

- The earliest known musical instruments, *e.g.* turnduns (*aka* “bullroarers”) – airfoils (!! ) swung by a rope in a horizontal plane (top right pix), and simple bone flutes – such as the one shown in the bottom right pix (found in 2008 in a cave near Hohle-Fels, located in southwestern Germany) date back to the Päleolithic era – *i.e.* ~ 30,000 – 40,000 years ago.
- A replica of this 5-hole bone flute was given to a professional musician who was able (after a period of time learning how to play it) to play clear renditions of the “Amazing Grace” and the German national anthem (“Das Deutschlandlied”) on this flute – indicating that early humans at that time already ***must*** have had a clear notion of ***consonant intervals and the pentatonic and diatonic musical scales!***
- Archeological evidence from various sites indicates that music ***and*** dance ***were*** an important part of ritual ceremonies in early ***homo sapiens*** culture(s), which helped to reinforce/strengthen social bonds within such groups.
- Presumably ***homo sapiens*** were making music long before ***this*** era in our history – but what were their musical instruments at ***that*** time? The human voice itself had to be ***the*** first musical instrument. Perhaps a bit later, drums and/or other simple “noise-makers” of some kind? Since we are ***anthropocentric*** creatures, it is ***no*** accident that the 1-dimensional musical instruments we have today with their integer-related harmonic overtone sequences ***all mimic*** the human voice – admittedly, some more so than others, and usually in an artistically abstract manner. Percussion instruments obviously emulate human ***rhythms*** – *e.g.* our heartbeats, breathing, blood pumping, etc.
- Was human music an important part of very early human language?
- Or perhaps human music as a language itself ***predated*** what we think of as human language(s) today??
- Note that our ***written*** language began in the relatively very recent past, only ~ 6000 years ago, coinciding with transition(s) of our societies from being hunter-gatherers to agrarian ones.
- Prior to this, did music serve as an important ***oral*** means of preserving/passing on human history, important worldly knowledge, *etc.* to younger generations? Is this (at least, in part) why musical memories are ***so*** strong? Many Native American, South American and African cultures did/still do indeed use music for precisely such purposes, in conjunction with the purely ritual/ceremonial/social aspects of music...

