

The Three Parents of the Violin

Presented by Hanna Bahorik



Theories of Ancestry:

Bow Theory



Ravanastron

Sound-chest Theory



Greek Kithara

A Third Theory: Three Parents

- Three main instruments:
 1. Rebec
 2. Lira da braccio
 3. Viola da braccio

Thesis: Rather than trying to trace the violin back to a single instrument, the purpose of this presentation is to show the ancestry of the violin as taking elements from multiple instruments, and specifically a combination of the three immediate precursors, or parents, known as the rebec, lira da braccio, and viola da braccio.

Immediate Parent #1: Rebec



Precursors to the Rebec

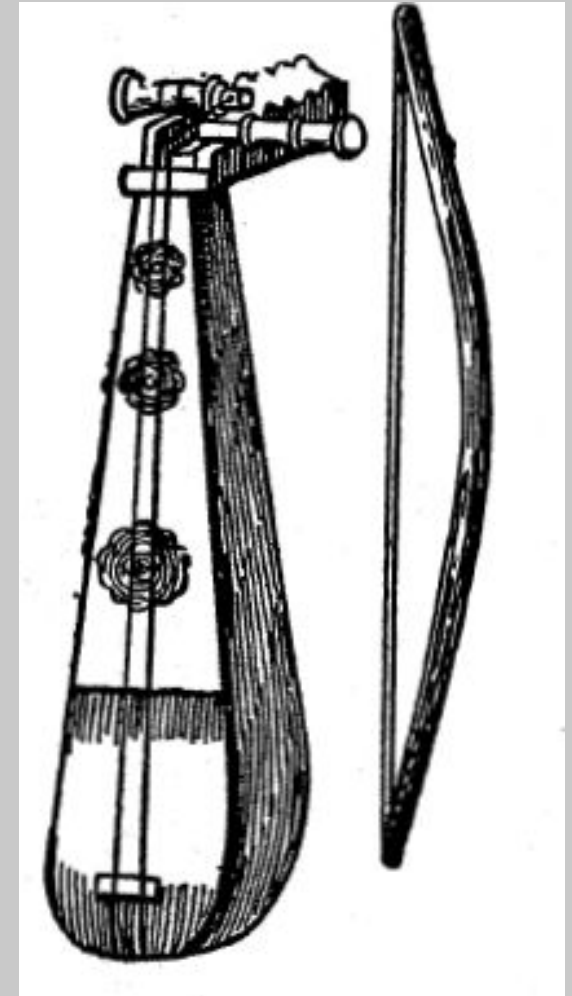


Pear-shaped Lira

- Bridge
- Sound-holes
- Tailpiece
- fingerboard

Bowed-Rebab

- Slender design
- Arched bow
- Peg-box with lateral pegs



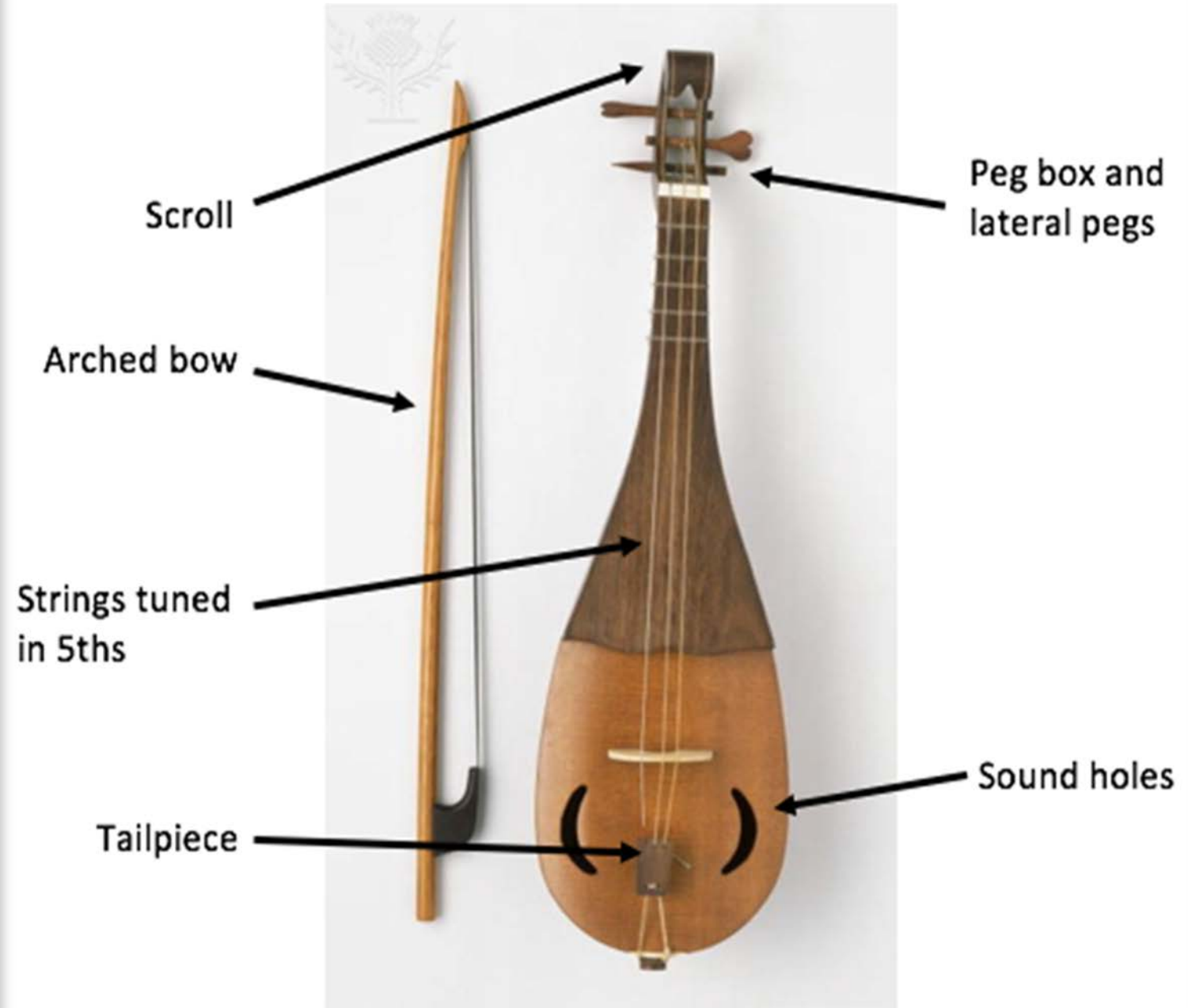
Rebec

Purpose

- Favorite among the lower class
- Village dances, outdoors

Other features/characteristics

- Slender, pear-shaped design
- Bridge to allow each string to be played separately
- Overhand bow-hold
- Shrill tone





Immediate Parent #2:

Lira da Braccio

Precursor to the Lira da Braccio: Oval Fiddle

Features of the Oval Fiddle:

- Also called “vielles”
- Two-footed bridge
- Tailpiece
- Fingerboard separate from the body
- C-shaped sound-holes
- 4 melody strings; 1 drone string



Lira da Braccio

Other Features:

- Sound post
- Purfling
- Lack of frets
- Arched back and belly
- Drone strings

Purpose:

- Polyphonic chordal music

Features of the lira da braccio seen in violin:

Short neck;
separate, raised
fingerboard

Strings tuned in 5ths

C-holes later made
into f-holes

Bridge and tail piece



Upper bout

Middle bout

Lower bout

Immediate Parent #3: Viola da Braccio



Viola da Braccio:

