Egyptian Clap Stick

Clap sticks were used widely in ancient Egypt and are shown in scenes of banqueting, dancing, and religious ceremonies. This clap stick (E5518), in the form of a hand and forearm with an elaborate incised bracelet, was one of a pair that was struck together to make a clapping sound. The hieroglyphic inscription on the forearm reads “female servant of the princess Sit-Hathor.” Its companion is in the collection of the British Museum. Both were excavated from a private tomb at the site of Hu (Diospolis Parva) in Upper Egypt during the 1898–89 season of the Egypt Exploration Fund, under the direction of William Flinders Petrie, and date to the Late Middle Kingdom–Second Intermediate Period (2016–1569 BC). The accompanying images of archival documents are part of this object’s physical and digital record at the OI Museum, including its accession card and object registration card. These kinds of archival documents, which record such details as an object’s original archaeological context, excavation, acquisition, material, date, and formal characteristics, are useful tools for scholars carrying out research on objects in the OI Museum collection.
Play from Home

We’ve spent the week looking, listening, and learning about ancient musicians and music. Now you can play along at home! Download and play music from 3rd century AD and 12th century AD Egypt! The music is suitable to play on piano, organ, or harp! The sheets are located on the next four pages.

Black granite stela made up of 8 large fragments and numerous small pieces. The inscription on the front and bottom edge of the stela states that it is for Mehu, the “Singer with the Glorious Harp of Amun, Amenemheb.”

18th Dynasty, Egypt
N. 38977
Hymn to the Trinity (P. Oxy. 1786), 3rd Century AD
Mi''al har horev (12th century AD)

(See Jewish Music Research Center, Jerusalem flickr page)

Obadadiah the Proselyte

Bass clef by Israel Adler,
treble adapted from same

\[ \text{\textit{\(J = 60\)}} \]