

15 MUSIC FACTS

TO TAKE NOTE OF



1 Medieval Muslim musicians played the **qitara**, an early version of the guitar.

2 The musical scale has its roots in early Muslim civilization. **Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti** sound close to the names of some letters of the Arabic alphabet, such as *dal, ra, mim, and fa*.

3 Roving musicians, merchants, and travelers helped spread Arabic **music** to Europe.



4 A handsome singer called **Ziryab** was a very popular musician in 9th-century Muslim Spain.



5 **Al-Farabi**, a 10th-century philosopher and musician, developed the **rababah** (an early type of violin) and the **qanun** (similar to a table zither). He wrote *The Great Book of Music*, which was first translated into Hebrew, then Latin.

6 As **entertainer** to the court of the Umayyad Caliph in Córdoba, Ziryab was paid a monthly salary of **200 golden dinars**.

7 Today the **guitar** is considered the most popular instrument in the world.

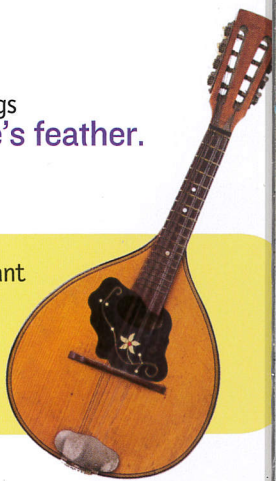


8 Musicians are shown **playing** Arabic instruments in artwork from Spain that dates back nearly **800 years**.

9 Ziryab established the world's first **music school** and brought the **Arab lute**, a plucked string instrument, to Europe.

10 Ziryab plucked the strings of his **lute** with a **vulture's feather**.

11 The lute became the most important instrument for **popular** music in Europe from the **14th to 17th centuries**.



12 The word **tar**, in **qitara**, means "**string**" in **Persian**.

13 The world's earliest **military band** was probably formed in 14th-century Turkey. Its purpose? To **motivate** the soldiers and **scare** the enemy during battle.



14 It's said that European military bands started after **Turkish troops** abandoned their instruments after their defeat in Vienna, Austria, in **1683**.

15 **Napoleon Bonaparte's** military band had kettledrums, cymbals, and other Turkish instruments. Its **noisy fanfare** helped win the Battle of Austerlitz in 1805.



Close-up of the soundhole of a lute