

I Strum Away My Agony

Title: "Ode to My Guitar"

Subject: Music

Topic: Guitar

Jargon: strings, chords, expressed, rest

I strum your strings,
Love the way she rings
Always try to make a beautiful chord
When I play I'm never bored

I try my best,
Not to play when I should rest
All my feelings expressed
Brings joy when I'm depressed

I love your body of mahogany,
When I strum away my agony
My friend says I'm a prodigy
But that's just their theology

New: Informational (History)

Title: The **History** of Guitar

Jargon: strings, frets, neck, nut

Four to eighteen strings, a long neck, nineteen to twenty-seven frets, and a wood body. Yep, you guessed it, the guitar. The popular musical instrument, the guitar, has been around for almost eleven centuries. There have been many great guitarists such as Jimi Hendrix, Prince, and Kurt Cobain, just to name a few. So in this piece, I'm telling you about the history of the guitar.

First, let's talk about early guitars. Before the creation of electric guitars and using synthetic materials to make guitars, guitars we described as being an instrument that has, "a long, fretted neck, flat wooden soundboard, ribs, and a flat back, most often with incurved sides." **Because Chordophones were described as like this too, guitar and chordophone were hard to distinguish from each other.** The word guitar was applied to a wide number of chordophones since classical times, which may cause confusion. Guitar in English, German, and French all came from the Spanish word, *guitarra*, which came from the Andalusian Arabic word, قِثَارَة (*qitara*) and the Latin, *cithara*. In the 15th and 16th century there was a musical instrument call the Vihuela, it's considered the biggest influence to modern guitars.

Now let's talk about all the different types of guitars throughout history. There are two types of guitars, acoustic and electric. There are several sub categories for acoustic guitars: classical and flamenco guitars; steel-string guitars, which include the flat-topped, or "folk", guitar; twelve-string guitars; and the arched-top guitar. Electrics usually have solid bodies; **so** they produce little to no sound when not amplified. Electric guitars are always amplified and usually play jazz, blues, R&B, and rock and roll. The subcategories for electric guitars are seven strings, eight strings, and bass guitars.

Finally, let's talk about the best guitarist in history. There are hundreds of great guitarists to ever live, therefore I will only choose a few ones that were very famous. The first is Jimi Hendrix. Hendrix was an American Rock guitarist, singer, and songwriter. He was only mainstream for four years but he is considered one of the most influential guitarists to ever live. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame even says he's, "arguably the greatest instrumentalist in the history of rock music" Some of Hendrix's most known songs are All Along the Watchtower, Purple Haze, Hey Joe, and Little Wings. **Another famous guitarist is Prince, He was an American singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, record producer, and actor.** Prince has sold over a hundred million records worldwide, making him on of the best selling musicians of all time. Prince won seven Grammy Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and an Academy Award for

the film Purple Rain. Finally, the last artists I'm talking about today is Kurt Cobain. Cobain was the guitars, lead singer, and primary songwriter for Nirvana. He established it as a part of the Seattle music scene and grunge scene. His most known song is "Smells Like Teen Spirit."

The guitar is full of history and is a great instrument to play and listen to, I hope everybody reads more about guitars.