

**English translation:**

Like in other countries, music in Ethiopia is connected with faith, happiness, and sorrow. There is an enormous love of music. Whether it is in a time of happiness, or a time of sadness, or when we are praising God, it is often accompanied by music. These are our various musical instruments that I'm holding here [demonstrates]. The first one is the *kebero*. In English, *kebero* means drum. Often, the music played at weddings involves drums. The drum is a major instrument in Africa. In Ethiopia, it's very important for weddings. Another situation in which drums are used is among the Christians. Most of the time, they sing hymns to the music of the drum. Especially, I think, amongst the Orthodox and Catholic, often they only use the drum. Now, I think, as they become more modern, they may have started including the piano as well, but in the old days, and also the people that adhere to the old Orthodox traditions only use the drum. So the drum has an important role in Ethiopia.

Next is the instrument called *masinqo*<sup>1</sup>. You won't find the *masinqo* in church but you will find it at weddings or when you go to an *azmari bet*<sup>2</sup>, you'll see someone playing the *masinqo* and singing.

Next is the *qatchl*<sup>3</sup>, which is used frequently in church. I think that there is footage of this from *Timket*<sup>4</sup> when the choir members sing. There's usually a big ceremony, and in the ceremony, they use this instrument and they hold it like this [demonstrates movement] and they give thanks to God.

Another one is the *washint*<sup>5</sup>. The sound that the *washint* makes is similar to the recorder which was played in the olden days. In the past, shepherds would play the *washint*, but even now, when shepherds look after their sheep, they take out their *washints* and play.

Another instrument is the *krar*<sup>6</sup>. The *krar* is usually employed at weddings or whenever someone is celebrating some sort of holiday. Even now, modern Ethiopian music often includes the *krar*.

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<sup>1</sup> a one-string musical instrument

<sup>2</sup> An *azmari bet* is a traditional pub with a singer/musician who plays an instrument and often makes up their verses on the spot.

<sup>3</sup> similar to a small bell or chime

<sup>4</sup> *Timket* is an Ethiopian Christian holiday celebrating the baptism of Jesus

<sup>5</sup> Ethiopian flute

<sup>6</sup> Ethiopian guitar

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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