

- The Hammered Dulcimer, Piano, and Chapman Stick are some examples of Struck or Tapped instruments.
- The Hammered Dulcimer's mallets look like spoons.
- The Piano belongs to two categories of instruments; it is both a String and Percussion instrument. It belongs to both because it has strings and a player hits the keys to make the sound.
- String instruments are famous for making movies "feel". Depending on the sounds the strings are playing, the same scene can be happy, sad or scary.

### Bowed Instruments

- Violin, electric Violin, Cello, Double Bass and Nyckelharpa are some examples of Bowed String Instruments.
- The Violin and the Fiddle are the same instrument! They just have different nicknames in different types of music. An Orchestra would call it a Violin, a Country music band would call it a Fiddle.
- The Electric Violin is used in several different types of music including Rock, Jazz and Heavy Metal.
- The Double Bass is about six feet tall! This popular instrument is also called The Doghouse, the Bowfiddle and a Stand-up Bass.
- The unusual instrument, the Nyckelharpa, comes from Sweden.