

The  
**Bowed**  
Psaltery

by Unicorn Strings  
Music Company

Image Courtesy Of  
Faire Folk  
[www.faire-folk.com](http://www.faire-folk.com)





# History

The bowed psaltery is a member of one of the most ancient of stringed instrument families. Numerous references in art and literature date as far back as biblical times. The original plucked psalteries were found in a variety of shapes, but it was the triangular form that lent itself most readily to being bowed. This seems to have occurred within the innovative atmosphere of the European Renaissance.

## About the Makers

We are *Unicorn Strings*, a company of three friends and neighbors who share a common interest in woodworking, music and people.

David Beede is a talented musician who's been building instruments since 1972.

Gene Jaeger draws on his formal design training and years of woodworking experience from boatbuilding to furniture making.

Jessica Jaeger enjoys working in a variety of roles, from drilling to billing, and has a flair for organizing complex projects.

As a team we've been building instruments and participating in Renaissance Festivals throughout the country since 1980. The Minnesota Renaissance Festival has honored us with the designation "Master Craftsmen" and has acquired one of our instruments for their Museum. We've also been featured in *Better Homes and Gardens WOOD Magazine*.

Our commitment is to offer finely crafted musical instruments. We've chosen to specialize in the bowed psaltery because of its ability to unlock the music in everyone.

## Our Guarantee

If you ever have a problem with one of our instruments, please don't hesitate to contact us. We take pride in our craftsmanship and stand behind our work.



UNICORN STRINGS MUSIC COMPANY

Rt. 1 Box 54-6  
Brook, FL 32622  
(904) 485-2640

Image Courtesy Of



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# Some Questions about the Bowed Psaltery



## How can I learn to play it?

Since it's so easy to play by ear, most people are playing their first tune in a matter of minutes. Making use of our thorough instruction book and tape, you can be playing many familiar tunes in a few weeks.

## What music can you play on it?

The psaltery is primarily a melody instrument and its unusually clear sound lends itself to many styles of music. Ours has thirty strings and is tuned chromatically. It spans two and a half octaves and can be easily played in any key.

## What comes with it?

Included with your psaltery is a bow, rosin, extra strings, tuning wrench, note guide, a 24-page instruction book with 20 tunes and a 45-minute cassette tape with tuning on one side and tunes on

the other. All of this fits nicely in an attractive cardboard carrying box.

## What about tuning?

Under normal conditions, the psaltery needs tuning only once or twice a year. You can tune it yourself using our simple instructions, or, if you'd prefer, a music store will usually tune it for a nominal fee.

## What if a string breaks?

This rarely happens, but extra strings are provided and the book shows you how to change one. This size string is commonly used on guitars or banjos and is available at most music stores.

## How long will the bow last?

Your bow is haired with a durable synthetic developed for violin bows and should last many years under normal use. We repair bows for \$8 and new ones are \$20.


## What woods do you use?


The warm dark wood seen on the sides is select Northern cherry, as is the rosette and bow. Because of its superior tone quality we make our tops of quartersawn Sitka spruce, which has been the soundboard choice for centuries. Laminated rock maple holds the tuning pins securely, an idea we borrowed from piano construction.

# Prices

## Bowed Psaltery with Accessories

We make right and left handed instruments, with a choice of two soundhole designs as illustrated on the cover. (Soundhole designs are decorative and do not affect tone quality.)

with standard soundhole design  ..... \$ 145.00

with handcarved Renaissance rosette  ..... 175.00

Extra Bow ..... 20.00

## Cases

Sturdy vinyl covered fiberboard case; plush lined with accessory compartment. Custom made for us by Harptone ..... 32.00

Our attractive hand-crafted birch case has quality nickel hardware, an accessory compartment, and is lined with velvet ..... 65.00

Electronic Tuner ..... 55.00

For quick, accurate tuning.

Music Cassette "Ancient Light" ..... 10.00

Centuries-old music of Ireland, England, Scotland, France and Italy rendered on hammered and fretted dulcimer, bowed psaltery, pennywhistle, recorders and guitar.

We accept VISA, MASTER CARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS and personal checks.

■ Unicorn Strings Music Co. ■ Rt. 1 Box 54-6 ■ Brooker, FL 32622 ■ (904) 485-2640

## These items may also be ordered

When possible we ship within two weeks. During our busy season it may take four to six weeks for delivery.

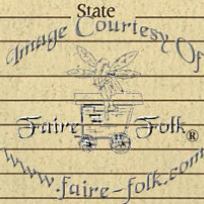
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Price
_____	_____
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Shipping Charges	Shipping	Subtotal
Amount		
\$10 and under	\$ 1.50	
\$11 - \$20	3.00	
\$21 - \$100	6.00	
over \$100	10.00	
	6% tax if delivered in Florida	
	If UPS C.O.D. add \$3.00	
	Shipping charges	
	TOTAL	

### Method of Payment:

Check or money order  C.O.D.  VISA  Master Card  American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_