



# HOTEP

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## Review of December Meeting

Our pre-Christmas treat was a presentation of a slightly different nature. **Heidi Kópp-Junk**, speaking from her home in Germany, gave a presentation on '*Music in ancient Egypt and its beginnings: Latest research in music archaeology*', following it up with a live performance of singing to music played on replica instruments.

Heidi's research took us back to pre-dynastic times and the identification of the earliest musical instruments. These were principally percussion, such as clappers, rattles and shakers, with the classic sistrum emerging as a feature of sacred ritual performance throughout the pharaonic period. She talked about the materials used, including natural stone, animal bone and ivory, and the different tones that could be achieved.

Seated harpist with a shoulder harp, Kingston Lacy



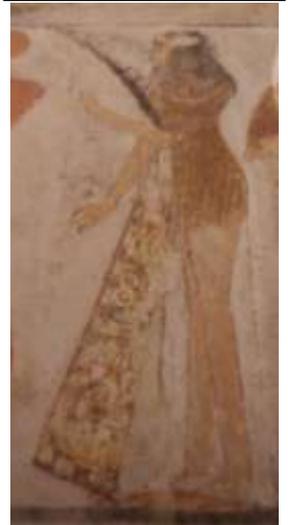
The instruments and musicians shown in tomb and temple reliefs from the Old Kingdom onwards reveal the development of various types of drum or tambourine, pipes and flutes, and plucked-string instruments such as the lyre and harp. Based on this pictorial evidence and the few physical remains of the actual instruments, Heidi described how these were made, and how modern

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musicians are able to conjecture on the tuning, structure and style of ancient Egyptian music.

Heidi's prized instrument is a replica of the long-necked lute, which became popular during the New Kingdom. She showed how the strings, usually four of them made of twisted linen, were attached and tuned. With reference to tomb paintings, she demonstrated how the instrument was held quite high to the shoulder in the crook of the arm, so that the sound box, which was often made from a tortoise shell, was not covered.

Harpist with a standing floor harp, Kingston Lacy



Musicians playing a lute, a lyre and double pipes, Kingston Lacy

Images of musicians and dancers at funerary banquets and in festival parades are often accompanied by captions, which appear to include the words being sung to the music. Heidi has analysed the structure of these 'songs', comparing them with the few surviving examples of 'verses' written on papyri or ostraca to gain an indication of how the words might be fitted to music. She stressed that, since we have only a rough



Musicians, singers & dancers, with the words of their 'song' in the text above. Tomb of Nebamun, BM

idea of what the spoken language sounded like, we have to use educated guesswork as to the scales and rhythms of ancient Egyptian music. This speculation is informed by the comparison of ancient and modern instruments, such as the reeded-pipes, similar to the oboe or clarinet, used in traditional Egyptian folk music.

Heidi encouraged us to sing along with her re-imagining of the songs of the cattle herders, sailors and field-workers, which proved to be an interesting experience since the Zoom system is not really prepared for whole audience participation. However, this meant that we could all sing along in private without exposing our lack of talent to the world.

There were many questions which Heidi dealt with in depth. She explained how there is not much evidence for music having been enjoyed as private entertainment, and explained how the acoustics of temples or open-air spaces would have influenced the positioning of both musicians and audience, and thus the reception of the performance. One participant even asked for advice on how to play a double pipe which she hoped to use for druid rituals.

This was a refreshing and highly entertaining take on practical Egyptological research. Heidi finished off by leading us in a rendering of *White Christmas*, which probably frightened a few neighbours but was great fun.

**Hilary Wilson**

## December Quiz Answer

'A cold coming we had of it...' are the opening words to **T.S. Eliot's** poem '*The Journey of the Magi*'. The image below is the top of the Hittite Marriage Stela, carved in the outer court of the Abu Simbel Temple. The scene shows the Hittite princess, whose marriage to Ramesses II was the culmination of the Peace Treaty agreed after the Battle of Kadesh. The journey between Hatti, in northern Anatolia, and Egypt was accomplished during the winter months when the mountain passes were still covered in snow.



The bride's father, King Hattusilis III, is shown accompanying his daughter, though this is probably artistic license on the part of the groom, emphasising his position as the more exalted ruler of the two – Ramesses was always keen to score points off his rivals. The Hittite king may have visited Egypt some years later when his daughter had given birth to a child. Even then, his journey was delayed by his falling victim to 'hot feet', a seasonal incapacity, possibly chilblains, which made travel uncomfortable.

We do not know the Hittite name of the bride but she adopted the Egyptian name Maat-Hor-Neferure. Princess Neferure, shown at Abydos, → could be her daughter, named after her.





## New Year Quiz

As promised, something a little more substantial to keep your brains active. There are four rounds based on the BBC2 quiz **'Only Connect'**

### Round 1:

What connects these groups of four?

- a) Hapi, Imsety, Qebsenuf, Duamutef
- b) Ramose, Rekhmire, Paser, Useramun
- c) Medina, Bahri, Bersha, Ballas
- d) (picture clues below)



### Round 2:

What would come fourth in these sequences?

- a) Meritaten, Meketaten, Ankhesenpaaten .....
- b) 8: 7: 6:  
Merenptah; Ramesses II; Ramesses IX; .....
- c) 1: Khufu; 2: Khafre; 3: Seneferu; .....
- d)  .....

## Round 3: The Wall

In the grid below, rearrange the names into four rows, grouping together the Egyptologists who have a common link. For a (metaphorical) bonus point, identify the name that is the odd one out.

<b>Mariette</b>	<b>Allen</b>	<b>Lacau</b>	<b>Pendlebury</b>
<b>Petrie</b>	<b>Kemp</b>	<b>Maspero</b>	<b>Loprieno</b>
<b>Grébaut</b>	<b>Kamrin</b>	<b>Lucas</b>	<b>Borchardt</b>
<b>Gardiner</b>	<b>Loret</b>	<b>Manley</b>	<b>Burton</b>

### Round 4: Missing Vowels

Find the titles of four ancient Egyptian literary works which have had their vowels removed and spacing altered.

- a) THT LFTHS HPW RCKDSLRL
- b) T HVYG FWNMN
- c) THST RYF SNH
- d) KNGKHF NDTH MGCNS



Answers in the next edition of **Hotep**

