



Conventional music is simply that music that is played by performers on instruments, and involves those instruments playing based upon written scores. There are two important ways in which the written music scores are used to indicate the music performed: in the printed music score, the written music is used to specify the pitch of the instruments. In addition, for many pieces of classical music, the written music is important for indicating the rhythms, harmonies, and other components of the piece of music. Note that in many instances, it is the composer who writes the sheet music. This is very common with classical music, where the composer writes the music, which can often include instrumental and vocal parts, and often is notated by the composer. This allows the music to be performed without a keyboard, which was an important technology in the middle to late nineteenth century. Conventional instruments The most important instruments used in conventional music are: lute: Historically used throughout Europe, the lute is an instrument formed from a neck and a flat piece of wood, with strings stretched across the neck of the lute. Similar to the harp, the lute is a plucked string instrument played in a sitting position. A lute is able to produce a variety of notes depending on the number of strings. The lute provides for a wide range of tones, from the top of the instrument to the ends of the strings, and has a higher pitch range than the lute. The Middle Ages can be considered as the peak of the lute, with stringed instruments rarely used except for organ music until the Baroque period. In the Baroque period, theorists began to ponder how a single instrument could be able to produce a variety of tones, and the lute was developed into the theorbo. oboe: The oboe is an early instrument that could not be played with a mouthpiece, but was played through a reed held in the mouth, much like a clarinet, though the reed is a soft part of the instrument, not the loud tube. During the late 16th century, the case was considerably modified, and the reed was pulled back and held in the hand. The oboe is able to produce a wider variety of tones than other instruments. It is characterized by a three-part division into the upper, middle and lower divisions. In these divisions, notes are produced by blowing into each part independently with air that passes through holes in the finger holes.

