

Music Instrument Making: Strings, Keyboard

Category Rules: The category is for string and keyboard instruments that are fashioned out of wood, metal or a combination of materials. It is suggested that the documentation identify the period model for the entry as well as any deviations from the period model and reasons for the deviations. The documentation should also include details that distinguish the entry from non-period instruments of the same type (ex. Celtic versus neo-Irish harp).

Documentation (0 to 4 points):

- 0: No documentation provided with entry.
- 1: Minimal information consisting of time, place and style.
- 2: Information consisting of time, place, and style, plus use of general sources; reliance on tertiary sources with perhaps one secondary source (ex: use of encyclopedia articles with a possible additional use of a book or article that refers to a period source.).
- 3: Information consisting of time, place, and style, plus a developed discussion making use of critical references; sources are largely secondary (ex: sources refer to period references; documentation discusses, compares, and contrasts the source's views).
- 4: Information consisting of time, place, and style, plus explanation of original research/experiment and relation of source material to it. Primary sources along with critical references, if available, are emphasized (ex: sources used are from the appropriate period for the entry, such as period manuscripts, paintings or artifacts, archaeological essays of primary source item, etc.).

Methods and Materials (0 to 4 points):

- 0: Entry is completely modern with no relationship to period elements or practices.
- 1: Use of modern materials and methods to produce a work that would not be accepted in period but either bears some relationship to an authentic work or which might be useful within SCA Culture.
- 2: Use of both modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the time period it purports to be.
- 3: Use of either modern materials or methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic.
- 4: Use of totally authentic materials and methods.

Scope (0 to 6 points): Rank the ambition, **not** the success, of the entry on a scale of 0 to 6 for **each** of the following elements and average for the total Scope score (Total of element scores divided by 6).

- Number of strings and the amount of tension the instrument has to bear.
- Number of components.
- Wood grain (plain to highly figured).
- Molds and jigs made to form instrument.
- Degree of decoration.
- Extent gone to ensure authenticity of patterns, techniques and materials used.

Skill (0 to 6 points): How well is the entry made? Rank the success of the entry on a scale of 0 to 6 points for **each** of the following elements and average for the total Skill score (Total of element scores divided by 5).

- Varnish or other finish.
- Joinery.
- Lack of distortion under string tension.

- Crispness of carved decoration.
- Playing ease on:
 - o Necked instruments: string spacing and action on fingerboard.
 - o Keyboard instruments: action of keys.
 - o Open string instruments: string spacing.

Creativity (0 to 4 points):

0: No decoration or carving.

1: Minor decoration or carving.

2: Some decoration, scaled up or down from instrument of another size.

3: Major carved decoration, mildly figured wood (flamed or burl).

4: Use of highly figured wood and incorporating figure into instruments shape, festooned outline.

Judge's Observations (0 to 6 points): Rank the entry as a whole. How well do all the separately judged parts fit together? The entry's overall effect is judged in this section. This is the only section of the Criteria where the judge may allow her/his personality, private opinions and personal preferences to influence scoring.

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Editors: Bronwyn ferch Gwyn ap Rhys, 1987; Thorhalla Carlsdottir af Bröberg, 1997; Gwyneth Banfhidhleir, 2003.