



as GOOD
as GOLD
The First 50 years

**Activity
Booklet**

A stylized, high-contrast illustration of a red parrot's face, looking upwards and to the left. The parrot's beak is large and yellowish-tan, with a prominent black eye. The background is a bright yellow, with a large red shape behind the parrot's head. The overall style is graphic and modern.

**LOOK
WONDER
DREAM
CONNECT**

NMM Learners!

Look, Wonder, Dream, Connect

A visit to the NMM sparks the imagination and inspires dreaming. Powered by wonder, you will make connections to your own lives.

As Good as Gold: The First 50 Years (1973-2023) is an anniversary celebration of the NMM's founding. Representative examples from 50 years of collecting that glimpse at 500 years of music-making are featured. All instrument families are represented.

You will be asked what, why, and who. Strive to see more and hear with your eyes.

EVERYONE COLLECTS!

WONDER

- Why is it that almost everyone collects something?
- What is so intriguing about building a collection?

DREAM

- If you could collect anything in the world, what would that be?
- Why?

CONNECT

- Do you collect something?
- What?
- Why do you collect that?
- Who would your collection be for?

MUSEUMS COLLECT!

WONDER

- Why does a museum collect?
- Who is the collection for?

DREAM

- If you could create your own museum, what would it be about?
- Why?
- Who would your museum be for?

CONNECT

- The NMM collects musical instruments. If you could pick one instrument for the NMM to collect, what would it be?
- Why did you pick that instrument?

500 YEARS OF MUSIC MAKING

WONDER

- Why has music-making been important for so long?
- Has music stayed the same over the years?
- Who plays music?
- Who does music get played for?

DREAM

- If you could go back in time to hear any musical instrument in the world, what would it be?
- Why?
- What musical instrument of the future would you like to hear?
- Why?
- If you could play any musical instrument in the world, what would it be?
- Why?

CONNECT

- Do you play a musical instrument now? What is it?
- Why do you play that instrument?
- Who do you play that instrument for?
- If you could play any musical instrument in this exhibit, what would it be?
- Why did you choose that instrument?



500 YEARS OF MAKING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

WONDER

- Have musical instruments stayed the same over the years?
- Why are there so many different kinds of musical instruments?
- Who are all these musical instruments for?
- Who made all these musical instruments?

DREAM

- If you could make any musical instrument in the world, what would it be?
- Why?
- Who would your musical instrument be for?

CONNECT

- Have you ever made something? What?
- Have you ever made a musical instrument? What?
- Why did you make that musical instrument?



- **Look with your eyes and not your hands. Your hands don't have eyes but they do have oils that can damage artifacts over time.**
- **Hear with your eyes. Even though most of the musical instruments you will see no longer play, imagine what they may have sounded like.**
- **If you don't have something for everyone, please don't bring it with you. Food, drink, and gum can stain and attract bugs that will eat the artifacts.**
- **You need horses to horse around. You will see that we do not have any, so please keep the running, loud noises, and roughhousing outside.**
- **Questions? Museums are places of discovery, so if you have questions, please ask.**

MUSEUM MANNERS

MEET the INSTRUMENTS

LOOK

This instrument does NOT look like a basset hound! This is called “basset horn” meaning “bass.”

The basset horn is a member of the clarinet family that is designed to play three notes lower than today’s clarinet.

WONDER

Can you see the box just above the bell on this basset horn?

That box has tubing that makes two turns before reaching the bell. What does that do to the notes?

