

Morin Khuur

Morin Khuur is a traditional **Mongolian bowed string** made of camel, goat or sheep skin, and is considered as a national symbol of Mongolian cultural heritage. Legend has it that it was invented by a shepherd by the name of **Namjil the Cuckoo**. Every night, he would mount a flying horse and fly to date his beloved. A jealous woman, though, cut off the horse's wings, thus causing the horse to fall and die. In order to commemorate him, the shepherd made a fiddle from the horse's skin and hair, and used it to play heart-breaking songs about him.



The soothing sound of Morin Khuur is thought to have healing powers – so much so that shepherds use it as a **psychological therapy for mother camels** who reject their calves due to stress. The relaxing sound of this instrument helps the mother cope with stress and re-adopt her calf. This practice is documented on ***The Story of the Weeping Camel*** by Byambasuren Davaa (2003), which was nominated for the Academy Award in 2005.

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by
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