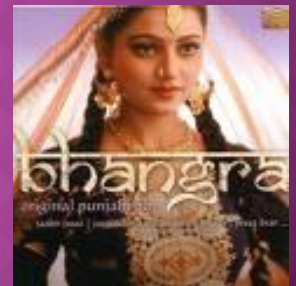


# Area of Study 3

## Indian Classical Music



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ◉ By the end of the lesson you will be able to:
- ◉ Understand the structure of Indian Classical Music
- ◉ Explain the key features in the music

# INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

- ◉ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWTa7g32Ql4>
- ◉ Does the music have a fixed tempo?
- ◉ How are the instruments played?
- ◉ From 8 minutes - Does the tempo change?
- ◉ Are they playing differently?

# FEATURES OF INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

- ◉ Performers play entirely by ear and from memory - they learn from a master performer
- ◉ Performances can last several hours
- ◉ Most of the music is improvised and the performers constantly communicate and respond to each other
- ◉ Three main parts to Indian classical - RAGA, DRONE and TALA

# INDIAN RAGA

What you need to know about Indian Raga :

- ◉ It forms the melody of the music and is based on a scale of notes
- ◉ Is introduced in scale form, then used to improvise over
- ◉ Often played on a sitar

# Drone

- ◉ A repeated note or set of notes, played throughout a section of the music
- ◉ Used to form the harmony
- ◉ Often played on an instrument called a tanpura

# Tala

- ◉ Provides the rhythm in Indian classical music
- ◉ A cycle of beats that is repeated
- ◉ Often played on the tabla

# THE STRUCTURE

Section	Tempo	Metre/ Rhythm	Musical features
<b>Alap</b> (opening section)	Slow / Medative	Free time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◉ soloist 'explores' notes - improvise</li> <li>◉ sets mood</li> <li>◉ accompanied by a drone</li> </ul>
<b>Gat</b> (tabla enters)	Fixed/moderate	Rhythm performed called a tala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◉ fixed composition introduced</li> <li>◉ Still uses improvisation</li> </ul>
<b>Jhalla</b> (fast section)	Fast / Lively	Fast pulse with exciting and complex rhythms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◉ high point in the piece</li> <li>◉ virtuoso display, using advanced playing techniques</li> </ul>

# THE THREE ELEMENTS

## ◉ The Melody:

- This is the set melody on which the music is improvised
- It is a cross between pitch and a scale - however the pitches often differ in each direction
- The notes in a Rag vary - some have 5 notes like a pentatonic scale whilst others have 7 or 8 notes
- There are over 200 different Rags!

## ◉ The Drone:

- The drone is a replacement for a real sense of harmony like Western Music
- The notes are usually the Tonic and Dominant (I - V) of a chosen Rag
- It keeps a sense of tuning/ intonation as a reference point for the melodic parts
- The sound adds

## ◉ Rhythm:

- **The Tabla drums gives repeated rhythmic cycles called Tala**
- The rhythm patterns (bols) are independent of the beat and can be inventive - creating syncopation
- They must however start and end precisely on the first beat of the cycle (called Sam) c