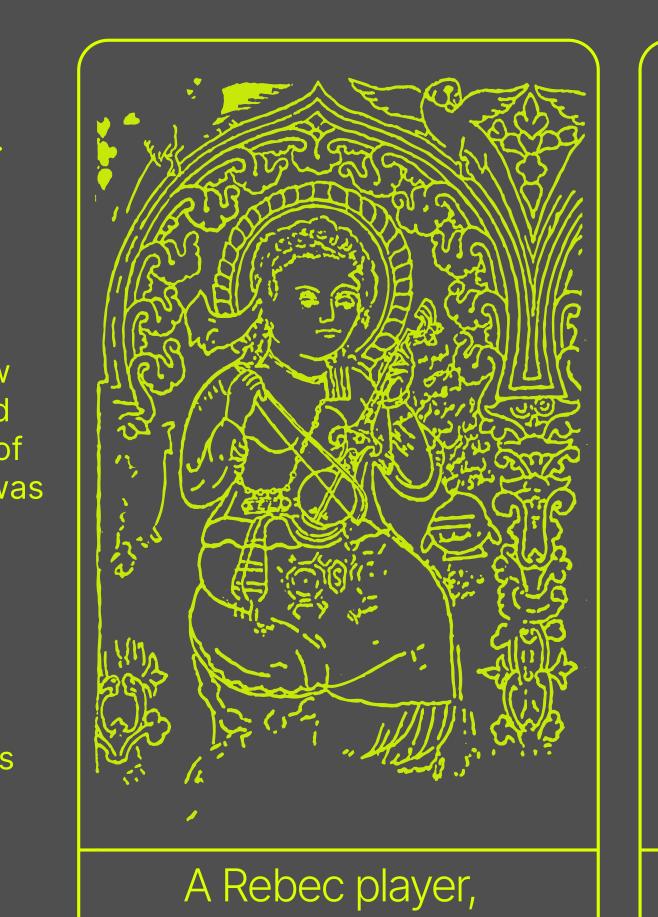
By courtesy of The Crow Hill Company

- CTOCO When we say strings in an orchestral context we refer to a group of players performing on instruments from the "violin" mily. Most commonly a combination of violins and violas which are held up and played under the chin and violon-cellos (more commonly referred to as cellos) and contra-basses (or just basses) which are held in an upright position against the body of the player. The violin family are a group of "chordophones" most typically played by drawing tensile hair held between an arced wooden bow with the right hand. Across one to four strings suspended over a fingerboard which are then "stopped" by the left hand to form different pitches. The resonating string(s) transfers these vibrations nrough a bridge, into a small cylindrical (and obscured) sound-post which carries the energy into the wooden body of the instrument which has an amplifying effect on the vibrations which is then projected out of the sound or "f" holes, whose decorative shape gives stringed instruments their distinctive appearance. rings have become the dominant force in orchestral music due to their unique ability to hold a note indefinitely, modulate timbrally and dynamically during the performance of that note and provide tones that emulate the singing quality of the human voice. They have a broad pitch range, the cello for example can reac over 4 octaves (a human voice typically has a pitch breadth of 1.5-2). It takes

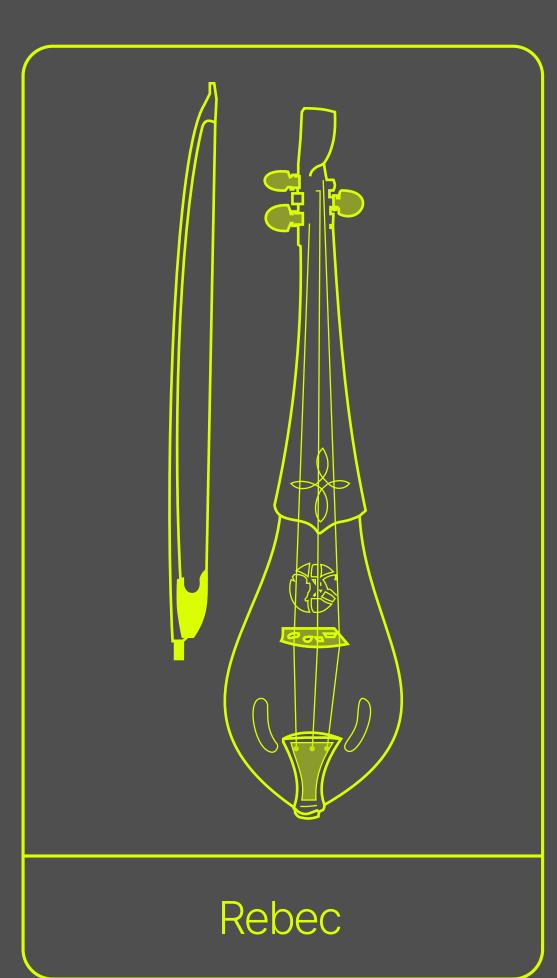


ing evidence found in cave art through the ages it is believed that mankind have used bows and arrows for hunting and killing for at least 65-70,000 years. The relationship between the hunting bow and the use of tensile strings as musical instruments is clear and is thought to have given us harps, guitar instruments and what we now refer to as "strings" within the context of an Scholars also concur that the difficulty of making anything musical out of a bow or combination of tensile strings suited the patience, persistence, accuracy and stance of archers through the ages and that the understanding of the physics of the device and it's sonic characteristics probably resulted in an evolution that was

