

# Explore the Nyatiti

The nyatiti, a five- to eight-stringed plucked lyre, is a classical instrument prominently played by the Luo people of Western Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The nyatiti can also be found in various sizes and forms in countries along the Nile River Valley. It is about two- to three-feet long with a bowl-shaped, carved wooden resonator covered in cow skin. Ayub Ogada, composer of “Koth Biro” and a nyatiti legend, noted, “We Luos are fishermen. So, we made an instrument from fishing wire.” Early versions of this instrument date back almost 5,000 years!

