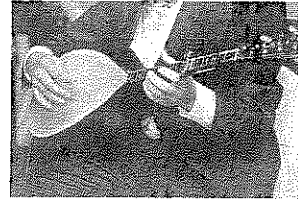


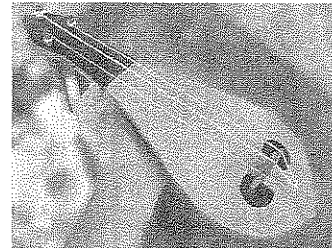
When you look at where Turkey is on a world map, it looks like a bridge holding the Eastern and Western countries together. This is certainly reflected in its music today. Turkey's music is a real mix of Western and Eastern culture and its roots come from very rich traditions which have spanned back for over three thousand years.

Some of the traditional stringed instruments in Turkey include the **Baglama** (played similarly to a guitar), which can be called **Saz**. While it might look like a guitar its sound and method of playing is very different, as it has a completely different tuning scale to that used in western music.



A man playing Baglama

Bowed instruments from Turkey include the **Kemenche**, (or kemençe in Turkish). This is a small violin like instrument, that is played in an upright position like a cello. If the player is sitting, it is played resting on the knee, and if standing it is held in front of the player, like a clarinet. It has three strings, which can be tuned in a number of different ways.



Kemenche

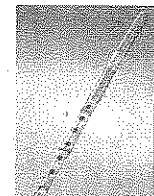


Playing position for Kemenche

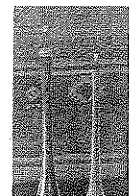
Wind instruments include the **Ney**, which is an end blown flute that features prominently in a lot of Middle Eastern music. Made from cane or reed, it is one of the oldest musical instruments still in use, dating back 4000-5000 years. It is a forerunner to the modern flute.



Marching band featuring Davul



Ney (flute)



Zurna

Another common wind instrument is **Zurna**, which is similar to an oboe.

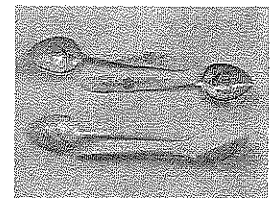
There are a great variety of percussion instruments in Turkish music, including the **Davul** (bass drum), **Darbuka** (a goblet shaped drum), **Tef** (tambourine) and **Kasik** (wooden spoons).



Darbukka



Tef (tambourine)



Kasik (wooden spoons)

Most Turkish music uses a rhythm structure known as **Aksak**. This refers to what westerners would refer to as "complex time signatures" such as 5/8, 7/8 and 9/8. As most western and modern pop/rock is in standard time signatures such as 4/4, so at first Turkish music may seem difficult, but once the ear is used to it the rhythm is felt as easily as 4/4 time.

Turkish music is built on scale like structures called a **Makam**. These are types of scales which produce different desired effects such as cheerfulness, power, sensitivity and honesty to the music. It is believed that music in Turkey has healing powers.

Great Classical composers such as Haydn and Mozart were fascinated with Turkish music back in the eighteenth century. Haydn wrote his "Military Symphony" to include Turkish instruments and Mozart played tribute to Turkish music in his Sonata in A major with his famous "Ronda Alla Turca". In the 1960s the jazz musician Dave Brubeck wrote his "Blue Rondo á la Turk" as a tribute to Mozart and Turkish music. Turkish influence introduced the cymbals, bass drum and bells into the symphony orchestra, where they still remain.