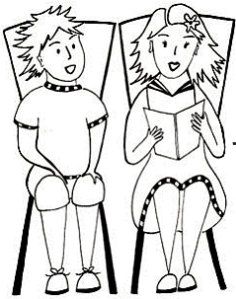


What did the inhabitants of the kingdom who lived outside the castle walls do? The peasant farmers generally lived in small houses, and their lives were quite different from those of the people who lived in the castle. The men tended to the animals and worked in the fields from morning until evening. They also had to repair their own tools and make sure that their families were not lacking any necessities. The women were also very busy, keeping the house in order and taking care of children. As for the children, they played but also helped their parents. The luckiest ones had the chance to get an education.

Thankfully, music and dancing were also part of peasant life. Whether it was simply to liven up the marketplace, to entertain children, or to mark religious celebrations, music was also an essential part of peasants' lives.



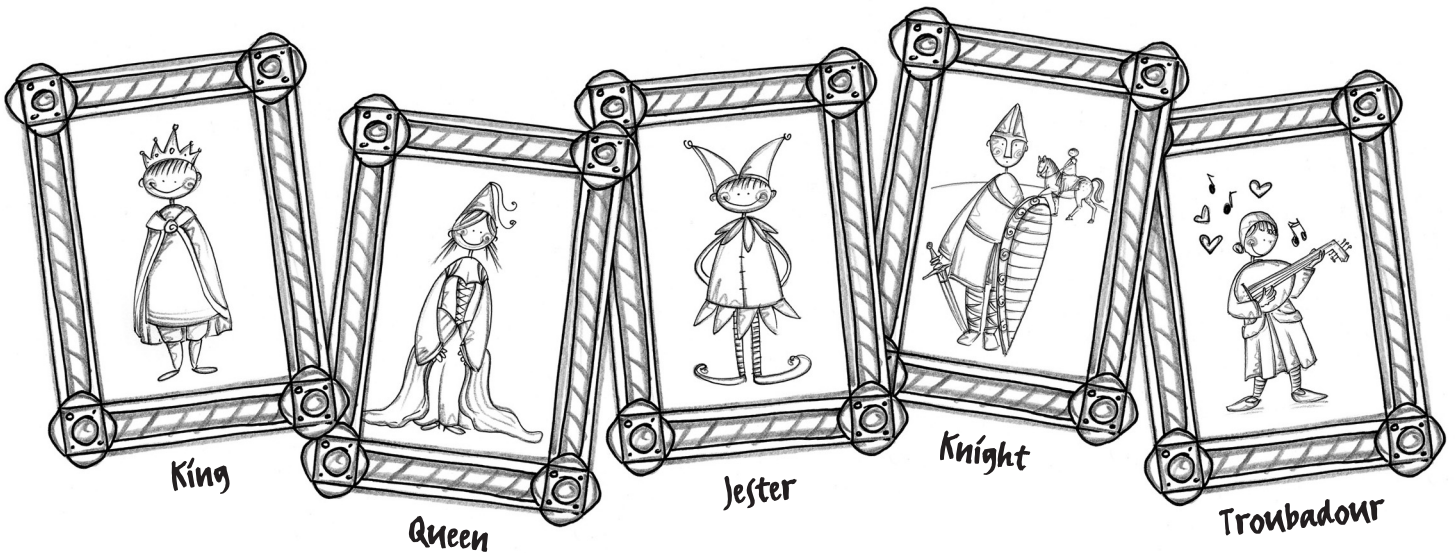
THE CONCERT

Just like the troubadours who travelled from castle to castle to share their stories and to play music, the three musicians in the group Skarazula have embarked on a voyage through time to introduce you to medieval songs and instruments—that is to say, songs and instruments from the Middle Ages. These three happy troubadours will acquaint you with their instruments and share their passion for this almost magical music from long ago.

