



A brief description of instruments sampled in Bollywood Elements library ...

* **Bulbul tarang** - the Indian banjo, is a string instrument, whose name literally means "waves of nightingales". The instrument employs two sets of strings, one set for drone, and one for melody. The melody strings run under a key plate with keys similar to those of a piano or, more often, a typewriter.

The melody strings are commonly tuned to the same note, or in octaves, while the drone strings are tuned to the 1st and 5th of the melody strings. Tuned in this manner, the instrument is uni-tonic, or unable to modulate to new keys. The melody strings may be tuned to different pitches if desired, however, rendering it multi-tonic, but more difficult to play. The bulbul tarang is most commonly played as accompaniment to singing.

* **Flute** - the 'bansuri' is made of a single length of bamboo with six or seven open finger holes. Several scales of the bansuri have been sampled in the library.

* **Mandolin** is a musical instrument in the lute family (plucked, or strummed). It has a body with a teardrop-shaped soundboard, or one which is essentially oval in shape, with a soundhole, or soundholes, of varying shapes.

* **Sarangi** is an important bowed string instrument of India's Hindustani classical music tradition. Of all Indian instruments, it is said to most resemble the sound of the human voice – able to imitate vocal ornaments such as gamakas (shakes) and meend (sliding movements).

The word sarangi is derived from two Hindi words: sau (meaning "hundred") and rang (meaning "colour"). This is because the sound of the sarangi is said to be as expressive and evocative as hundred colours.

* **Sarod** is the most popular and prominent instrument in Hindustani (north Indian) classical music. The sarod is known for a deep, weighty, introspective sound (contrast with the sweet, extremely rich texture of the sitar). The tonal quality somewhat resembles the classical guitar, particularly at the lower notes, though in the higher ranges the sound is less rich than the guitar. It is a fretless instrument like almost all other Indian instruments, since Indian music depends extensively (in some cases almost entirely) on continuous slides between notes (known as meend).

* **Sitar** is a plucked stringed instrument and uses sympathetic strings along with a long hollow neck and a gourd resonating chamber to produce a very rich sound with complex harmonic resonance.

* **Shehnai** is an aerophonic instrument which is thought to bring good luck, and as a result, is widely used in North India for marriages and processions. This tube-like instrument gradually widens towards the lower end. It usually has between six and nine holes. It employs two sets of double reeds, making it a quadruple reed woodwind. By controlling the breath, various tunes can be played on it.

* **Tumbi** is a traditional North Indian instrument from the Punjab region. The high pitched, single string plucking instrument is associated with folk music of Punjab and presently very popular in Western Bhangra Music.

The instrument is made of a wooden stick mounted with a Toomba or wooden resonator covered with skin. A metallic string is passed on a resonator over a bridge and tied to the key at the end of the stick. The string is struck with the continuous flick and retraction of the forefinger.

* **Ravan-hattha** is a royal string instrument older than the Sarangi. It has a string made with horse hair and ghunghroos (small bells) tied to the rod, which rubs over the string giving captivating taal (rhythm) to the song being played.

* **Shankh** is a conch-shell that is blown to announce victory of good over evil.

Bonus Instrument: **NarSingha** or RanaSingha is a long horn of ancient Indian origin used in ceremonial and royal rituals. It is usually played at weddings and on auspicious occasions, arrival of kings! We have kept a few bonus sample files of this instrument in the library.