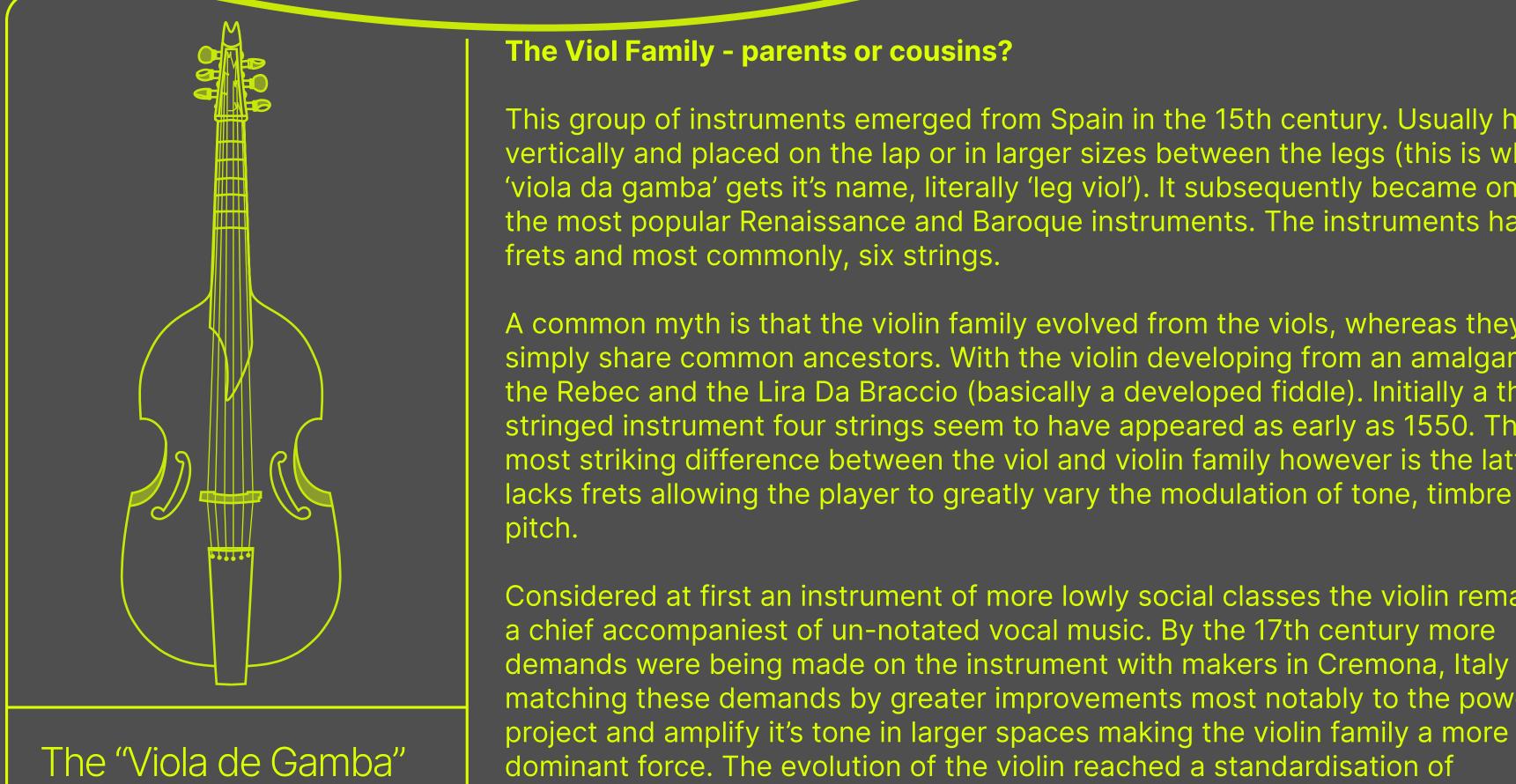
Bow is a Saxon-Germanic word (curiously derived from the norse term "Bogi") which simply mean "bend". Or in turn latin countries arc, arco or archet (from where we derive the word archery). Whilst the word "bow" may have a less than romantic etymological ancestry it is believed that the root word for violin stems from vitula the Roman goddess of 'joy" or verb "vitulari" to cry out in joy.



