

Veena



SIVA100

Saraswati, the Indian Goddess of music and art, is always seen with the ancient Indian string instrument, the Veena, in her hand. Thus it ranks high among the Indian instruments. Though it is not as popular as its successor the Sitar, the Veena is still played today with great respect and love.

There are various types of Veena that differ in construction and sound. The most popular form is the Saraswati Veena, whose photo you can see above. As for the high quality Veenas, the neck and resonating body is carved from one piece of wood, mostly Jackwood. The upper resonator serves rather as a stand for correct positioning than as resonating chamber. Hence it is often made from simple materials like paper mache, but is then decorated nicely. There are 4 main strings that pass over the bridge and several frets, then there are 3 sideways drone strings. The typical position for playing is horizontal, while the instrument rests on the resonators.

The Rudra Veena consists of a tube that rests on two large pumpkins. In the beginning this tube was made from bamboo, today precious wood is used. The ends are carved skillfully as animal heads. It is said that the Veena produces the perfect sound as it suits all kinds of musical expression, which is the proof that it is a truly divine instrument.