

List of famous Indian musicians with their instruments

Here's a list of famous Indian musicians along with the instruments they use – string/wind/percussion instruments.



(Photo (l to r): Annapurna Devi, Zakir Hussain, Bismillah Khan)

We have come across many famous Indian musicians over the years playing a variety of musical instruments; the veena, the flute, the table might be the popular ones, but we often get confused among the various types of similar instruments.

For example, the veena, the been, the Rudra veena, the Mohan veena are all string instruments, each with associated Indian musicians that we should know about.

Listed below are the various types of musical instruments along with their associated Indian musicians.

String instruments and Indian musicians who play them

- 1. Santoor:** Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma, Bhajan Sopori
- 2. Sarod:** Allauddin Khan, Ali Akbar Khan, Amjad Ali Khan, Buddhadev Dasgupta, Bahadur Khan, Sharan Rani, Zarin S Sharma
- 3. Sitar:** Pt Ravi Shankar, Shahid Parvez Khan, Budhaditya Mukherjee, Anushka Shankar, Hara Shankar Bhattacharya, Nikhil Banerjee, Vilayat Khan, Mustaq Ali Khan
- 4. Surbahar:** Annapurna Devi, Sajjad Hussain

- 5. Been:** Asad Ali Khan, Zia Moin-ud-din Khan
- 6. Veena:** Zia Mohiuddin Dagar, Ayyagari Syamasundaram, Doraiswamy Iyengar, Chittibabu, Emani Sankara Shastri, Dhanammal, KR Kumaraswamy, Sundaram Balachandrer
- 7. Rudra Veena:** Asad Ali Khan
- 8. Mohan Veena:** Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhat (inventor of Mohan Veena)
- 9. Sarangi:** Shakoor Khan, Pt Ram Narayan, Ramesh Mishra, Sultan Khan, Ustad Binda Khan
- 10. Violin:** MS Gopalakrishnan, Smt M Rajam, NR Muralidharan, M Chandrasekharan, VG Jog, Lalgudi Jayaraman
- 11. Guitar:** Braj Bhushan Kabra
- 12. Mandolin:** U Srinivas

Wind instruments and Indian musicians who play them

- 13. Shehnai:** Bismillah Khan, Krishna Ram Chaudhary, Ali Ahmad Hussain
- 14. Flute:** Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Pannalal Ghosh, TR Mahalingam, N Ramani
- 15. Nadaswaran:** Sheikh Chinna Moula, Neeruswamy Pillai, Rajaratanam Pillai

Percussion instruments (played by striking) and Indian musicians who play them

- 16. Tabla:** Zakir Hussain, Allah Rakha, Sabir Khan, Pt. Kishan Maharaj, Pt. Jnan Prakash Ghosh, Sandeep Das
- 17. Pakhawaj:** Totaram Sharma, Pt Ayodhya Prasad, Gopal Das, Babu Ram Shanker Pagaldas
- 18. Mridangam:** KV Prasad, SV Rajarao, Umalayapuram Sivaraman, Palghat Mani Iyer, Karaikudi R Mani, Palghat Raghu
- 19. Ghatam:** TH Vinayakram, EM Subramaniam
- 20. Kanjra:** Pudukkotai Dakshinamurthi Pillai