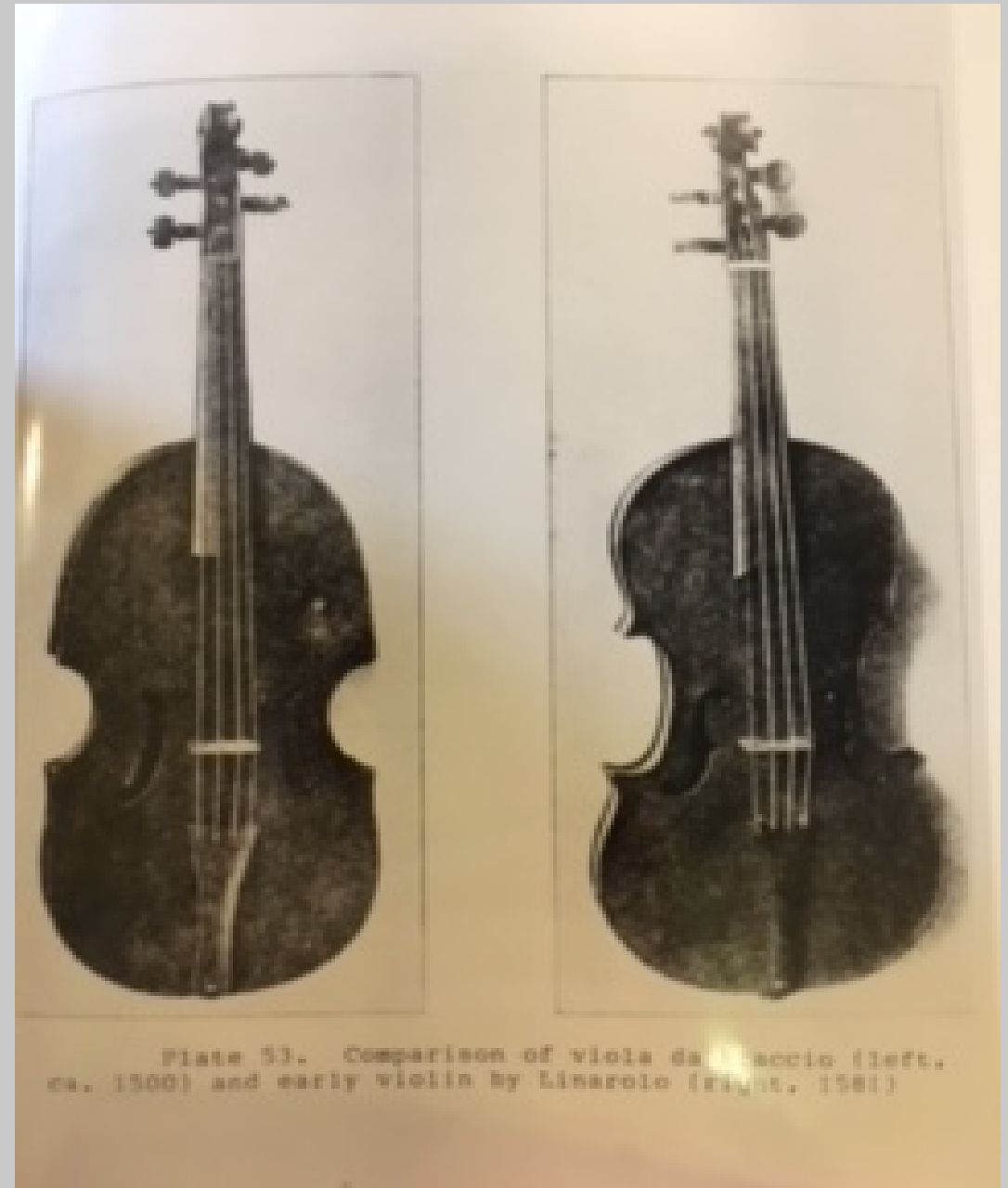
Combination of the Rebec and Lira da braccio

Features:

- Scroll; pegs
- lack of drone strings
- Triple-bout structure
- Tuning in 5ths
- Slightly bulky size
- Lacked bass bars and linings
- Back-to-back C-holes

Purpose:

- Tuneful melodies
- Singing tone
- Virtuosoic playing





Rebec



Lira da Braccio



Viola da Braccio



