



Key Vocabulary

improvise	make it up on the spot
call and re- sponse	a musical conversation. An idea is heard and then repeated by a different section of the orchestra
coda	the 'ending'
drone	one long, continuous sound
melody	a series of different tones, or sounds, in a piece of music
rhythm	a regular pattern of beats, sounds or movements
pitched per- cussion	percussion instruments that can play different pitches
unpitched percussion	percussion instruments that can only make a limited number of sounds

Tala

The tal, or **tala**, is a repeating rhythm pattern usually played by the tabla. It usually has between six and sixteen beats. The beats are grouped into small sections in the pattern.

The first note in the pattern is called a 'sam'. It shows the beginnings and ends of improvisation, so it is often emphasised.

Composition—Indian Music

Ravi Shankar (1920–2012)

Ravi was an Indian musician and composer. He was known as a sitar maestro. Ravi brought Indian classical music to a western audience in the 1960s and was a huge influence on many musicians including George Harrison from the Beatles.



Symphony – finale (excerpt)

This 2010 work is a cross between a symphony and a concerto – it has four movements like a symphony and a prominent concerto-like solo part for sitar. Much of the sitar part is improvised. The piece uses traditional Indian ragas and talas. Towards the end, there is a vocal section which uses Indian drum syllables.

The sitar is the main instrument which creates the melody.

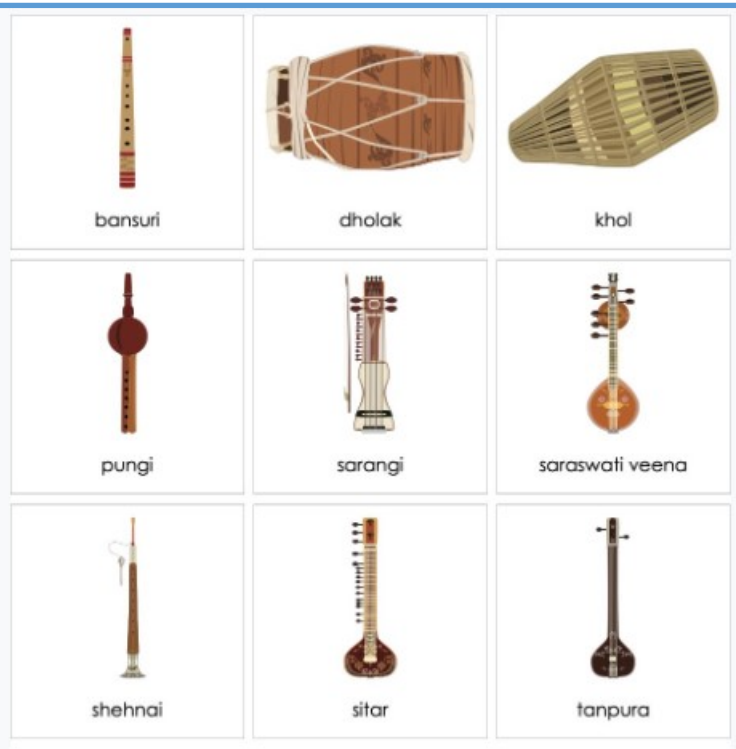


A tabla is a two-headed drum that provide percussive, rhythmic complexity to the music.

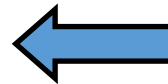
Raga

A raga is an organised musical mode that becomes the framework for improvisation. Traditionally, Indian musicians learn to play patterns of notes - ragas - by imitating and memorising music passed on from their teachers. Raga are indigenous to India, and provide the elemental structure of Indian classical music.

Raga use different scales to European music.

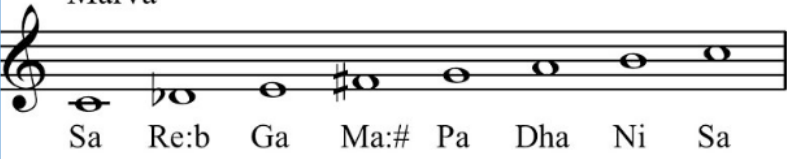


Other traditional instruments used in Indian music.

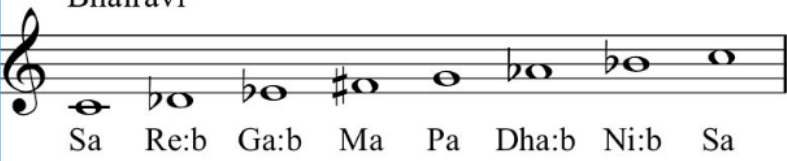


Indian music uses the same groups of instruments as European music, without the brass section.

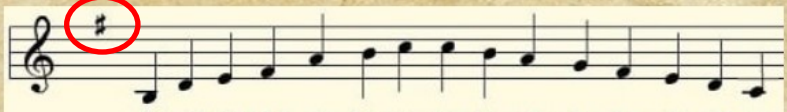
Mārvā



Bhairavi



This raga scale is called Yaman. It belongs to the Kaylan scale because it has a sharp variant of the scale Ma. In European notation this is shown by the #



'N R G M D N S', S' N D P M G R S