

# Ancient Music Research—Explore the Past and Present Lives of China's Jiahu Bone Flute

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## Abstract:

*From 1985 to 2013, a total of more than 40 Neolithic bone flutes were unearthed in Jiahu Village, Wuyang, Henan. Since the advent of Jiahu bone flute, many domestic and foreign scholars have conducted all-round research, extending from the naming of it to The research on Chinese "flute" music has further developed to the textual research of ancient temperament and scale, surpassing the research of experts and scholars to thinking about the origin of music, etc. It can be said that Jiahu bone flute provides us but we have to It is said that Jiahu bone flute has almost no reference materials, and there are still disputes in the academic circles on certain issues, so it adds disadvantages to the research of Jiahu bone flute, which is mainly based on the existing research results. Beginning with combing the Chinese flute wind instruments, to comparing the playing methods and production methods of the bone flute with the current bamboo flute, resulting in some well-known "cultural genes" inherited forms, from different angles to Jiahu bone flute further research.*

## Keywords:

*Chinese bone flute; Playing; Production; Cultural genes; Inheritance; Development*

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## 1. Introduction

From 1985 to 2013, more than 40 Neolithic bone flutes were found in the tomb site of Jiahu Village, Wuyang County, Henan Province. Most of them were placed on both sides of the femur of the tomb owner. According to the department of Chinese music cultural relics, Gu Hu site belongs to PeiLiGang culture, unearthed artifacts and carved the original text of tortoise shell and a large number of pottery, stone, bone production tools, life utensils, decoration supplies and religious supplies, such as the cultural landscape belongs to the leading position, at that time with the relics unearthed in peat and carbon - 14 s identification of charcoal samples, about 7500-9000. These bone flutes were all earthy-yellow when unearthed, and were formed by drilling holes after the bone joints at both ends of the limb bones of cranes were cut off to form thin bone tubes in the middle and slightly wider ones at both ends. Type system fixed, production standard, five holes, six holes, seven holes and other styles appear. The major archaeological discovery shocked the whole world music archaeology, attract the numerous scholars and experts to study, Gu Hu bone flute since its advent, through research and discussion about its people never stop, so far, many experts and scholars think bone flute is enclosed within the walls of a musical instrument, its owner is likely to be the leader of the tribe or clan, also may be able to communicate the heavens and the earth, man of god, a wizard, according to zhang is responsible for the excavation Gu Hu bone flute teacher centered, Gu Hu at the beginning of the bone flute came out, there are a lot of domestic and foreign experts and scholars on it is a musical instrument, it is a musical instrument in the modern human eye, Or is it just a life appliance, fishing gear, etc., debate, at the same time, said it was a musical instrument, can blew and playing music, it is a new question, finally the then central orchestra of national music orchestra NingBaoSheng by oblique blow blew by the teacher, and then some experts can use it to play a complete melody of "Chinese cabbage", then questioned not playing musical instrument is bone flute is broken. So the study of Gu Hu bone flute also experienced a yes - no - certainly again after the difficult process of the final after numerous textual research of experts and scholars, Gu Hu bone flute is the music miracle occurred 9000 years ago, it was for the modern study of the origin of music, music performance, acoustics, law science, instruments of the research in the field of manufacture and so on provides the real reliable archaeological data, is one of the great discovery of music archaeology in China.

## 2. Jiahu bone flute should be the originator of flute wind instruments

In the long history of the development of human civilization of the Chinese nation, people invented many wind instruments of various shapes, such as flute, xun, chi, shou, guan, chou, pipe, suona, etc. Wait. According to the different sound sources of musical instruments, the Western classification method of musical instruments—the Hossa system, judges that these musical instruments are mostly air-sounding instruments. According to the principle of pronunciation, they are blown by the human body and controlled by the lips to form a bunch of The airflow is injected into the inner wall of the pipe at an inclined angle, causing the inner wall of the wind instrument to vibrate, forming a standing wave, and emitting a frequency corresponding to the length of the pipe. It is an edge-vibrating instrument. Then, in these ancient wind instruments, and modern bamboo flutes, the sound source is consistent with The pronunciation principle is the same, so they are collectively referred to as flute wind instruments. The reason why these ancient instruments are collectively referred to as flute-type wind instruments for research is not only because they are similar in shape, sound source and pronunciation principles are the same, but more importantly because in the history of ancient Chinese musical instruments such as flute, xiao, suona, pipe, and suona. The concept of musical instruments is confused, and the pipe is called "Xiao". Therefore, the concept of flute and flute has been confused for thousands of years. Today, our understanding of the concept of flute is different from that of ancient times. It can also be said that in ancient times, The flute is a collective name for a class of musical instruments.

