

Kantele



SIKT100 Kalevala
SIKT200 Silver Moon

In the Finnish national epos the old magician-singer Wäinämöinen created the first Kantele from the jaw of a pike. While playing on it all animals of the forest gathered and listened; people let go of their work and were fascinated by the beauty of the Lute music. Similar stories we know from Orpheus in the Greek legends.

In its classical form the Kantele consists of a wooden resonating body in the shape of a wing. The body is made from a specially crafted Birch trunk. Five strings from horse hair tuned in pentatonic scale cover the body. Modern Kanteles can have up to 36 metal strings and offer a system of hooks which allow the player to change the tone a half-note higher or lower. That can be done even while playing. The instrument is plucked with the fingers while lying on the lap or at a table, similar to a Zither.