

This clay plaque, found in 1985 in a 14th- to 13th-century B.C.E. stratum at Dan, depicts a most unusual scene. The lute player is apparently actually dancing. Usually such scenes, as in Egyptian wall paintings of the Late Bronze period, show the lute players and the dancers separately. The lute resembles those from other known portrayals in Syria and Egypt. The lute player's dress is north Syrian or Canaanite, and he may be wearing a mask. It calls to mind the story of King David, dressed in fine linen, dancing and making merry before the Ark of the Covenant as it was carried to "the city of David" (1 Chronicles 15:29).

For a Late Bronze period mask from Hazor, see Slide 24.