

**On the Survival of the classical "Kithara / Lyre"
in N.E. Africa's "Krar / Kisir / Masinkoob / Tambour"**

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Abstract

In spite of 200 European mosaics depicting the lyre and kithara, classical studies tell us very little about technique, tuning or timbre of these instruments. Traditional knowledge died around 600 A.D.

The paper claims that in N.E. Africa - especially in very traditional cultures of the Ethiopian highlands or the Beja deserts - these traditions and techniques have survived and are alive indeed. This will be documented by means of illustrations, recordings, film passages, and actual demonstration of today's techniques.