



## ← Lute

Played in Middle Ages,  
Renaissance & Baroque  
Periods.  
(1300 – 1750)

Single Top String plus  
Double-Strings (courses)  
7-course lute = 13 strings  
Bowl Back with ribs  
Bent Peg Box  
Carved Rosette

Very quiet with a  
silvery sound—perfect to  
accompany the voice.



## Theorbo →

Baroque Period (1600 – 1750)  
Six feet long with 14 single strings  
Theorbos were played in Baroque  
orchestras because they are loud!  
Sometimes orchestras had 2 or more  
theorbos.

These instruments are played like modern classical guitars—by plucking or strumming with right-hand fingers. All of them have frets tied around the neck. These instruments were especially popular for accompanying singers or solo instruments like violins, cellos or flutes. In the Baroque Era, accompanying instruments were called the “CONTINUO” section or the “BASSO CONTINUO” section. “Continuo Sections” included harpsichords, lutes, guitars, theorbos, cellos, viola da gambas and sometimes even harps.



## ← Baroque Guitar

Ancestor of Modern Guitar  
Baroque Period (1600 – 1750)  
Single Top String + Double strings (courses)  
5 courses = 9 strings  
Decorated Rosette & “Mustache Bridge”  
Plucked & Strummed  
Shimmery Sound



← **Baroque violin & Baroque cello**

No chinrest or shoulder rest on violin.  
No endpin on cello.  
No fine tuners.  
Gut strings—twisted like rope



↓ **Bows**—the top bow is a Baroque bow.



Shorter and “backwards” curve from modern bows.

← A cellist from the 1700s, holding the cello between his knees—no endpin!

A chamber concert from the 1600s—Baroque flute, Harpsichord, Baroque violin, Baroque cello and bass viol.



Follow Early Music Missouri on Facebook.

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**Celina Boldrey, Baroque Violin (Suzuki Instructor, St. Louis)**

**Stephanie Hunt, Baroque Cello (Suzuki Instructor, SIUE Department of Music)**

**Dr. Jeffrey Noonan, Lute, Theorbo & Baroque Guitar (Director, Early Music Missouri)**

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March is Early Music Month!