

Hindustani Classical Music of India: A Lecture-Demonstration

Raj Rangayyan: bansuri bamboo flute

The classical music of India has its roots in ancient religious hymns, devotional music, and folk melodies. The fundamental nature of this traditional form of music is melodic, with tonal graces and rhythmic patterns that embellish its presentation. Improvisation and spontaneous elaboration are important and essential aspects that enrich the music as well as facilitate the development of originality and exploration of musical notions.

The lecture-demonstration presents a structured introduction to the classical music of India. Starting with an introduction to the historical and cultural aspects of the music of India, the theoretical basics of Hindustani classical music are described in detail. The presentation is augmented by demonstrations on the bansuri.

The general outline of the *three-hour* lecture-demonstration is as follows:

- Introduction to the historical, cultural, and traditional aspects of the classical music of India.
- The trinity of *svara*, *raga*, and *laya*.
- The concept of the *raga*.
- The characteristics of a *raga*: *aroh*, *avaroh*, *vadi*, *samvadi*, *pakad*, and *alap*.
- Association of *ragas* with mood, sentiment, time of day, and seasons.
- Introduction to the rhythmic patterns in the system of *tala*.
- Development of compositions with *vistar*, *jod*, and *tans*.
- Elaboration, embellishment, improvisation, and creativity with *ragas*.
- Classical music of India as a path for meditation, self improvement, emotional balance, and relaxation.



Raj received training in India from his Gurus Sri K.P. Shenoy on the bansuri bamboo flute and Sri N.R. Rama Rao on the sitar. He has given many performances in India, Canada, and Brazil. In Calgary, he has performed for the University of Calgary, the India-Canada Association and affiliated societies, the Raga Mala Music Society, the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, the City of Calgary, the Glenbow Museum and several other organizations. His arrangements have included innovative combinations of many varieties of instruments and genres of music. He wishes to present and promote the classical music of India in its pure, serene, soothing, and natural acoustic character to facilitate yoga, meditation, contemplation, reflection, and relaxation.

Raj has been performing in Canada for more than 35 years and has produced seven CDs with Hindustani music in a variety of themes. He has provided lecture-demonstrations for courses on South Asia, World Music, and Ethnomusicology at the University of Calgary and several other organizations. His music has been licensed to many prestigious museums as well as yoga and meditation schools. He has collaborated with several musicians of different genres. Raj's seven CDs with 50 compositions are available through iTunes, Google, Spotify, Amazon and many other distributors.

*Relax with ragas – mystical musical structures – that resonate with your environment and state of being.
Experience how classical music can help you be mindful and improve your emotional balance.*

Let Raj's music on the bansuri bamboo flute carry you away into a soothing space that facilitates introspection, contemplation, relaxation, and meditation.

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