

## THE BARYTON

The Baryton probably originated in England in the 17th century when the characteristics of two instruments, the **viola da gamba** and the **bandora**, were combined into one hybrid instrument. The Baryton has six bowed strings as well as metal strings mounted behind the neck, and is similar in size to a cello. The thumb of the player's left hand plucked the metal strings, whilst bowing the top six strings. The earliest Baryton that survives today dates from 1647; it was made by Magnus Felden in Vienna and is currently in the musical instrument collection of the Royal College of Music in London.

