

Other instruments

There is a range of other instruments which are not so widespread these days, or which have gone out of use.

The *lyre* was a stringed instrument that came from the Middle-East in about 500 A.D. and spread to European countries. Initially, it was a plucked instrument, but when the bow later appeared in Europe, the *lyre* was also transformed to a bowed instrument.



Copy of Kraviklyre, found in Numedal. The original is probably from 1300-ages.

Harps were also found in Norway, and the name *krokharpe* (hook harp) recurs in many places in the country. In Østerdalen, it is said that there was a strong harp tradition in the olden days, and nowadays Tone Hulbkmo from Tolga has, amongst others, brought the instrument back into prominence. This was possible because the instrument maker, Sverre Jensen, began to make copies of old Norwegian harps which today are only found in museums.



Harps from Østerdalen and Sunnmøre

The *clarinet* has also made a contribution in Norway. It became known due to military music, and the early 1800s became a rich time for the clarinet in folk music. The combination of fiddle and clarinet was not uncommon when playing for dancing. The well-known Hardanger fiddler, Knut Luraas from Tinn, often played with his brother, the clarinet player, Thomas Luraas. The two played so well together that it sounded like one instrument, it was said.

Inspired by the orchestral instruments, shepherd clarinets were also made in the country areas. Today, several such instruments have come back into use. The *Meråker clarinet* is a traditional instrument which was revived in the 1950s by the player, Harald Gilland. The instrument maker, Magnar Storbekken, has made copies of old clarinets from Østerdalen and Oppdal.



Meråkerklarinett

Drums have also been a common instrument in the rural areas, and particularly in Vestlandet an extensive use of drums in connection with weddings is documented. The drummer could walk or ride in front of the bridal party to the church, or follow in the church boat. A number of drum tunes have been collected, and today there are several drummers who make use of this material.



The *bagpipes* have also been used in Norway. They came into use in the Middle Ages, but were already on the way out around 1500. However, they continued to be used in certain districts, and there is documentation about it from, amongst others, Sunnfjord (circa 1650) and Valdres (circa 1850).