Persia 1300s

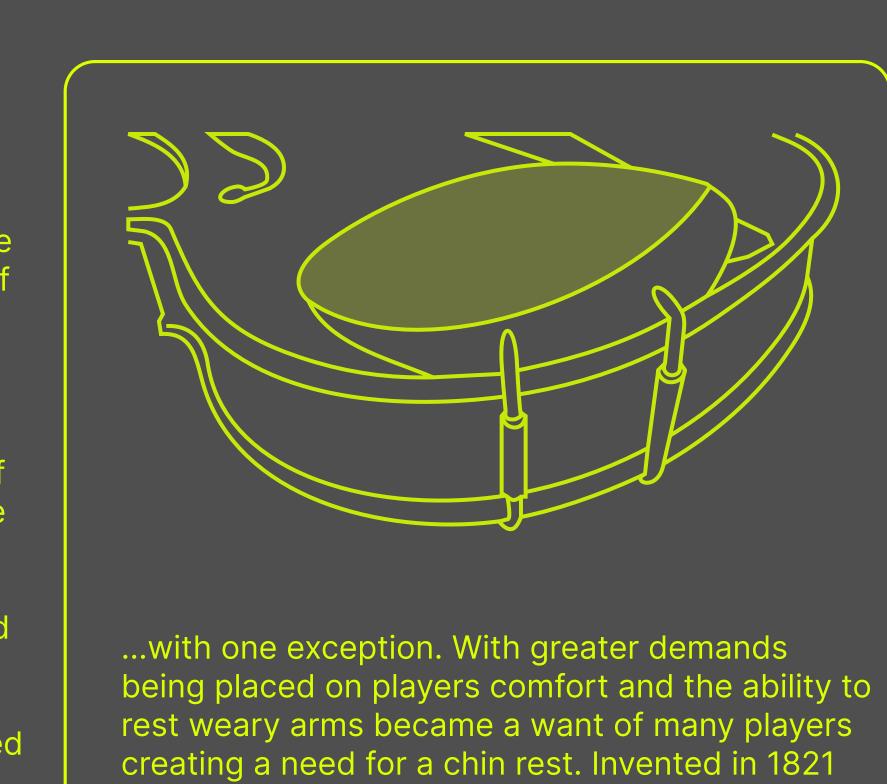


The Rebec (pictured) of Byzantine & Arab descent are documented to have arrived in Europe in the late 10th Century via Northern Africa and the conquest of the Iberian peninsula. This marked the beginning of the European relationship with the bowed "chordophone" (ie bowed lutes, fiddles, viols, violins etc). There is no evidence of bows being used in this way prior to the Rebec's arrival which by all accounts, took Europe by storm. Whilst not commonly accepted in higher social circles of Asia the Rebec was widely adopted in Europe with numerous accounts of Rebec players being attached to wealthy families, courts and palaces as part of resident minstrel troupes. In more rustic society these bowed instruments appeared to be prominent at village revels and as entertainment in taverns, processions, at feasts and other buccolic gatherings. There are accounts of Rebec performances in the court of King Henry VIII in honour of visiting dignatories alongside many studied texts and pictures of the Rebec in use. Initially there were two types of Rebec, one being made solely from wood, the other from wood and animal hide. They were generally played (if paintings of the time are deemed accurate) on the lap with the bow held from the underside. Whilst it bore many of the hallmarks of the violin, strings held at tension with pegs, a raised fingerboard and bridge over a body with sound holes. Early Rebecs didn't yet have a sound post (see below) and had a flat fingerboard so that more than one string could be played simultaneously.



The Viol Family - parents or cousins? This group of instruments emerged from Spain in the 15th century. Usually held vertically and placed on the lap or in larger sizes between the legs (this is where 'viola da gamba' gets it's name, literally 'leg viol'). It subsequently became one of the most popular Renaissance and Baroque instruments. The instruments had frets and most commonly, six strings. A common myth is that the violin family evolved from the viols, whereas they simply share common ancestors. With the violin developing from an amalgam of the Rebec and the Lira Da Braccio (basically a developed fiddle). Initially a three stringed instrument four strings seem to have appeared as early as 1550. The most striking difference between the viol and violin family however is the latter lacks frets allowing the player to greatly vary the modulation of tone, timbre and Considered at first an instrument of more lowly social classes the violin remained a chief accompaniest of un-notated vocal music. By the 17th century more demands were being made on the instrument with makers in Cremona, Italy matching these demands by greater improvements most notably to the power to project and amplify it's tone in larger spaces making the violin family a more

manufacture and design by 1800 with little changing since then...