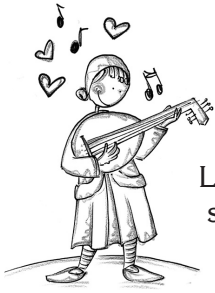


GETTING READY FOR THE CONCERT

Choose a character from among the following and make a costume with the help of a friend or an adult. You can then wear this costume when you see the show!



With the help of your friends and your teacher, you can also stage a fun medieval parade. By putting on your costume and playing a little flute, a kazoo, or a percussion instrument, you can start the medieval festivities in your day-care centre or at home!



Troubadours love to speak of love!

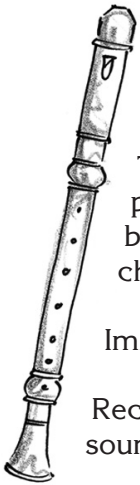
Love is among the troubadours' favourite subjects. If you were a troubadour and you composed songs, what would your favourite subject be?



TROUBADOURS' INSTRUMENTS

Troubadours preferred lightweight, easily transportable instruments, since they sometimes travelled great distances to ply their trade. Let's take a look at some of the instruments they played.

The recorder



At the time, the recorder was one of the troubadours' favourite instruments, since it was easy to carry, and its loud and high sound could be heard from far away.

The recorder is made out of wood and has eight holes. It is an instrument that allows musicians to play a wide variety of melodies. The recorder is part of the wind instrument family, since you must blow into its mouthpiece in order to produce a sound. Musicians can produce different sounds by changing the position of their fingers on the recorder.

Imitate the gestures of a musician playing the recorder.

Recorders can be larger or smaller in size. The smaller the size, the more high-pitched will be the sounds it makes. The longer it is, the deeper the sounds will be.

Can you make high-pitched and low-pitched sounds?

Make the following sounds.

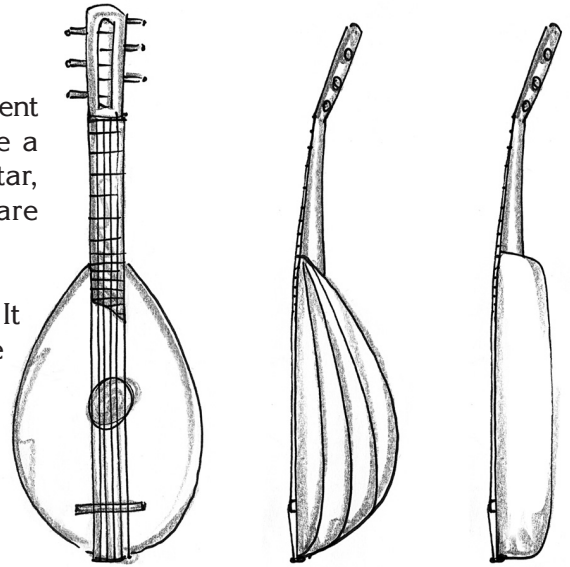
- ✓ A few high-pitched sounds: a kitten's mewling, birdsong, a whistling kettle, a police siren.
- ✓ A few low-pitched sounds: a foghorn, Santa's voice, thunder, a truck's motor.
- ✓ Can you think of and make other high-pitched and low-pitched sounds?

The mandore

The mandore is an instrument that belongs to the stringed instrument family, since its strings must be plucked in order to produce a sound. Musicians use their fingers to pluck the strings. The guitar, mandolin, and lute are also instruments whose strings are plucked.

The mandore is an instrument that existed in medieval times. It can have from four to eight strings, and its body—that is, the part of the instrument that allows us to hear the sounds being produced—can be flat or rounded (see the illustration).

Imitate the gestures of a musician playing a mandore or a guitar.



Percussion

During the concert, you will discover a multitude of instruments that are used to keep rhythm. From drums to sistrums—those portable and ingenious instruments that are shaken with the hands or attached to a foot—, there is a percussion instrument for every need. Even though percussion instruments do not necessarily play melodies (like the recorder, for example), they can make all sorts of sounds and have always been used by musicians, from the past to the present day.

