Brought to America from the British Isles, the fiddle is one of the principal instruments in country music. In classical music, it is called a violin. In its early years, the fiddle was used primarily as a dance instrument, and it still is in many folk music traditions throughout Europe and North America.

The fiddle is the focus of many country music styles, like western swing and bluegrass. Bill Monroe, the father of bluegrass, was greatly influenced by the music of his uncle, who was a master old-time fiddler from Kentucky. Country artists such as Hank Williams, Porter Wagoner, Merle Haggard, Emmylou Harris, Ricky Skaggs (an expert fiddler himself), and Garth Brooks have featured fiddlers prominently in their touring bands and on their recordings.

Learn More About the Fiddle:

**WEBSITES**

**Fiddle**
The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum: CountryMusicHallofFame.org
The Library of Congress: memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/reed/hrabout.html#glossary

**Violin**
Nashville Symphony for Kids: NSOKids.org
Classics for Kids: ClassicsForKids.com
The Symphony: An Interactive Guide: Library.ThinkQuest.org/22673/

**YOUTH LITERATURE**

**Fiddle**
*Rosie’s Fiddle* by Phyllis Root (Harper Collins, 1997)
*Music Lessons for Alex* by Caroline Arnold (Houghton Mifflin, 1985)
*The Fiddler of the Northern Lights* by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock (Dutton Juvenile, 1996)
*The Case of the Fiddle Playing Fox* by John Erickson (Puffin, 1998)
*The Fiddle Ribbon* by Margo Lemieux (Silver Burdett Press, 1996)
*Fiddle Fever* by Sharon Arms Doucet (Clarion Books, 2007)

**Violin**
*The Bat Boy and His Violin* by Gavin Curtis (Aladdin, 2001)
*Yang the Youngest and his Terrible Ear* by Lensey Namioka (Yearling, 1994)
*The Sandy Bottom Orchestra* by Garrison Keillor and Jenny Nilson (Hyperion, 1998)
*Musical Instruments: From Flutes Carved of Bone, to Lutes, to Modern Electric Guitars* (Scholastic, 1994)

**ADULT LITERATURE**

**Fiddle**
*The Devil’s Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling* by Charles Wolfe; Forward by Mark O’Connor
(Country Music Foundation Press, 1998)

**RECORDINGS**

**Fiddle**
*American Fiddle Tunes* (Library of Congress, 2000)

**Violin**
*Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 61* by Ludwig van Beethoven (Itzhak Perlman, violin)
released on EMI Classics (1990)

*Violin Sonatas No. 1, 2 and 3* by Johannes Brahms (Itzhak Perlman, violin; Vladimir Ashkenazy, piano)
released on EMI Classics (1999)