by XXXX players could now simply hold the

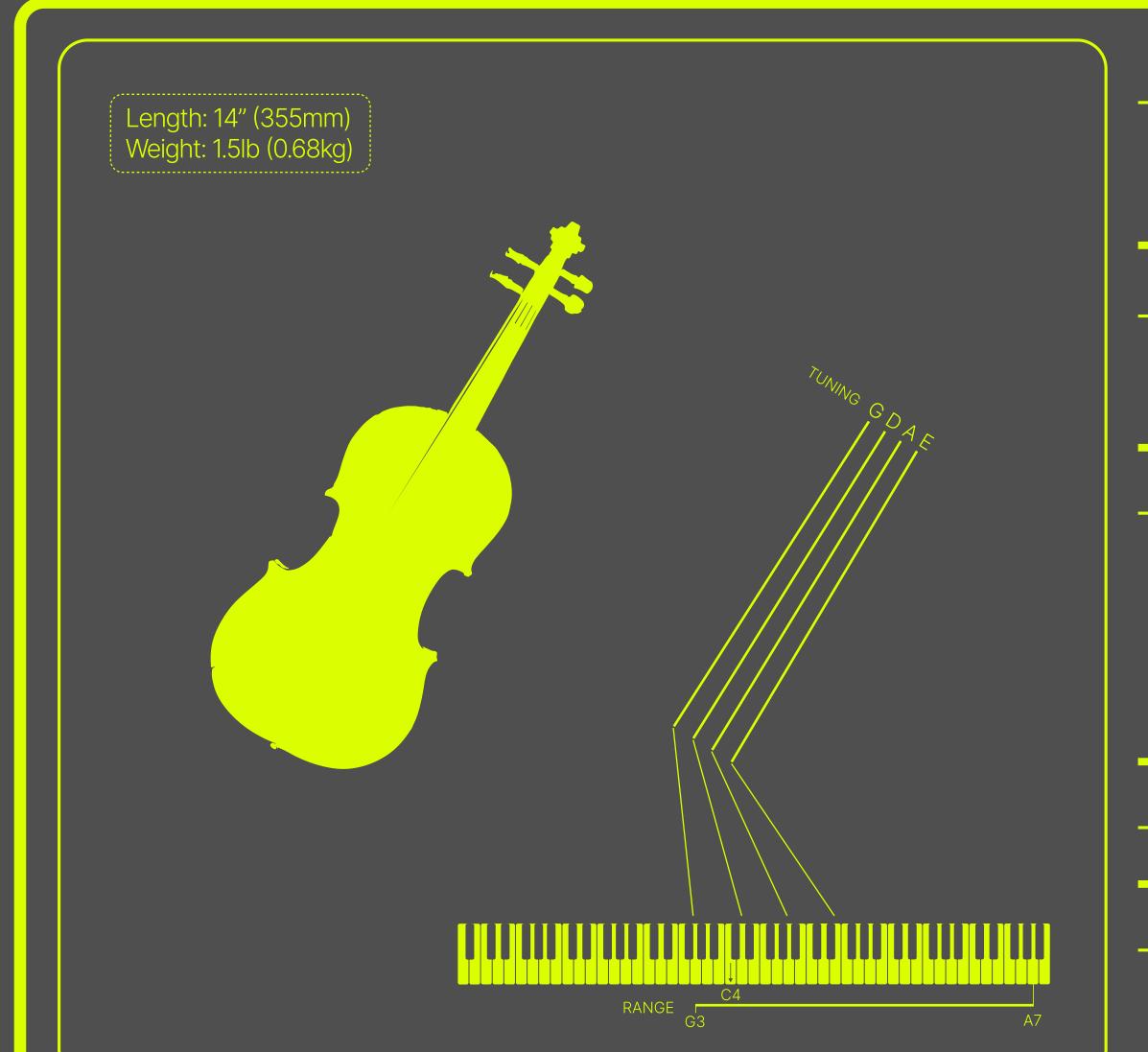
support required by the left hand.

instrument with their chin with no additional

Multiple academic sources, cross-checked and

peer reviewed by the Crow Hill community.

MADE BY HUMANS



be drawn on more than any other instrument group in the orchestra.

	Name:		Abreviation:		Family:	
	Violin		V		Strings	
	Otherwise Known As:			Transpose:		
	Violino			X		semis / halftones
	Clef	Range (sounds) G ₃ - A ₇	Sour	nds /		Written 8va
	Common Variants:		Notes:			
	Fiddle (same construction with different playing approach)		The first violinist is called the "orchestra leader" which tells you all about the instrument. Violins generally are the most active members of the orchestra which has two entirely independent violin sections referred to as 1sts and 2nds. The violin is the first musical instrument to be played in space by Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield aboard the ISS.			
	Repertoire:					
	Symphony No. 9 (mvt. III) - Beethoven The Magic Flute (overture) - Mozart The Nutcracker Suite (overture)- Tchaikovsky					

