

Tanner Lake
Ancient Greek Music and Kithara Reconstruction

This research provides a brief insight into the music theory of ancient Greece, focusing particularly on the 5th century B.C. lyre-type instrument called the *kithara* and its construction. The end goal is the commission of a modern reconstruction of this instrument of antiquity to produce a replica fully capable of being tuned and played in the ancient style. By looking at images of *kitharai* as depicted primarily upon Attic 5th century red-figure vase paintings, I am able to compare the dimensions of the instruments in reference to the individual playing it. These proportional measurements are then converted into data usable for a reconstruction by comparing them to a known dimension of a modern-day person. In addition, a close study of the unique design elements of the *kitharai* yield further detailed information for the recreation. On average, a *kithara* will stand 26 1/2 inches tall, being 16 2/3 inches at it widest, and the aforementioned elements are intended as a structural aid, not as an elaborate spring system.

Mentor: Dr. John C. Franklin, Classics Dept.