

# Medieval Instrument Coloring & Dance Tutorial Activity

Created by Paul Butler, Musician



To begin this activity, watch the 4-part demonstration by Paul Butler by clicking the play button on the video!



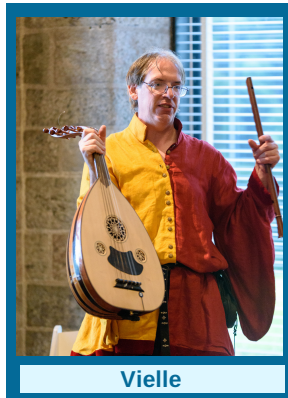
Cithole



Anglo-Saxon Lyre



Harp



Vielle



Tabor Pipe



Drum

Dive in to a discovery of medieval instruments as you color in each of the pages in this activity! Learn about the history and use of the instruments as well as the combinations they may once have been played in, and the places that they became most popular. We have also included a video tutorial so that you can learn a Medieval dance at home!

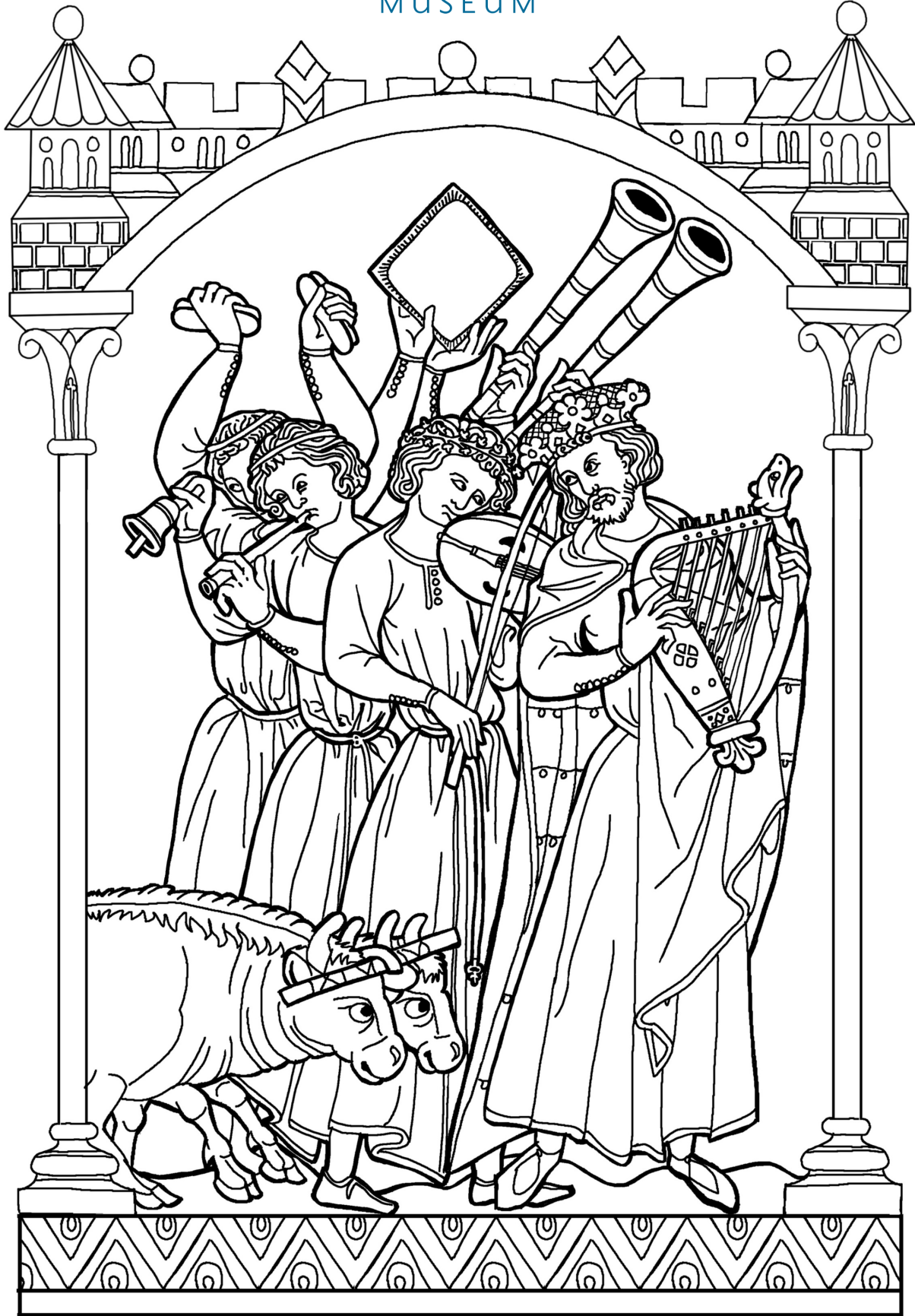
The images below show Paul demonstrating some of these instruments at past Medieval Festivals!

Follow along as Paul and Stephanie Butler demonstrate a medieval dance that you can learn at home!



