

## SOME THOUGHTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRINGED INSTRUMENTS

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### ABSTRACT

The development of musical instruments is determined by many factors. Today, however, the "natural" evolution and selection is overlaid by influences hitherto unknown in the history of instrument making.

After decades of adaptation to industrial production, the crafts of instrument making are facing challenges through indirect influences: The consequences for the whole realm of music of the globalisation of a certain type of music, which is mainly produced on a computer (more and more often using AI), are severe. Some domains of music cultures survive on government-subsidized islands, while elsewhere whole music cultures are threatened by extinction, or are already extinct. 'Fit for survival' is only the mainstream of pop music, it seems, but even this is subjected to a reduction to ever less variety through above-said development. Until today, almost all professional stringed instrument players play instruments built by hand by professional instrument makers. If this will still be the case in the future, we do not know.

To answer the question of how the future of stringed instrument making may look like, it might be helpful to look at how, and through which factors, musical instruments generally evolve, and which factors govern this development. Then we may define evolutionary aims and investigate possibilities to evaluate specific developments and inventions.