

## Musical instrument making

First musical instruments were made in ancient times on the territory of Central Asia. The evidence of this is pictures of that instruments that were found on rocks and sculptures in forms of instruments. There are also images of musical instruments on other pieces of art that are dated back to the existence of ancient cities Bactria and Sogdiana. Poetry of that time also mentions the presence of musical instruments. Writings of historians and ethnographers of our time and diaries of people of that time also describe different musical instruments in Central Asia.

When the instrument is approved for production, technical questions should be decided. Technical processes are very significant. Depending on what type of timber is used and how it was processed, the instrument changes its qualities. Usually masters variety of wood types. Most popular are: walnut, mulberry, apricot and some other fruit trees. If masters use fruit tree as main material, the instrument will have even and clear.

Before the timber could be used for instrument production, it should go through different, time and labor consuming processes. Not every tree can be used for production. For this purpose it is better to use timber of not too old trees. First of all trees are sorted and selected trees is cut to make timber. After that timber is left in water for some period. Water should be running. In this case, water penetrates the timber deep inside and cleans it from insects, pests, gum, etc.

When timber is clean, it should dry up. The degree and quality of dryness shows the quality of the timber. The higher the degree, the better is considered to be the quality. The higher the

quality, the higher is the price. Classical way of drying is in natural conditions. For more effectiveness timbers are positioned vertically. The process seems easy and quick. But actually it requires a lot of attention and takes on average between ten and fifteen years.

Quality of the timber is one of the most significant criteria of instrument quality. That's why great attention is paid to this timber





preparation stage. When timber meets high standards requirements, the instrument that is made out of it will serve for a long time and will produce beautiful sound.

After instrument's body is ready, masters work on the sound of the instrument. This process is requires high concentration from the master. This work is very labor consuming. To tune the instrument, masters should distinguish every subtle difference of a sound. Without this

ability tuning does not make sense. Everything depends from the master here. That's why talented masters are so appreciated.

Musical instrument making craft is hereditary and it is a craft passed from generation to another generation. It is also possible that the masters of musical instrument take disciples who in 12-14 years will learn and master the craft of his teacher and than can work independently.