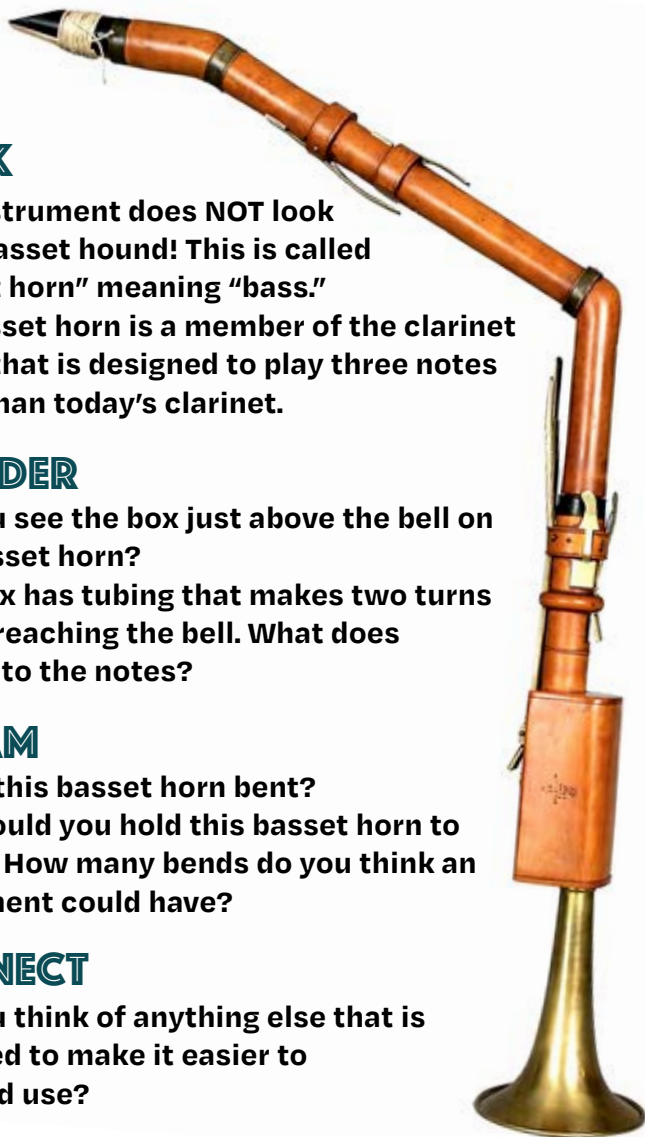
DREAM

Why is this basset horn bent?

How would you hold this basset horn to play it? How many bends do you think an instrument could have?

CONNECT

Can you think of anything else that is designed to make it easier to hold and use?



**BASSET HORN BY FRANTISEK DOLEISCH I,
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC, 1793. NMM 3541.**

**OBOE IN C BY HENDRIK RICHTERS,
AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, CA. 1720. NMM 4547.**



LOOK

This oboe needs a double-reed in order to be played. The reed would be inserted right at the very top of the oboe and you would form your lips around the reed.

This beautiful instrument is made from ebony and ivory.

WONDER

Can you see the keys toward the bottom of this oboe?

Why does the center key have two touchpieces?

Can you see the small keys are directly across from each other?

Would those keys play different or the same notes? Why?

DREAM

On today's oboes, flutes, clarinets, bassoons and saxophones, the player's right hand goes on the bottom of the instrument.

The keys on this oboe are designed to be played with either hand. The player decides. If you could play this oboe, what hand would you use on the bottom? Why?

CONNECT

Can you think of any other musical instrument today that allows the player to decide how to hold it?

**VIOLONCELLO BY ANDREA AMATI,
CREMONA, ITALY, CA. 1536-1560. NMM 3351.**



LOOK

This cello was made nearly 500 years ago for King Charles IX of France. Charles was only ten years old when he became king! More than likely he never played the cello. Rather, musicians employed by the Royal Court would have used the cello for entertaining the King and his family. Can you count the number of crowns you see decorating the sides and back of this cello?

WONDER

What would it have been like to be a king at such a young age?
What instrument would you gift to a young king?

DREAM

Would you like to be king?
Would you like to be a Royal Court musician?
Be sure to stop by the Creation Station to construct your own crown to take home.

CONNECT

Why is this cello decorated?
If you could decorate this instrument, how would you decorate it?

**CITTERN BY RAFAELLO A URBINO, ITALY,
CA. 1538. NMM 3386.**

LOOK

This instrument is almost 500 years old! The back and neck are carved from one piece of wood. Make sure to look at the back of this instrument.

Can you see the awesome looking characters on the back? Look at the very top called the scroll. Can you see some gargoyles?

Look at the base of the neck at the back. Can you see the fellow looking back? He has his tongue stuck out at you!

WONDER

How do you play this cittern? What was it like to play it? What kind of music would have been played?

DREAM

If you created your own stringed instrument, how many strings would you use?

