Pan-flute is ancient wind musical instrument which consists of five or more pipes of gradually increasing length. This instrument has been known since Ancient Greece times as Pan-Flute, Panpipes or Syrinx.

Pan-flute is widely spread all over the world. It is called Nai in Romania and Moldova, Zampoña in South America, Kyvikly in Russia.

The Legend of Pan

There are a lot of legends and myths about the birth of the pan-flute. The best known one comes from the Greek mythology.

Shepherd god Pan was a creature half-human, half-animal, goat-footed and with horns. He roamed the forests and at his appearance, which was usually sudden, he caused "panic" because of his ugly looks and his mischievous tricks.

When Pan met the beautiful nymph Syrinx he fell in love with her at once. Not being interested in his love she ran to the river, Pan at her heels, and appealed to the supreme god Zeus for help. Zeus helped by turning Syrinx into reed, and then there was nothing for Pan but to cut this reed into pieces and bound them together to create a musical instrument, which he named “Syrinx” in memory of his lost love.

The European curved-style pan flute was popularized by the Romanian musician Gheorghe Zamfir. He toured extensively and recorded many albums of pan flute music in the 1970s. The most famous composition is “The Lonely Shepherd” by James Last. Today there are thousands of devoted players and pan-flute music lovers all over the world.