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Front

The opening, freely rhythmic period of improvisation of raga performance in Indian classical music.

Back

Alap (also, Alapana)

Front

The first element of the tala in Indian classical music.

Back

Anundrutam

Front

The second section of a kriti vocal performance from South India.

Back

Anupallavi

Front

A South Indian festival.

Back

Aradhana

Front

A transverse flute from North India.

Back

Bansri (also, Bansuri)

Front

A group of itinerant musicians from India, especially noted for their poetry.

Back

Bauls

Front

A small bowl-shaped drum that is one of the pair of North Indian drums known as tabla.

Back

Baya

Front

Devotional songs from India.

Back

Bhajan

Front

A folk dance from the Punjabi region of north India/south Pakistan that is also the basis of a popular music style of the same name that developed in London, England.

Back

Bhangra

Front

A fretted plucked lute considered the origin of other popular lutes in India, such as the sitar.

Back

Bin

Front

An informal name for India's film industry combining "Bombay" and "Hollywood."

Back

Bollywood

Front

Mnemonic syllables corresponding to drums strokes in Indian drumming traditions.

Back

Bols

Front

The final section of a kriti vocal performance from India.

Back

Caranam

Front

A term referring to the cultural traditions of South India.

Back

Carnatic (also, Karnatak)

Front

A system of social organization based on hereditary status found in India.

Back

Caste system

Front

The composed section of vocal performance in Indian classical music.

Back

Chiz

Front

A category of vocal music from India.

Back

Dhrupad

Front

A bowed lute from India.

Back

Dilruba

Front

The second element of the tala in Indian classical music.

Back

Drutam

Front

Popular music taken from films in India.

Back

Filmi (also, Filmi Git)

Front

The composed section of instrumental performance in Indian classical music.

Back

Gat

Front

A string of bells worn around the ankle, commonly associated with the Bauls of South Asia.

Back

Ghunur

Front

A single-stringed chordophone with a membrane base found in India and often associated with the Bauls.

Back

Gopiyatra (also, Ektara)

Front

An American religious music tradition associated with Christian evangelism.

Back

Gospel

Front

A teacher or spiritual guide, primarily associated with Hindu traditions from India.

Back

Guru

Front

The “monkey-hero” in the Indian epic, Ramayana.

Back

Hanuman

Front

A free-reed pump organ.

Back

Harmonium

Front

A term referring to the cultural traditions of northern India.

Back

Hindustani

Front

An instrument from India, consisting of a series of small china bowls each filled/tuned with a different level of water and struck with a small beater.

Back

Jaltarang

Front

The final section of the tala in Indian classical music where the number of beats in the cycle varies.

Back

Jati

Front

Refers to a set of drone strings on Indian chordophones. Also, a reference to the climactic end of the alap section of raga performance in India.

Back

Jhala

Front

A regularizing of the beat in the opening section of raga performance in Indian classical music.

Back

Jor

Front

Indian percussion instrument consisting of a steel rod struck by a horseshoe-shaped beater.

Back

Kartal

Front

A classical dance drama from South India.

Back

Kathakali

Front

A category of vocal music from India.

Back

Khyal

Front

A genre of devotional Hindu poetry from South India.

Back

Kriti

Front

The final element of the tala in Indian classical music.

Back

Laghu

Front

Famous filmi singer from India.

Back

Lata Mangeshkar

Front

A set of rules or guidelines used to compose or improvise music in a particular tradition.

Back

Mode

Front

A barrel-shaped drum from India.

Back

Mridangam

Front

A double-reed aerophone from India.

Back

Nagasvaram

Front

The first section of a kriti vocal performance from India.

Back

Pallavi

Front

Sufi Muslim devotional songs.

Back

Qawwali (also, Kawwali)

Front

A mode or system of rules and expectations for composition and improvisation in Indian classical music.

Back

Raga

Front

The central figure of the Hindu Indian epic Ramayana.

Back

Rama

Front

The mood or sentiment of an artistic expression in India.

Back

Rasa

Front

The villain in the Indian epic Ramayana.

Back

Ravana

Front

A famous musician and composer from India.

Back

Ravi Shankar

Front

A bowed lute from India.

Back

Sarangi

Front

A fretless plucked lute from India.

Back

Sarod

Front

The wife of the Hindu God Rama in the Indian epic Ramayana.

Back

Sita

Front

A fretted plucked lute from India.

Back

Sitar

Front

Mnemonic syllables corresponding to individual pitches in a scale.

Back

Solfege

Front

A set of strings most commonly found on Hindustani Indian chordophones that vibrate “in sympathy” with the vibrations of other strings on the instrument.

Back

Sympathetic strings

Front

A pair of drums found in Hindustani music from India.

Back

Tabla

Front

Rhythmic framework found in raga performance in India.

Back

Tala

Front

A pair of drums from India, often used to accompany the nagasvaram.

Back

Tavil

Front

The entire pattern or set of words (bols) for a given tala in classical Indian music.

Back

Theka

Front

A transverse flute from South India.

Back

Venu

Front

A plucked lute from South India, often associated with the Hindu goddess Saraswati.

Back

Vina