There are also archaeological objects unearthed. The bamboo flute unearthed in Mawangdui No. 3 tomb in Changsha in 1973 and the "chief" unearthed in the tomb of Zenghouyi in Hubei in 1978. The Chinese flute-type wind instruments are identified as Chinese flute instruments whose history can be traced back at least to the tomb of Zenghouyi In the era of 433 BC, according to the natural laws from simple to complex, from single to diverse, we have reason to believe that the birth of the bone flute took a key step in the development of flute wind instruments, and its emergence enlightened After the wind instrument, later generations further improved it based on its shape, pronunciation principle, and playing method, thus creating a variety of flute wind instruments. It is said that Jiahu bone flute is the originator of flute wind instruments, and it deserves its name.

## 3. Talking about the development and evolution of the bone flute from the perspective of playing methods

As a wind instrument, what is the method of playing the bone flute? The first sound was blown obliquely, so does it blow obliquely? This topic is still controversial. There is an ancient wind instrument---Chou may be able to give us the answer. As an ancient wind instrument, it is still circulated in the Central Plains and the Daxiangguo Temple in Kaifeng. Its shape, appearance, and oblique blowing method are very similar to those of bone flutes. At first glance, they are just different in materials. The chips are made of bamboo. At present, the chips are often used as wind instruments in Henan folk and Buddhist temples. Use, so we can boldly speculate that in the long river of years, the bone flute has gradually developed into a bamboo musical instrument with more readily available raw materials—the bamboo flute, or the bone flute and the bamboo flute were invented by humans in the same period The bone flute is easy to preserve, but the bamboo flute is not easy to preserve, and the bone flute is endowed with some deities and witchcraft colors, so the bone flute is in the tombs of the ancestors of Jiahu It was discovered, but the same shape but different materials did not remain.

The author believes that the blowing method of flute wind instruments is nothing more than horizontal blowing, vertical blowing or oblique blowing. No matter what kind of blowing method the bone flute belongs to, there are corresponding similar instruments in today's real life. This is actually not the same. This kind of coincidence is more like a "cultural gene" passed on from generation to generation. The development of musical instruments always progresses with the advancement of human productivity. With the improvement of production technology, the shape of musical instruments is constantly changing, and the method of playing has also changed. We can use the unearthed musical relics and existing musical instruments. From the perspective of the convenient evolution of playing, I found clues about the evolution of flute wind instruments. The earliest bone flutes and chips were oblique winds. As the ancestors of flute wind instruments, they developed in a direction that is more suitable for human playing. Such as: vertical "U" mouth flute, "V" mouth shakuhachi, horizontally played chime, bamboo flute,

multi-tube panpipes, sheng with reeds, suona with reeds and other musical instruments, these are secondary. We don't make specific research on the time when the musical instruments were produced, but it is certain that the bone flute invented by our ancestors in ancient times has a profound influence on later musical instruments.

#### 4. Conclusion

Through the comparison of ancient and modern flute-type wind instruments in the method of playing and the production process, we have discovered a lot of things passed down in the same vein. Time has passed nearly ten thousand years, and the civilization of the Chinese nation has gone through hundreds of times. The "gene" belonging to the culture is passed on quietly. The "cultural gene" represented by Jiahu bone flute, we can find traces of its inheritance in today's society. Similar to these "cultural genes", it has nothing to do with it. Politics, war, and economy may not be recorded in the historical literature, but it cannot be denied their true existence. What we can do is to explore its "past life" through its "present life". After research, the Jiahu bone flute is indeed the originator of wind instruments. It is the "previous life" of many flute wind instruments. The wind instruments of the "present life" inherited its playing methods and production methods, and at the same time promoted and innovated them. The Jiahu Bone Flute not only opened a window for the prosperity of flute wind instruments, but also opened a door for human beings to be able to practice in the stage of musical enlightenment and exploration. It is a highlight in the history of human civilization.

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