Egyptian serving statues, small figures representing individuals engaged in manual labor or the arts, were included in tombs for the deceased to gain access to the fruits of these labors in the afterlife. The largest group of serving statues found together was located in the tomb of Nikauinputhat, thought to be located in the Western Cemetery of Giza and to date to Dynasty 5 or 6. Among these 26 serving statues are three harpists, including one harpist who appears to have been a dwarf (E10641). He can be identified as such due to his short legs and small feet. Dwarf entertainers seem to have been common in ancient Egypt, as they are depicted in tombs as dancers, singers, and musicians. The harp he is playing has three strings and he is playing it with his legs stretched out. In contrast, the female harpist (E10642) is playing the harp with her legs folded to the right. Her harp has five strings.

The harp played by the Mesopotamian musician depicted on the baked clay plaque (A9345) is of a different type than that played by the Egyptian musicians. This was what was known as a magurot ship harp, because the sound box resembles a ship. Such harps were played either vertically, such as in this instance and in two other clay plaques (A9356 and A9364), or horizontally. The harpist would either sit on a chair or stool or play the instrument standing. One can see an example of the harp being played horizontally in other clay plaques (A9367 and A9347) and a chlorite vessel with gypsum inlay that depicts a musical procession (A195A&C) from Bismaya.