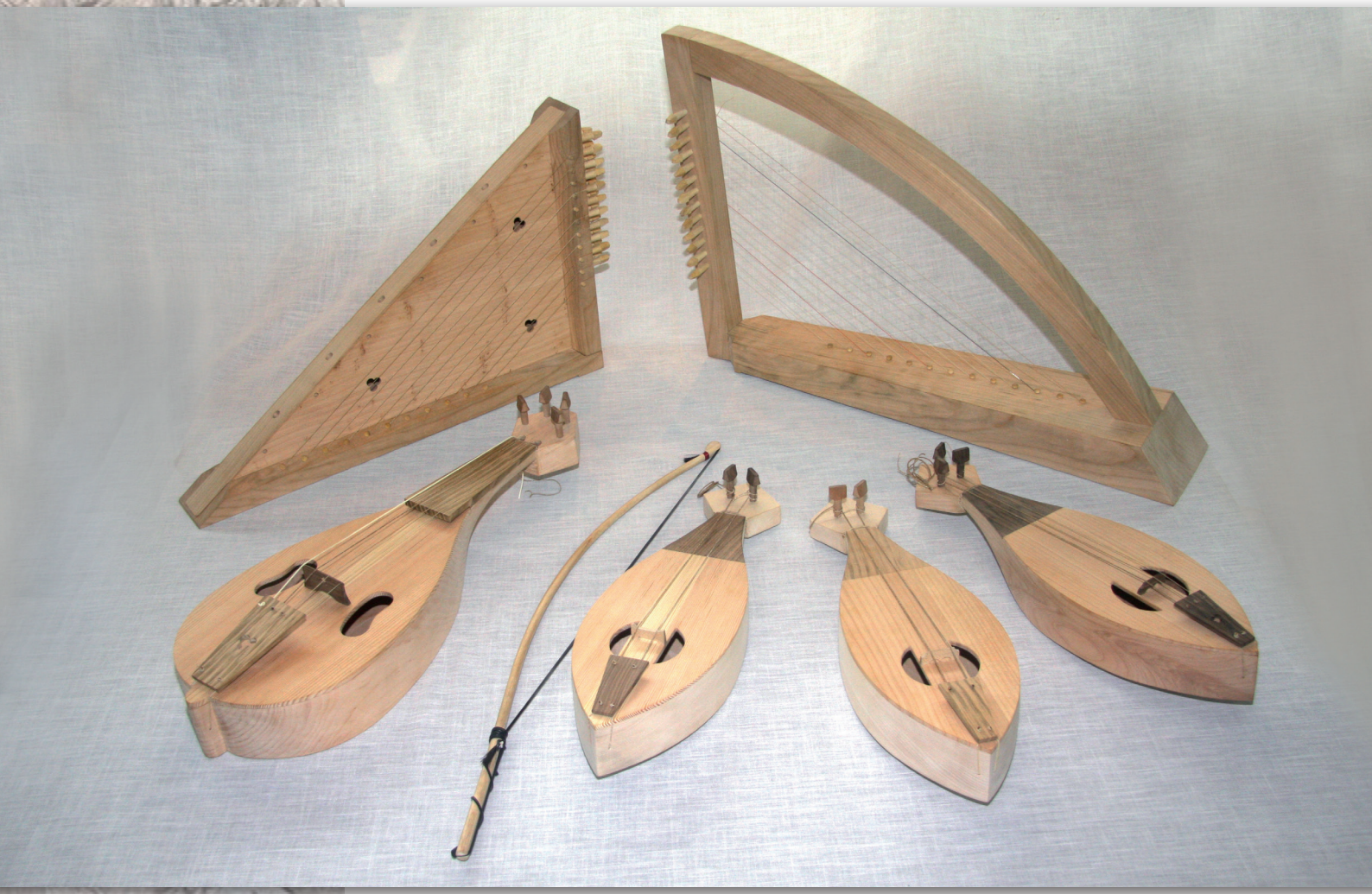
awakening
sleeping instruments

A European music project



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labyrinth catalunya

παραπλεύρως παραγωγές

LABYRINTH ITALIA

TROB'ART PRODUCTIONS

Awakening sleeping instruments started with a project to recover the musical instruments sculpted into the Portal of the monastery Santa Maria de Ripoll, a Romanesque monument in Catalonia that is also known as the Stone Bible because of its profusion of sculpted scenes. Thanks to the support of the cultural program Creative Europe by the European Union, the project now expands to other European countries and will develop several actions throughout 2020-2021. The idea is to connect Catalonia's musical past with the music composed in France, Italy and Cyprus at the time and with the musical instruments which interpreted it.

The European project **Awakening Sleeping Instruments**, through the iconographic narrative of the Portal and the recovery of ancient instruments, connects projects that originated in diverse places such as Italy, France and Cyprus. The "fossil" instruments of the Portal, which have been preserved in Cyprus' folk music, in Italy's Romanesque art or through pioneering projects of recovering medieval instruments in France, are the knots that tie a net that reaches even beyond European borders.

