

CHOROJ



Children's Lyre

ONE ROW OF 12 STEEL STRINGS

diatonic note order: c' d' e' f' g' a' b' c'' d'' e'' f'' g''

The children's lyre serves to bridge the gap, within the CHOROJ-lyre family, between the pentatonic children's harp and the chromatically tuned small soprano-lyre. In the children's lyre we still find the soft and open tone quality of the children's harp but with a stronger radiating tone that interacts intensively with the surroundings.

The children's lyre is formed out of a single piece of wood giving it a light clear resonance.

As a child's first musical instrument, in school or at home, the children's lyre offers many possibilities of musical expression from free improvisation to the playing of simple children's songs.

Besides the basic diatonic tuning, there is the possibility to tune the lyre pentatonically:

d' d' e' g' g' a' b' d'' d'' e'' g'' g''

HOLDING AND PLAYING:

In the beginning the children's lyre should be simply held with the left hand on the frontside of the resonance frame just as with the children's harp. The strings are then stroked with the right hand.

The design of the children's lyre permits also at a later stage a more advanced playing position. The instrument can then be balanced on the lap, assuming the position used for larger lyres. Both hands are then free to simultaneously play the lyre from both sides.

The children's lyre fits easily into ensembles using other lyres.

STRINGING THE LYRE

While restringing the lyre, it is important to assure that the instrument remains under even tension. Therefore, only one or two strings should be replaced at a time, and they must be tightened immediately.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STRINGING:

1. The tuning peg in question is turned 2 1/2 times toward the left, unwinding the string, if one is there.
2. The new string is drawn through the string holder at the bottom of the harp and then through the hole in the peg.
3. The string must then be shortened with pliers 5 cm (2 inches) beyond the peg and bent at a right angle, 5 mm (1/4 inch) from the end of the string.
4. The bent end of the string is now pulled back to the peg, and the string is tightened by turning the peg to the right with the tuning key. Care must be taken that all strings are wound in equal height and rest correctly in the grooves of the wooden bridge.

All the strings are designed for their specific pitches, and the strings should not be interchanged. When ordering new strings, please quote the note and the string number (counting from the highest one), e.g. >f" No.2< etc..

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Playing and Care