

# East Indian Music

By: Andrew Neville & Brett Clarke

# History

- The history of Indian music dates back to the prehistoric times, its known as one of the oldest musical traditions in the world. Dates back to the era of Vedas. Indian music is a combination of vocal, instrumental, and dance. Indian music is based on ragas (melody and rhythm) which are scales and melodies that provide the foundation of the performance. The goal of raga is to create a trancey state, to make the person dance in an ecstasy like state. Records show that the origin and the development of the ragas dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, which shows that there was only primarily one style of music which is known as Indian Classical music or Sama.

# History

- The main difference between Indian music and most other music forms is that it's not composed by a "composer." Rather the songs have been created years ago and evolved into what they are today. This doesn't really give the personalization of the person playing the song. Another difference is that Indian music is monodic, not polyphonic. Many ragas share the same scale, and melodic theme. There are many different ragas but 6 are considered fundamental, Bhairav, Malkauns, Hindol, Dipak, Megh, and Shree. Ragas can be instrumental or with vocals and many different instruments are used.

# History

<http://www.india->

[history.com/culture/indian-music/](http://www.india-history.com/culture/indian-music/)

<http://www.scaruffi.com/history/indian.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bollywood>

<http://batish.com/catalog/inst/>

[http://www.mustrad.org.uk/reviews/east\\_in\\_d.htm](http://www.mustrad.org.uk/reviews/east_in_d.htm)

# Instruments

- Harmonium – aka (Peti or Baja) One of the more popular instruments, not exactly Indian, came from Europe. It's a reed organ with hand pumped bellows. The number of drone reeds is what makes it Indian.
- [Listen here!](#)
- Sitar – The sitar is a stringed instrument. It uses sympathetic strings along with a hollow neck, and a gourd chamber to produce a rich sound. Used in Hindustani classical style since the middle ages. Can have 21-23 strings.
- [Listen here!](#)



# More Instruments

- Dilruba – Dil means heart, and Ruba means enchanter. Is considered a mixture of the sitar and sarangi. One hand uses a bow while the other slides all the melodies with gamakas.

[Listen here!](#)

- Shehnai – The shehnai is a north Indian oboe. Its referred to as a double reeded instrument when its actually a quadruple reed because it has 2 upper, and 2 lower reeds. It has a wooden body with a brass bell. The reed is attached to a brass tube which is attached to a string.

[Listen here!](#)



# More Instruments

- Vichitra – The vichitra is a stringed instrument with no frets. It is played with a slide like a Hawaiian guitar. It is made of a board, fretless, horizontal arm or crossbar. Usually 3 feet long and 6 inches wide, with four main strings, and 5 secondary strings.

[Listen here!](#)



- Tabla – 2 tuned drums played with the hands. They can vary in size but give a wide range of different pitches and variety. The term comes from the word Sanskrit which means drums.

[Listen here!](#)