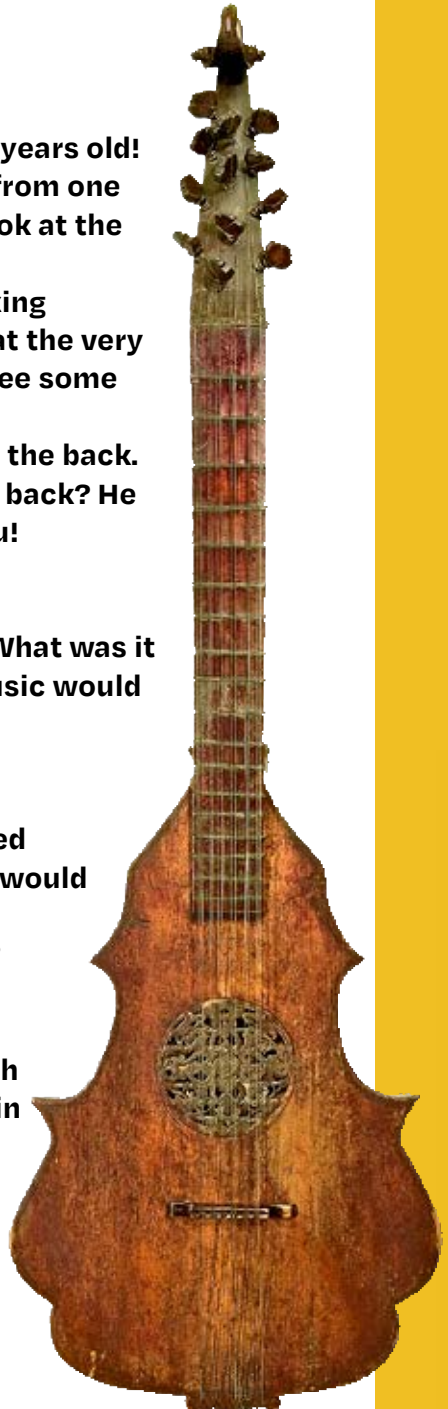
How would each string sound?

CONNECT

Why does this cittern have such interesting characters carved in it?

If you could choose another character to add to this cittern, what would it be?

Why?



**GRAND PIANO BY JOAQUIM JOSÉ ANTUNES,
LISBON, PORTUGAL, 1767. NMM 5055.**

LOOK

The piano was invented in 1700 by Bartolomeo Cristofori who worked in Italy. This piano was made just a few years after its invention! This piano has tiny wooden hammers inside that are activated when the keys are pressed. That means the harder you press the keys the louder the sound is. That's why early pianos are sometimes called "fortepiano" which means "loud-soft" in Italian.

WONDER

The modern piano has 88 keys. How many does this piano have? Why are there so fewer keys? Why do you think that is?

DREAM

This piano is small and delicate. What kind of sound would it produce? Why? If you had your own piano, what size would you want it to be?

CONNECT

Do you have a piano at home? At school? How many keys do those pianos have? Can you play loud and soft on those pianos? How?



LOOK

This saxophone is engraved all over! Even the pad covers have designs!

Can you see the angels playing musical instruments?

Can you see the drum and fife players?

Can you find the Uncle Sam's head? Can you find the baby holding a ball? What else can you see?

WONDER

Why do you think this saxophone has so much engraving?

DREAM

How do you think engraving is done?

Do you think it would be a lot of work to engrave this saxophone?

What engravings would you want to put on an instrument?

CONNECT

Are today's saxophones engraved like this? Why?



**TENOR SAXOPHONE IN B-FLAT BY
C.G. CONN LTD, ELKHART, INDIANA,
CA. 1916. NMM 5070.**

LOOK

This instrument was made in the Pamir Mountains, some of the world's highest mountains. They are located between Central Asia and Pakistan and most of them lie within the country of Tajikistan. The body, neck and pegbox are all carved out of one piece of wood. Can you see how the leather covering on the front is attached to the sides with metal nails?

WONDER

Look at the back of the rubab. Can you see the designs? What might those designs have meant?

DREAM

How do you play this rubab? Who would you have played this rubab for?

CONNECT

How would you decorate your rubab if you had one? What do your decorations mean?



PAMIR RUBAB
PAMIR MOUNTAINS, TAJIKISTAN,
CA. 1616-1617. NMM 5580.

**MINIATURE HORN BY JOHANN WILHELM HAAS,
NUREMBERG, GERMANY, 1681. NMM 7213.**



LOOK

This tiny horn is so small it can fit in the palm of your hand! It is made from silver with gilded gold on the bell.

Can you see the image of a rabbit (or hare) on the bell? That hare is like a trademark for the Haas family of makers. "Hare" translates in German as "Hase" – very similar to the name "Haas."

WONDER

This horn was made the same year that the maker's son was born.

Who might this horn have been made for?

DREAM

Imagine playing this instrument! (It really does play two notes.) Would those notes sound high or low? Why?

CONNECT

Did or do you have your own child-size instrument? If you could choose any child-size instrument to own and play, what would it be? Why?

LOOK

Have you ever seen custom cars and motorcycles with lots of curves in the design and unique paint? This trumpet was inspired by those custom designs.

