



OMAHA SYMPHONY



**Concentrationary Music: Folk
and Classical Instruments**

HANDOUTS

[Instrument List](#)

[Roma Instrument Matching Game](#)

Thank you to our partners



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GENERATIONS OF
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Concentrationary Music: Folk and Classical Instruments

Key Topics: Orchestra, Instrument, Timbre, Pitch, Identifying Roma Folk Instruments.

Grade: middle & high school

Length: 60 min

Materials:

- Laptop/Projector
- Link to [Concentrationary Music: Folk and Classical Instruments](#)
- Instrument List Handout
- Link to [the Holocaust Encyclopedia: Roma](#)

Nebraska State Standards:

SS 7.4.3, SS 7.4.4. SS HS 4.2(WLD),
SS HS 4.3 (WLD), FA 8.4.3

Password: Concentrationary

Pre-Teaching Overview

Open [this video](#) and listen through until (1:40). Ask the following questions:

- What are some “folk” instruments that you know?
- Have you ever heard a “folk” instrument played live?
- What are some “classical” instruments that you know?
- Have you ever heard an “orchestra” live?

Learning Objective

Students will be able to identify Roma instruments and have a brief grasp about their history and orchestral counterparts.

Roma in Europe

Have the students read the article on the Roma in Prewar Europe from [the Holocaust Encyclopedia](#). Continue to read the whole series, as time allows before or after learning about Roma (“Gypsy”/Romani) instruments. Ask the following questions:

- How were the Roma treated in Europe in 1933 and throughout World War Two?
- What stereotypes of “gypsies” persist today?

Meet the Roma Instruments

Follow along with the video marked at specific times to listen to each of the following instruments featured, pause and discuss key features of each instrument from the following pages:

- Mandolin & Accordion (1:41-10:54)
- Accordion (10:55-17:14)
- Mandolin (17:15-end)

See the following sheets for more instruments that were not featured but are a key part of Roma Folk and Classical ensembles.



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Concentrationary Music: Folk and classical Instruments

Cimbalom



The Cimbalom is a string instrument, that was developed in 1874 in Budapest. Typically played in central Europe by Roma people. Like a piano, there are strings stretched along a big wooden trapezoidal frame on the legs, and it also has a pedal similar to a piano. There are 125 metal strings, the musician strikes the strings with 2 small spoon-shaped wooden hammers either wrapped in cotton or leather, there is also a portable version that can be strapped across the shoulders.

Lute

The lute is a string instrument that is plucked. This instrument was most popular in the 16th and 17th centuries. It was originally created in the Middle East known as the oud and was brought to Europe Through Spain in the 8th century. It has a deep round oval shape created from thin strips of wood glued together. Overtime some groups have switched to the **Guitar** which is more of a modern version of the lute.



Mandolin



The Mandolin is also in the lute family. The mandolin has 4 double strings making it a total of 8, similar to the guitar, it has typically 17 frets. Like a lute, it has an oval vaulted shape. The strings are made of steel and the mandolin can come in many different sizes like the violin. There are many different styles of mandolin but for traditional style music typically the Neapolitan round back mandolin is used.

Accordion

The accordion is a free-reed aerophone instrument. At first glance, the accordion may seem like a wind instrument because it uses air to produce sound, but unlike the wind instrument, the accordion is unique because of the reed system built into the accordion. The player simply pushes or pulls the bellows to push air over the reed system. A typical wind instrument requires you to blow into the instrument.

The accordion was invented sometime in the 1820s, there is debate on exactly when and where it was invented. There are three types of accordions, the diatonic, chromatic, and piano accordions. The player can control the notes by pushing a button or a key depending on what type of accordion they are playing. Accordions are played in all types of folk music across genres, in this curriculum we are focusing on a particular region and will touch on Roma, Klezmer, and Polka Music.





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Roma Instrument Matching Game

Draw a line from the words to the
instrument they describe.

- Uses a pedal like a piano

CIMBALOM

- Oldest instrument

- Uses reeds and bellows

LUTE

- Played with wooden/felt hammers

- 17 frets

MANDOLIN

- Most similar to a modern guitar

- Keys like a piano

ACCORDION

- Similar in size to a violin



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Roma Instrument Matching Game

Draw a line from the words to the
instrument they describe.

- | • Uses a pedal like a piano | CIMBALOM |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| • Oldest instrument | LUTE |
| • Uses reeds and bellows | MANDOLIN |
| • Played with wooden/felt hammers | ACCORDION |
| • 17 frets | |
| • Most similar to a modern guitar | |
| • Keys like a piano | |
| • Similar in size to a violin | |