# Styles

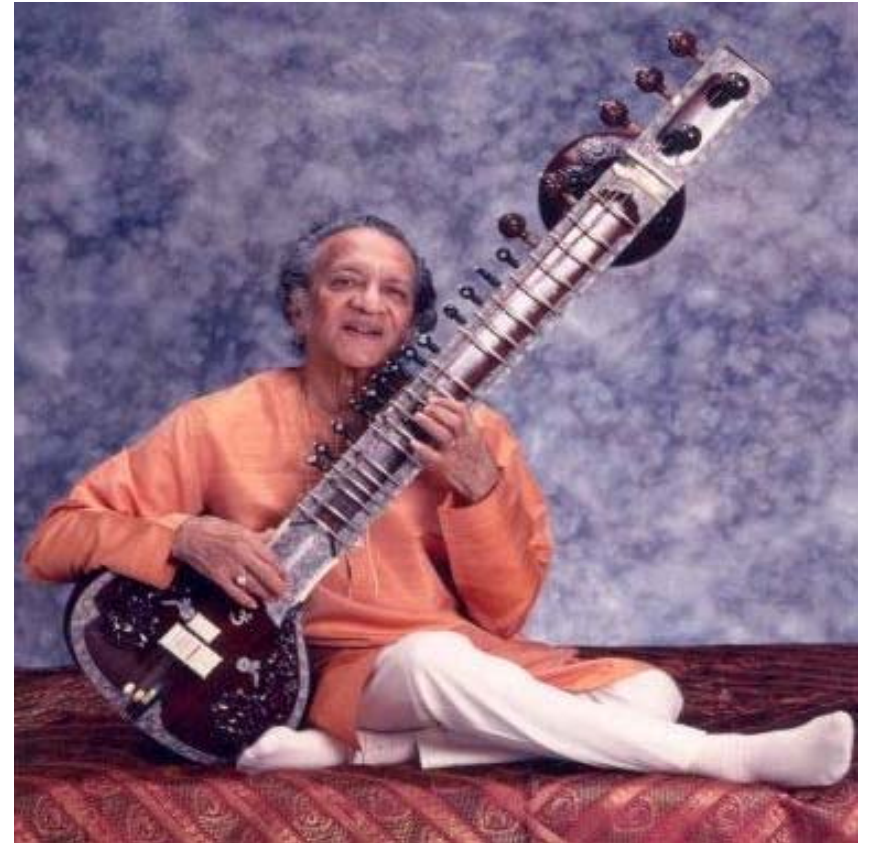
- 2 Main forms of East Indian Classical Music: Hindustani Music, and Carnatic Music.  
Hindustani: Can be either vocal or instrumental. Has been evolving since the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Usually begins with a slow elaboration of music and melody (raga), and it can be either extremely long, or very short. Once the raga is established, the rhythm becomes the main part of the music and gradually speeds up faster. This is when the percussionists and tabla players usually join in. There is a significant amount of persian and arabic influence in Hindustani Music.
- [Example Video](#)

# Carnatic Music

- Similar to Hindustani music, but is commonly improvised, but is more influenced by theory and has stricter rules making it more difficult to play. It emphasizes more on voice than on instruments. The songs are normally faster, and shorter. It starts with an opening piece called “varnam” which is just a warm up for the musicians, followed by a devotion and/or a request for a blessing. Then melody and ornamentation are added to the song which is intermixed with hymns (called krithis). Then it closes with the theme from the raga (called pallavi).
- [Example video](#)

# Ravi Shankar

- India's leading classical composer and sitar player
- Disciple of Allaudin Khan
- Has built a large international fan base through collaborations and performances
- Was one of the performers at the original Woodstock
- Close friends with [George Harrison](#)
- Norah Jones' father
- Found mainstream success in America in Europe
- [Playing](#)
- Today is his birthday

