

FINGERNAIL FIDDLE

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECT

Repository: Crandall Public Library.
Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.

Creator: Eric Ball

Title: Fingernail Fiddle

Dates: 2014

Quantity: 1 musical instrument, with bow and stand

Identification: Folk Art Collection

HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The fingernail fiddle is an original musical instrument, made by Eric L. Ball, of Moreau, NY, and modeled primarily on the *lyra* of Crete (Greece).

Eric L. Ball is a professor in the Humanities and Arts Division of Empire State College of the State University of New York.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Musical instruments
Musical instrument makers

Places:

Important People: Eric L. Ball

Form/Genre: Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Fingernail Fiddle
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Donated to the Folklife Center by the maker, Eric L. Ball, July 12, 2017.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke and Pamela Reed, October 2017.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT

The fingernail fiddle is a 3-stringed instrument, shaped somewhat like a lute or a mandolin, but smaller. The strings are ball-end viola strings. The strings are normally tuned in perfect fifths like the lowest three strings of a violin (G-D-A).

The body of this fiddle is cherry; the soundboard and soundpost are Douglas fir; the fingerboard is oak; the bridge, tailpiece and topnut are hard maple.

The bow is made of maple.