SARASWATHI RANGANATHAN

A Guide on the Veena from the #MannMusicRoom



ABOUT THE VEENA

The Veena means the "divine instrument" and is called so because it is considered the instrument of the Gods. It is considered the favorite instrument of the Goddessof Arts and Learning, Saraswathi.

The Veena is a predominant solo instrument of Carnatic Music. Carnatic music is the type of music that originates from the South-Indian state of Karnataka.

The Veena is about four feet in length, consisting of a large resonator carved and hollowed out of a single log of jack wood, a tapering hollow neck topped with twenty-four brass or bell-metal frets and a tuning pegs topped off with an ornamental dragon's head. There are four main playing strings and three drone strings all made of metal. The Veena is played by sitting cross-legged with the instrument held at an angle. The Veena is made up of several parts, including the lap gourd, the tuning pegs, the strings, the frets and the resonator.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Saraswathi Ranganathan is a talented musician to say the least. She is the first Indian woman and Veena artiste to win a Chicago Music Award, the first Veena artiste to perform as an orchestra member of Disney's Jungle Book production, and the first Veena artiste to receive a $10,000 grant from the Logan Foundation in Chicago. She is also the first Veena artiste whose original multi-lingual song "Ennai Azhaithaen (I embraced me)" was commissioned by the Chicago Humanities Fest.

Saraswathi learned to play Veena from her mother, Shantha Ranganathan who grew up in the Indian state of Karnataka. Saraswathi has been performing for over three decades now and attributes her path-carving success to the inclusive energy in her music and in her life. Her goal is to bring artists and listeners together as one community united in music and understanding.



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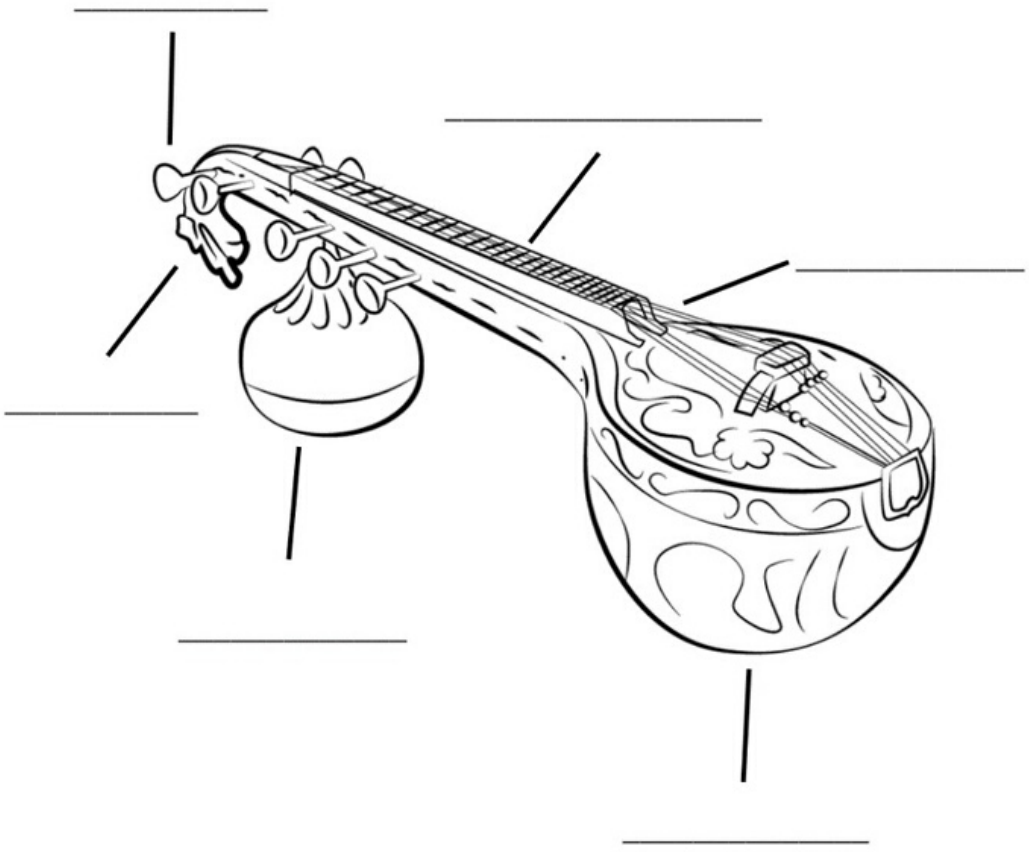
SHORT ANSWER