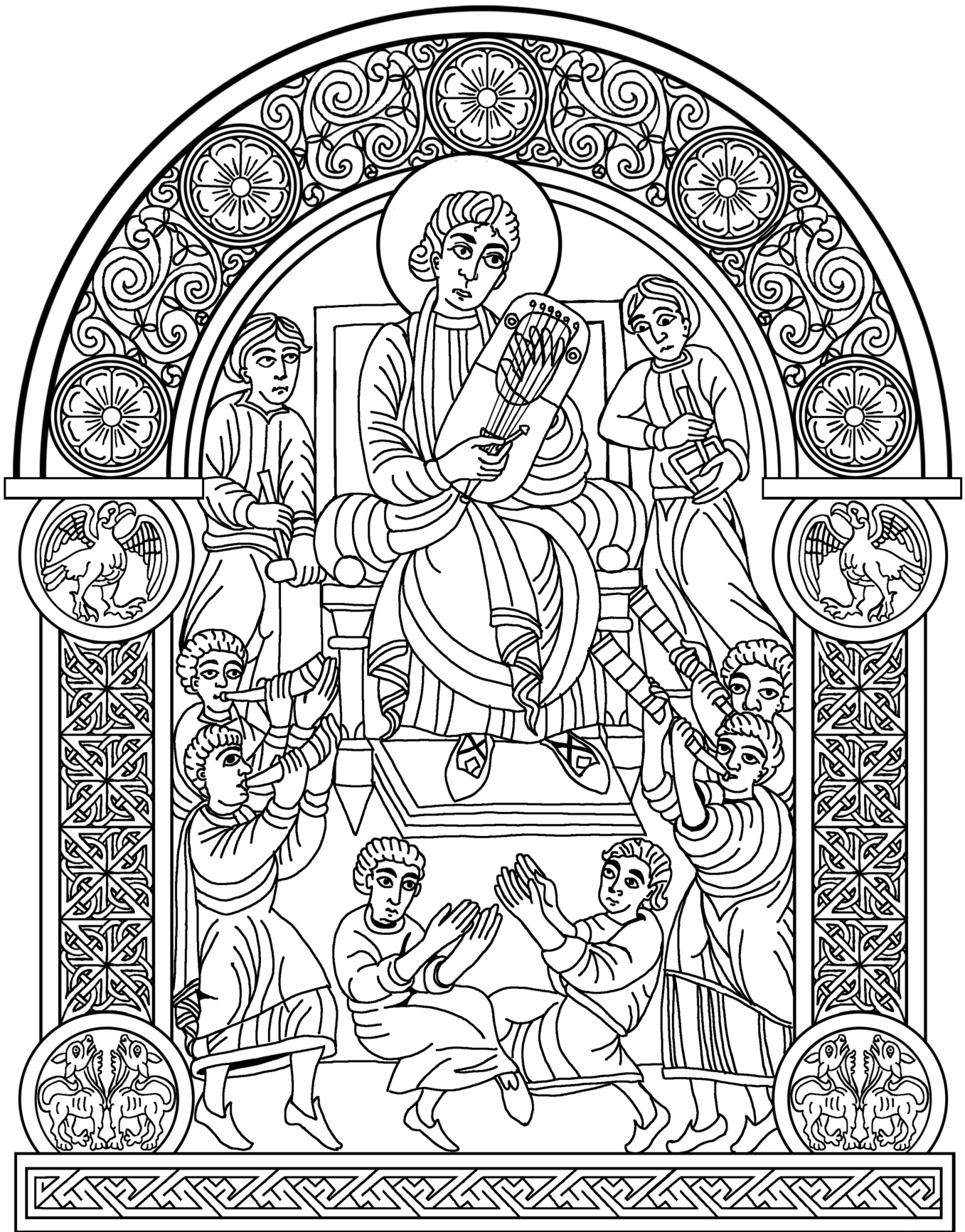
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The harp was the instrument of nobles and kings, and was considered a very high class instrument. The triangle harp appeared starting in the 9th century, but was very popular throughout the medieval period. They were sometimes played with other stringed instruments, like the fiddle (also called a vielle) shown in this picture, which is the instrument that becomes the violin by the 16th century. One man is playing a tabor pipe (a kind of recorder that can be played with one hand) and is ringing a bell at the same time. Others blow horns, beat drums, and clack together sticks called claves. It is unlikely that such a combination of musicians would have actually gathered in the Middle Ages, as strings were not played at the same time as horns and drums. This scene is meant to depict a celebration, so many instruments are shown to represent that many different kinds of music were played, though not necessarily at the same time.





The Anglo-Saxon Lyre comes from the early medieval period, starting in the 6th century. The lyre was played by nobles and kings from Germany, Scandinavia, and England, and was buried with them in death, along with their weapons. Lyre music accompanied poetry and song. The lyre faded away in the 11th century everywhere but Scandinavia, where it continued to be played into the 16th century.

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Carol dancing was done throughout the year in medieval times, with carols not just for Christmas, but to celebrate all of the holidays. Both men and women danced circle dances, but they were mostly done by women in the Middle Ages. One woman would sing the song and beat time on a frame drum, while the others danced and would join in the chorus of the song. On occasion, they would be accompanied by a musician who could be a man or woman. In this case, a noble woman is playing a fiddle (also called a vielle) to liven up the music.