

# Musical Heritage Instruments from India





CALENDAR 2025

WIPO has announced the World Intellectual Property Day theme of 2025 – “IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP”. The 2025 edition of LexOrbis Calendar is dedicated to this theme and highlights India’s contributions to world musical heritage. The calendar features iconic Indian instruments that have enriched human lives and creativity for centuries. The legends and maestros who played these instruments have helped put the country on the world map.



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# JANUARY 2025

## SARASWATI VEENA



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## FEBRUARY 2025

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# Saraswati Veena

JANUARY 2025

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The Saraswati Veena, a stringed instrument, finds its origins in Vedic texts and later scriptures, with noted usage as early as 1500 BC. Crafted from a single piece of jackwood, the Veena is designed with a resonator, fretted neck, and ornamental carvings. The instrument is mostly used in Carnatic Indian classical music, representing the spirituality of the Indian culture.



# FEBRUARY 2025

SAROD



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## MARCH 2025

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# Sarod

FEBRUARY

2025

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The Sarod is a prominent stringed instrument in Hindustani classical music, evolving from the Afghan Rabab and finding its presence in India since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The term Sarod is of Persian origin, meaning “song” or “melody”. It is crafted with a teak or rosewood body and a goatskin resonator, while the fingerboard is covered with a metal plate for sliding notes.



# MARCH 2025

SITAR



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## APRIL 2025

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# Sitar

MARCH 2025

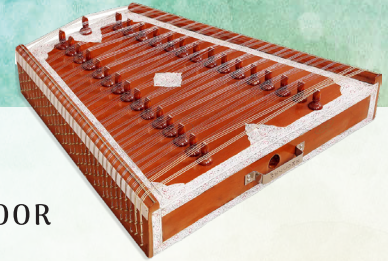
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The Sitar is synonymous with Hindustani classical music and dates back to the medieval era, with the first usage noted in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Its hollow gourd body and curved frets produce a rich, layered sound. Craftsmen delicately carve the instrument from tun wood and decorate it with intricate inlays. The Sitar's resonance has made it a symbol of India's cultural identity and an ambassador to world music.



# APRIL 2025

SANTOOR



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## MAY 2025

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# Santoor

APRIL 2025

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The Santoor is a box-shaped trapezoid traditionally used in Sufi and folk music. Made from walnut or maple wood, it features a flat top with over a hundred strings. Originating in 1000 BC, the instrument is played with lightweight wooden mallets and creates a celestial, shimmering sound. Its role in Kashmiri culture as a meditative instrument reflects the serenity and beauty of the region.



# MAY 2025

SARANGI



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# Sarangi

MAY

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The Sarangi is one of the most expressive Indian string instruments and is known for its ability to imitate the human voice. It has been a part of the rich history of Hindustani classical music and folk traditions since the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Carved from red cedar wood, it features three main gut strings and several sympathetic strings.



# JUNE 2025

## RUDRA VEENA



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# Rudra Veena

JUNE

2025

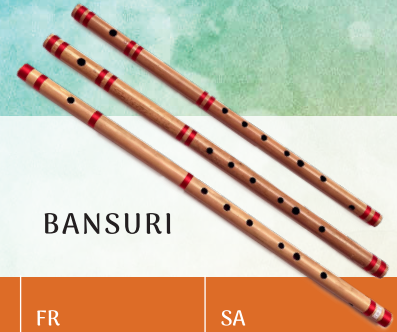
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The Rudra Veena is another string instrument, having traces in Vedic texts and scriptures. The instrument is associated with Lord Shiva and the Dhruvad tradition of Hindustani classical music. Its design, featuring large gourds on either side of a long teakwood neck, is said to be a symbol of cosmic balance. The Rudra Veena is revered as a meditative instrument and used historically in yogic rituals.



# JULY 2025

BANSURI



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## AUGUST 2025

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# Bansuri

JULY

2025

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The Bansuri (bamboo flute) is one of the oldest wind instruments known in India, often linked to Lord Krishna and mentioned in the Mahabharata. It holds a sacred place in Indian classical and folk music, with its melodious sound symbolising love and devotion. Crafted from a single piece of bamboo, the instrument typically features six or seven-finger holes, allowing for a wide range of pitches and harmonies.



# AUGUST 2025

SHEHNAI



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# Shehnai

**AUGUST 2025**

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The Shehnai is a double-reed wind instrument providing staple music to Indian weddings and auspicious ceremonies. Its history dates back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century and has since elevated as a classical concert instrument, connecting folk with formal traditions. The Shehnai is crafted from high-quality wood, which gives it a rich and warm tone. At one end of the instrument, a metal bell is attached, serving to amplify the sound produced when air is blown through it.



# SEPTEMBER 2025

TABLA



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# Tabla

SEPTEMBER 2025

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The Tabla is a pair of hand-played drums and a highly celebrated percussion instrument in Hindustani classical music. Its origins trace back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, combining Persian and Indian influences. The Tabla consists of the wooden *dayan* (treble drum) and the metal *bayan* (bass drum). Artisans carefully tie and tune these drumheads to optimise their tonal clarity and pitch, allowing for a wide range of musical expression.



# OCTOBER 2025

DHOL



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# Dhol

OCTOBER

2025

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The Dhol is a double-sided drum, iconic in Indian folk traditions. Dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the vibrant beats of the instruments symbolise energy and celebration. The Dhol is carefully crafted from high-quality hardwoods such as mango or sheesham, and features drumheads made from animal skin, which are tied and tuned by hand to achieve the desired pitch.



# NOVEMBER 2025

MRIDANGAM



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# Mridangam

NOVEMBER 2025

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The Mridangam, a percussion instrument is central to Carnatic classical music, with its usage traced back to 1500 BC. Mentioned in ancient scriptures, it is often called the “king of percussion”. The instrument is crafted from jackfruit wood, with its dual membranes tuned to complement melodic instruments. The Mridangam’s complex rhythms and resonant tones are a testament to the precision and artistry of its makers, reflecting the beauty of Indian classical traditions.



# DECEMBER 2025

KHARTAL



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# Khartal

DECEMBER

2025

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The Khartal finds its roots in ancient India and is believed to be one of the earliest musical instruments, traced back to Vedic and Puranic texts. The instrument derives its name from the Hindi words “khar” (hand) and “tal” (rhythm) and consists of wooden or metal pieces struck together to create melodic sounds. The instrument is often used in devotional music, folk traditions, and various classical performances.



# Calendar 2026

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