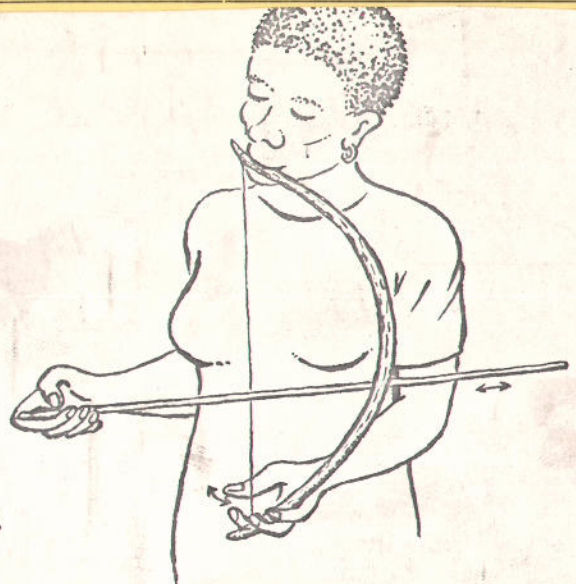


CONTENU SONORE

Instruments	Forme d'expression
<u>Umrubhe friction-mouthbow</u> In playing the <u>umrubhe</u> the upper end of the bow stave rests against the lips. The player resonates different harmonics by veying the size of the mouth cavity. Two fundamentals are used: one from the open string, and another, about a whole-tone higher, by stopping the string near its lower extremity with the left thumb. A pentatonic series of notes is obtained by using partials 3,4,5 and 6 of the two fundamentals (except No.5 of the 'stopped' note, which is avoided). These may be seen represented in diagram I.+ + See also: D.K. Rycroft: "Friction Chordophones in South-Eastern Africa", in <u>The Galpin Society Journal</u>, London, Vol. 19, 1966, pp.84-100. The <u>umrubhe</u> mouth-bow of the Xhosa (Side B, 9 and 10) is sounded by scraping with a stick. The Chinese <u>ya-chêng</u> zither has been sounded in this way for at least 1200 years but there is no evidence of any connection. The friction-stick of the <u>umrubhe</u> is held with the palm of the hand facing upward and passes <u>between</u> the string and the stave. This is faintly suggestive of the East Asian fiddle, but	

TEXTE

Noté par :	Traduit par :
Langue d'origine	Traduction



again there is no further instrumental resemblance or any known historical connection. In all other respects the umrubhe is like many other African mouth-bows, except that these are normally played by striking or plucking. Although instruments of this type were formerly played by all the Nguni peoples it is found today only among the Xhosa, where it is played by girls and young women, for their own amusement. Compared with other African mouth-bows the distinctive feature of the umrubhe is the fact that it is sounded by means of a friction stick. The history of this technique remains obscure. The instrument has been described more fully in an earlier section. The harmonics which are resonated by the mouth of the player, for melodic purposes, above the two fundamentals, are represented in diagram I.

Handwritten notes:

kh... 2 1/2"

time 1/2

khosa woman playing the 'UMRUBHE' mouth-bow

reduce to 2/3

Fig 2

Observations :