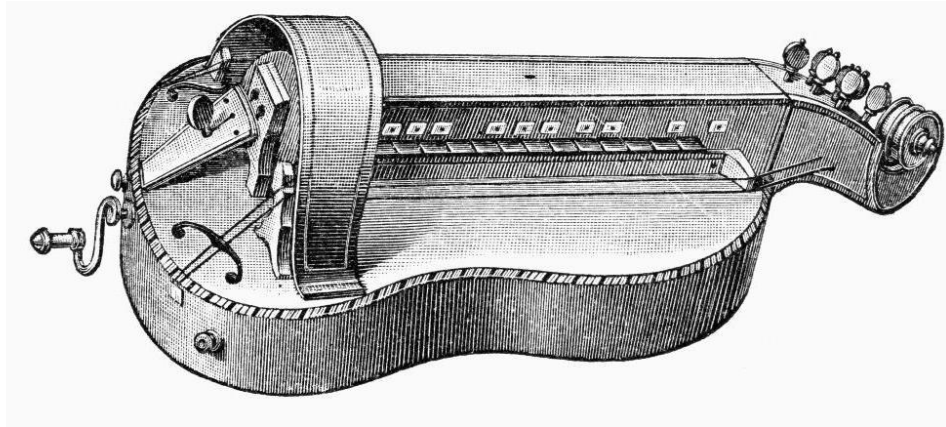


## The Hurdy-gurdy: From Pageantry to Peasantry

A lecture by Samuel A. Nelson



The hurdy-gurdy is a medieval, mechanically bowed instrument. The performer turns a knob on the side of the gurdy that rotates a wheel. That rotating wheel rubs against several strings that vibrate to produce a sound. The performer depresses a panel of wooden buttons to change the pitch of the strings. With a wide array of shapes and sizes, the hurdy-gurdy is unlike any instrument most of us have ever encountered.

### Helpful Sources:

Baines, Francis, Edmund A. Bowles, and Robert A. Green. "Hurdy-Gurdy." Grove Music Online. (March 23, 2019).

Chédeville, Nicolas [Antonio Vivaldi, *pseud.*]. *Il Pastor Fido: Sechs Sonaten für Muse*. Edited by Federico Maria Sardelli. Kassel: Hinnenthal-Verlag, 2005.

Leppert, Richard D. *Arcadia at Versailles: Noble Amateur Musicians and Their Musettes and Hurdy-gurdies at the French Court (c. 1660-1789): A Visual Study*. Bristol: Western Printing Services, 1978.

Meconi, Honey. *Hildegard of Bingen. Woman Composers*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2018.

Palmer, Susann. *The Hurdy-Gurdy*. North Pomfret, VT: David & Charles, 1980.