5 Questions to ask yourself:

1. What is the name of this instrument?
2. What part of the world is the instrument from Question 1 from?
3. What is the traditional music played on this instrument called?
4. What is special about the types of notes played on the instrument?
5. What have you learned?

CAN YOU NAME THE 6 PARTS OF THE VEENA?



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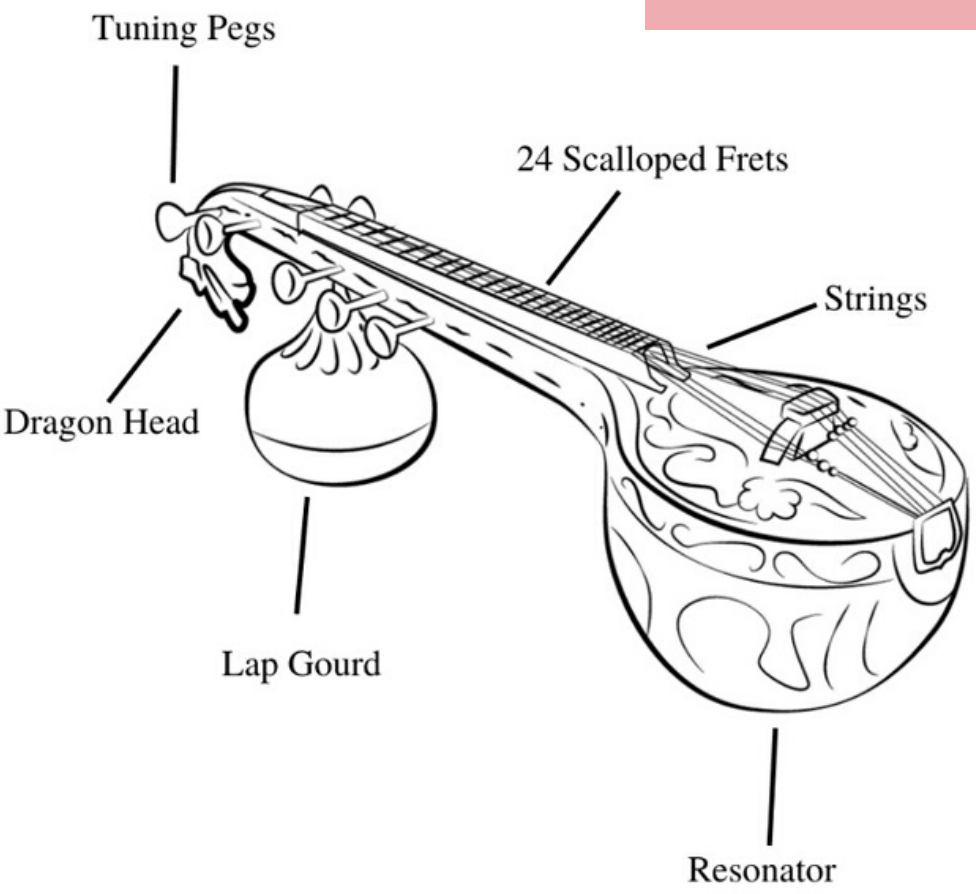
SHORT ANSWER

5 Questions to ask yourself:

1. What is the name of the traditional Indian string instrument?
   a. Saravathi Veena / Veena
2. What part of the world is the instrument from Question 1 from?
   a. Southern India
3. What is the traditional music played on this instrument called?
   a. Carnatic Music
4. What is special about the types of notes played on the instrument?
   a. How elaborately you can bend the notes
5. What have you learned?

6 PARTS OF A VEENA



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