Awakening Sleeping Instruments studies and presents the links between interpretation practices of medieval music and extra-European approaches to music. In fact, many of the musical instruments shown in medieval iconography, like the ones sculpted at the Portal in Ripoll, clearly originated from instruments played and studied in many traditions from a great geographical area that extends from the western shores of the Mediterranean south to central Asia.

Transnational cooperation

The main purpose of **Awakening Sleeping Instruments** is to establish a structure of transnational cooperation in order to recover, recreate and promote musical instruments from the Middle Ages. The project wants to reconnect European citizens with their common heritage, conveying values, spirit, traditions and important histories of medieval Europe through the magic of music and its instruments.

The participants in **Awakening Sleeping Instruments** are the City of Ripoll (Catalonia), the Modal Music Association of Cardedeu (Catalonia), Trob'Art Productions of France, the Associazione Culturale Labyrinth of Italy and Paraplevros Productions of Cyprus.

The goal of the **Awakening Sleeping Instruments** project is to promote the culture of the Middle Ages through artistic, academic and participatory activities, with a special emphasis on the quality of its programmed activities.

Contents

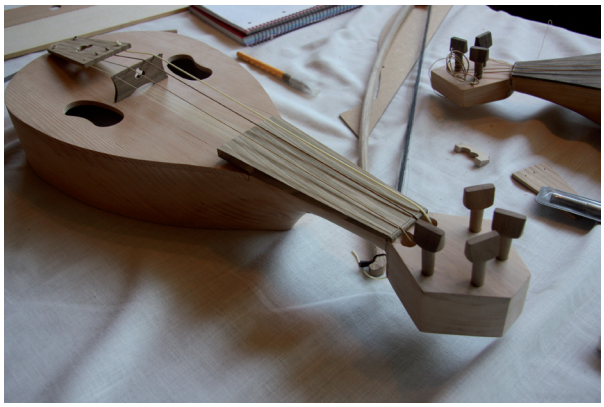
During the two years of its duration, the project will develop an extensive program of activities that will be developed in parallel in all four participating countries and which include:

- Two exhibitions.
- Workshops on the construction of replicas of musical instruments that appear in the Portal of Ripoll.
- Participative music seminars, courses and workshops for musicians, music students and the general public to explain the connections between medieval music from Europe.

- An online platform to promote and explain medieval music that includes archives with tutorial videos on how to play medieval instruments.
- In France, the publishing of a book-disc with music from the Ripoll Scriptorium and the contributions of other artists from the three countries that are also participating in this European project: France, Italy and Cyprus.
- Finally, to accompany these activities, the production of various concerts throughout Europe has been programmed, with the interpretation of a repertoire of medieval music that connects the most significant musical works copied and created in the Ripoll Scriptorium with those of the Troubadours from France and modal music from Italy and Cyprus.

Program of activities

Reproduction workshops



Among the most prominent activities to raise awareness of our medieval musical heritage are the reproduction workshops of instruments that appear in the iconography of European Romanesque monuments. In order to attract as many people as possible, workshops are open to all, participatory and educational, and include teaching how wood is cut, strings are prepared and which materials are appropriate to use. The instruments reproduced during the workshops can be heard at live concerts that will be programmed for the project.
The workshops are complemented by lectures and talks to spread musical knowledge of the medieval period to the general public.

Exhibitions

The project **Awakening sleeping instruments** includes an exhibition of replicas of the Portal instruments. To accompany this exhibition, a very effective system of light boxes will show how the musical instruments sculpted in stone or drawn in codices are connected to those reconstructed and played by today's musicians.
A second exhibition, immersive and innovative, will place us in front of the magnificent Portal de Ripoll, projected at 360º in a semi-dome, and immerse us into the medieval music of Europe.
The exhibitions will be travelling to several European cities

Concerts all over Europe

More than 20 concerts will be programmed in the four participating countries of the project with the interpretation of a repertoire of medieval music, some of them in large concert format and others in a more intimate format of four performers. The idea is to organise these concerts in historical monuments such as Fontfroide Abbey and Valmagne Abbey in France, the medieval-Byzantine castle of Paphos and the medieval fortress of Kasteliotissa in Nicosia, the Catalan Monastery of Sant Pere de Rodes, the Cathedral of Girona and Sant Martí del Canigo Abbey, among other places.

The music from the Ripoll Scriptorium, the troubadour songs of France and the modal music of Cyprus and Italy will be performed with reconstructed and original medieval instruments. Artists from all four countries that participate in **Awakening Sleeping Instruments** include the ensemble Micrologus and the Troubadours Art Ensemble, as well as the choirs Capella Santa Maria and Els Follets de Ripoll.