

hammers (though in the dulcimer this consists of only one pair, held and wielded directly by the player), and also in the ability to produce sounds both loud and soft. Ancient pictures of the dulcimer give us some idea of its age; its form has always remained much the same as we meet with it now in Hungarian bands, viz., a four-sided box strung with several strings to each note, with two bridges, and ornamental sound-holes. It is laid flat on a table, and its performance by a skilful player is fascinating not merely to the ear, but to the eye. The contrast of tone is produced by the fact that the hammers are clothed on their two sides with hard and with soft leather; in Hungary it is called the cembalo, but in some form or other it has been found in almost every country.

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