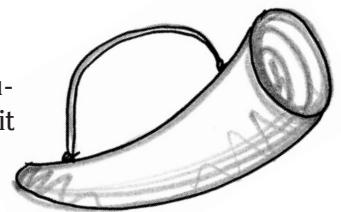
Imitate a musician playing a percussion instrument.



A FEW FUN GAMES

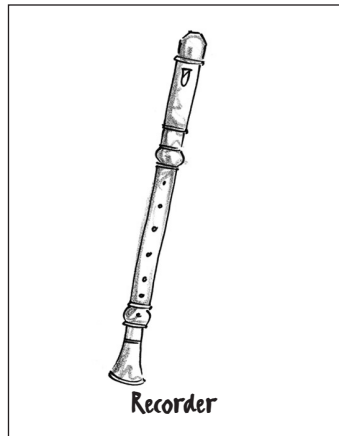
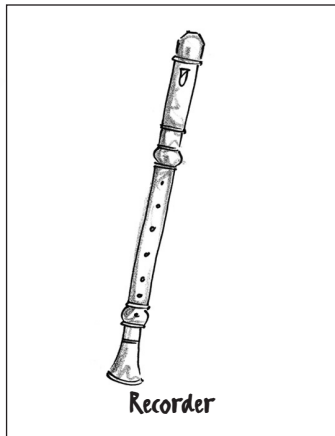
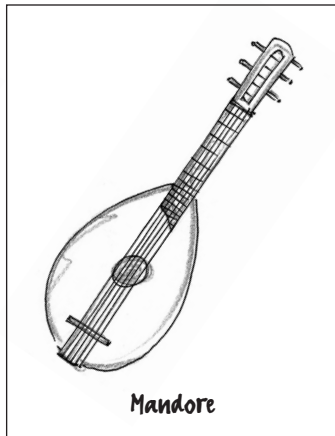
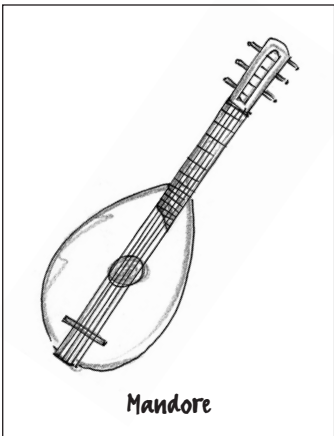
Riddle

To what instrument family would you say this instrument belongs? Is it an instrument you must blow into, one whose strings must be plucked or strummed, or is it a percussion instrument?



Test your memory!

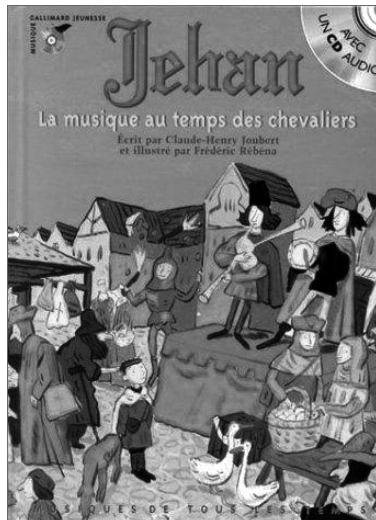
Cut out the pairs of cards you see on next page, glue them to pieces of cardboard of a single colour, and then turn them over. With a friend, shuffle the cards around and then have fun trying to find the two cards showing the same instrument or same figure. Whoever finds the most pairs of identical cards wins the game!



It is a horn, and this instrument belongs to the wind instrument family. You must blow into it to produce a sound.

Suggested reading from GALLIMARD JEUNESSE Publications

In the “Musiques
de tous les temps”
series :



« Jehan, la musique
au temps
des chevaliers »

In the
Hors série :







« Tout sur
la musique »

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE CONCERT



A few suggested questions to ask the children:

-  Did you like attending the Skarazula concert?
-  What was your favourite part of the concert? Why?
-  Do you have any musical instruments at home? Can you tell me if they are wind instruments, stringed instruments, or percussion instruments?
-  Would you like to have lived during the time of kings, queens, and knights? Why?

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