



Vocabulary

improvise	to make up music as you go along
call and response	a musical conversation. One part is played and heard, and then is repeated by another part of the orchestra
drone	a long sound that stays the same
rhythm	a regular pattern of beats, sounds or movements
pitched percussion	instruments that can play different notes such as xylophones
unpitched percussion	instruments that make sounds but do not play different notes such as drums

Tabla & Sitar

The tabla and the sita are the two main instruments used as the basis for Indian music. The sitar is a stringed instrument the main instrument which creates the melody. The tabla is a pair of drums that plays the rhythm and beat.



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.

Raga

A raga is a set of musical notes used to make Indian music. It gives musicians a pattern to follow, but they can also improvise. Musicians in India learn ragas by listening to their teachers and imitating them. Ragas are native to India and provide the key elements for Indian classical music.

Indian music uses different scales to most western music.



Key Artist: Ravi Shankar (1920-2012)



Shankur 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.

Other traditional instruments are used in traditional Indian music. Indian music uses the same group of instruments as European music without the brass section.