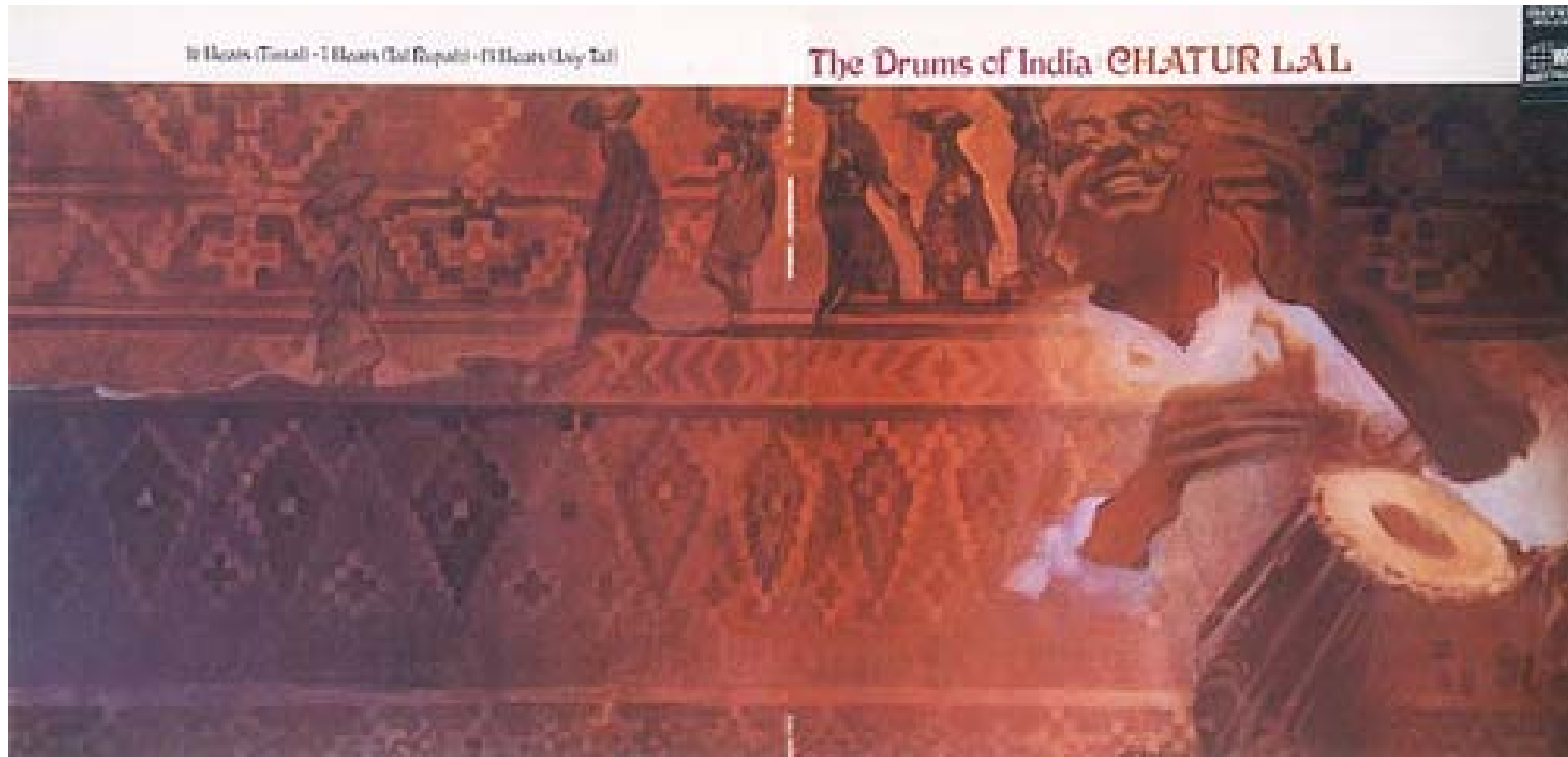


# Ravi Shankar

- Three Ragas (1956)
- Improvisations (1962)
- India's Most Distinguished Musician (1962)
- India's Master Musician (1963)
- In London (1964)
- Ragas & Talas (1964)
- Portrait of Genius (1964)
- Sound of the Sitar (1965)
- Live at Monterey (1967)
- In San Francisco (1967)
- West Meets East (1967)
- At the Monterey Pop Festival (1967)
- The Exotic Sitar and Sarod (1967)
- A Morning Raga / An Evening Raga (1968)
- The Sounds of India (1968)
- In New York (1968)
- Woodstock Festival (1969)
- The Concert for Bangladesh (1971)
- Transmigration Macabre (SOUNDTRACK) (1973)
- Homage to Mahatma Gandhi (1981)
- Rāga-Mälä (Sitar Concerto No. 2) (1982)
- Pandit Ravi Shankar (1986)
- Tana Mana (1987)
- Inside The Kremlin (1988)
- Passages with Philip Glass (1990)
- Concert for Peace: Royal Albert Hall (1995)
- Chants of India (1997)
- Concerto for Sitar & Orchestra with Andre Previn (1999)
- Full Circle: Carnegie Hall 2000 (2001)
- Flowers of India (2007)
- Between Two Worlds (Documentary-directed by [Mark Kidel]) (2001)

# Chatur Lal 1925-1965

- *All My Efforts Have Served A Single Purpose: Sangat Both In Art And Life.*



# Chatur Lal

- Tabla player
- Regarded as being responsible for opening western audiences up to Indian classical music
- No formal education
  
- *“Our little drums are stuck with sticks. However virtuoso they may be, yet compared to the art of the Indian Tabla player, Chatur Lal they sound barbarian. His playing sometimes sound like rhythmically arranged drops of rain, sometimes the finger flew over the membranes like a family of salamanders.”*

# Ali Akbar Khan

[Video!](#)



# Allah Rakha Kahn

- Widely considered to be the greatest tabla player of the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Played Monterey and Woodstock Festivals with Ravi Shakar
- Bridged the gap between Carnati and Hindustani music
- *"Allarakha is the Einstein, the Picasso; he is the highest form of rhythmic development on this planet..."*  
-Mickey Hart, Drummer, The Grateful Dead
- [Solo](#)



# Thank you

- Questions
- Comments?
- Concerns?