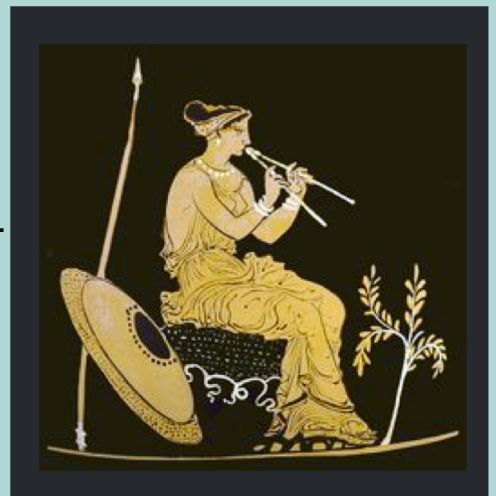




The flute is one of the worlds' oldest instrument, perhaps only preceded by the hand-held drum. The oldest flute was found in Germany and dates back between 50,000 and 60,000 years. It was made by the Neanderthals and found in a cave.

The flute shows itself again in China, Egypt and Eritruria, making it evident that every culture invented their own flutes. These flutes came in all shapes and sizes. Ancient flutes have been found on every continent. from Korea to South America and Africa.

This is the picture of a double flute which was very popular in ancient Greek and Roman culture.



In India, the flute in different names and varieties is described in detail in the Natya Shastra, as Vamshi, and was an important instrument at the time.

The flute is synonymous with Lord Krishna. We find statues of Krishna playing the flute from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century onward. In Vishnu's Avatar as 'Venugopal', he plays the flute of creation.

The flute was not a part of the Shastriya Sangeet for a long time and came back only in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The flute played today is called Bansuri in the North Indian Hindustani music tradition and Venu in the South Indian Carnatic music tradition.

Pandit Pannalal Ghosh is acknowledged for bringing back the Bansuri to the Shastriya Sangeet.

He was born in a village in Bengal in 1911 and found his first flute when he was 9 years old. He was born in musical family and played the Sitar, Tabla and sang well too. As a youth, he moved to Kolkata to be a part of the freedom movement and started working as a music director. He felt the need for a bigger flute in his compositions and learned techniques from various visiting artists. When he moved to Mumbai, he became a famous music director and bansuri player .

His musical turning point came in 1946 when he met Baba Allaiddin Khan and was accepted as his disciple. He went to Maihar to learn the classical music tradition in depth and became known as the person that introduced the bansuri back into Hindustani Sangeet. His disciples, Pt Devendra Murdeshwar, Shri V.G. Karnad and others are among the best known flautists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Another artist who is very famous is Pandit t Hariprasad Chaurasia.

Born in 1938 in Allahabad, his father wanted him to become a wrestler. Without his father's knowledge, he went on to learn vocal music and later changed to the Bansuri. He went to Odisha as an artist for All India Radio and shifted to Mumbai some years later. This is where he met Vidushi Annapurna Devi, daughter of Baba Allaiddin Khan & Guru of

Pt Pannala Ghosh. She agreed to teach him, if he was willing to re-learn music from her. He took his bansuri and held it left-handed from that moment onwards. Hariji has become synonymous with his instrument. As a performer, he invented new techniques for the bansuri and perfected the tonal quality. He has won accolades not only as a performer, but also as a collaborator and composer.

He is also a tireless guru and has trained students from all over the world. He is the artistic head of The World Music Department of the Rotterdam conservatory. He has Gurukuls in Mumbai, Bhubaneshwar and Mexico. Students from all nationalities and backgrounds have learned from him and he has countless disciples who have made a mark in the world of music with his nephew Rakesh Chaurasia as the heir to his tradition.