It has curves that resemble motorcycles and

unique paint and decorations.

Can you see the green crystals on top of the buttons of the valves?

WONDER

Can you see the words "Utley Collection" painted in gold on the side and bell of this trumpet? It's written in cursive, so ask someone if you need help.

Who do you think this trumpet was made for?

Is this trumpet unique – one-of-a-kind?

DREAM

This trumpet was very difficult to make because it still needed to play even though it has all the decoration and customized shape.

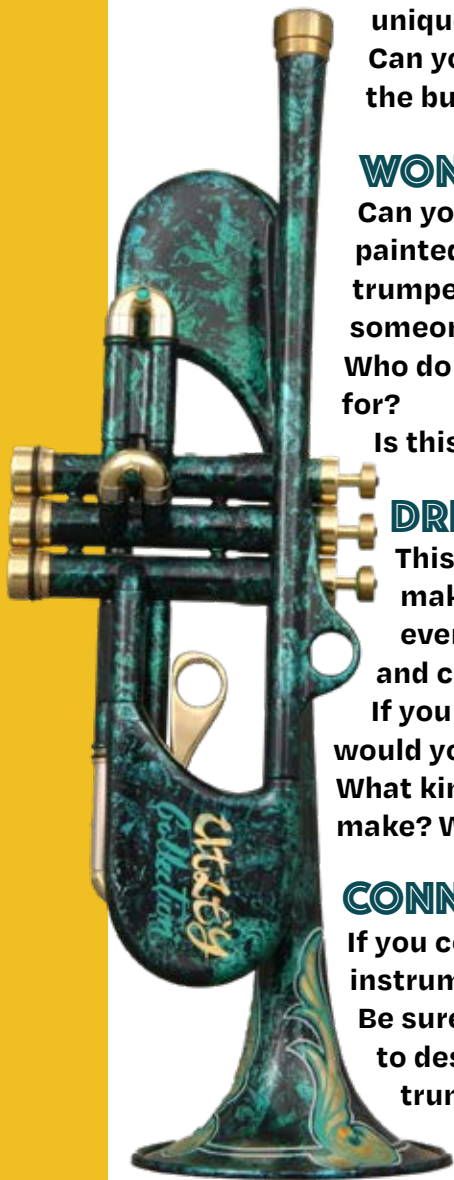
If you could play this trumpet, how would you do that?

What kind of sound would this trumpet make? Why?

CONNECT

If you could decorate your own musical instrument, how would you do it?

Be sure to stop by the Creation Station to design your own decorations on the trumpet color sheets.



**TRUMPET IN B-FLAT BY ANDREW TAYLOR,
NORWICH, ENGLAND, 1998. NMM 7316.**

LOOK

This harmonica does not look like some harmonicas we know. Can you see the five brass horns on the top? That's why this harmonica is named the "Trumpet Call."

WONDER

How is sound produced on this harmonica?

Tiny metal reeds inside the instrument vibrate when you blow causing it to sound.

Does sound come out of the brass horns? (Actually, they are fake – used just for decoration.) Why do you think this harmonica is decorated this way?

DREAM

What would this harmonica sound like if the sound really came out of the brass horns?

What exciting decorations would you add to a harmonica to make it stand out?

CONNECT

Do you have a harmonica of your own?

Have you ever played a harmonica?

Make sure to stop by the Creation Station to make your own harmonica to take home



**FULL CONCERT HARMONICA IN D BY MATTHIAS HOHNER, INC.,
TROSSINGEN, GERMANY, CA. 1923. NMM 8293.**

**RATTLE "FROG & RAVEN'S VOYAGE" BY EUGENE ALFRED
(NORTHERN TUTCHONE/TLINGIT), CROW CLAN OF SELKIRK NATION,
PELLY CROSSING, YUKON, 2021. NMM 15664.**

LOOK

This rattle resembles a human – but with qualities of two animals.

Can you see the raven's beak?

Can you see the frog's broad mouth with tongue sticking out?

WONDER

Among Alaskan and Canadian Northwest Coast natives and first nations, the raven is considered a most powerful being and is credited with releasing the sun, moon and stars. The frog is honored because it can live in two worlds – land and water.

Although we sometimes think of rattles as baby toys, this rattle would be used in special ceremonies and dance.

DREAM

The raven and frog on this rattle are symbolic for the ability to move between earth and heaven.

Can you think of any other symbols?

CONNECT

If you could create and decorate your own rattle, what kind of symbols would you use?

What would your symbols mean?



WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER NEXT?

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