

# FUN FACTS ABOUT THE GUITAR

The classical guitar has 6 strings.

Parts of the guitar are described like the human body: head, neck, and body.

The neck of the guitar has many lines on it called frets. They change the pitch of the string like keys on a piano.

It was in the late-1800s that the modern classical guitar was developed.

Strings used to be made from animal intestines prior to modern nylon technology.

Many classical guitarists borrow music written for other instruments for performance since the guitar has not been around a long as some others.

The guitar can be used to play melodies by itself or accompany other instruments and singers by playing chords.



## **Lute from about 1699 C.E.**

The lute was most popular in France, Germany, and England from 1500 – 1770.

The strings are played in pairs to increase the sound.

The lute was used as several ways: as solo instrument, in support of other instruments or singers, or could be played along with a group of musicians.

The lute players did not read music like we have today but instead developed their own notation. The Italians used tablature like many modern guitarists read.



## **Italian Renaissance Guitar about 1650**

Notice the shape is closer to the modern guitar than the lute, but they have the same family tree.

Far fewer strings than the lute, but they are still played in pairs.

Notice the fancy decorations on the guitar. Not all guitars from this time were like this, only special guitars have been saved all these years.



## **Early Spanish Guitar from 1798**

This guitar is very similar to the modern Spanish guitar in shape and performance style.

The shape is similar to the modern guitar but much smaller in size.

There are six pairs of strings which is similar to the modern guitar that has six individual strings.



## **The Modern Classical Guitar from Early 1900s**

This design was finalized in the mid-1800s.

Notice the very symmetrical design.

The modern classical guitar uses only six individual strings.

This guitar has more frets (horizontal lines on the neck) than the previous generations.