

Hindustani Classical Music of India

Lecture-Demonstration and Concert

Raj Rangayyan: *bansuri bamboo flute* and Utpal Mazumdar: *tabla*

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 to the limits of one's capabilities.

The lecture-demonstration presents a structured and detailed introduction to the essence of the classical music of India. Starting with an introduction to the historical, religious, 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 and tabla. The demonstrations include short musical passages to illustrate each concept or notion, as well as detailed compositions to demonstrate the development of an elaborate rendition. Detailed notes are available.

The general outline of the 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, relaxation, enjoyment of life, and realization of peace.

The three-hour lecture-demonstration is complemented with a two-hour concert for a five-hour event.

Visit: rangayyan.ca **Contact:** raj_rangayyan@shaw.ca utpal.mazumdar@shaw.ca

Hindustani Classical Music of India

for Contemplation, Relaxation, Meditation, and Yoga

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



*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*

Raj received training in India from his Gurus Sri K.P. Shenoy on the bansuri bamboo flute and from 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 Calgary Multicultural Centre, and the Glenbow Museum. 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.

Utpal was trained in the tradition of classical music of India. He is proficient in tabla, pakhawaj, and other musical instruments. He actively promotes awareness of world music by collaborating in fusion and new age music genres. He conducts music appreciation workshops and lecture demonstrations in South Asian Studies in educational institutions and regularly performs in world music ensembles on radio, television, and on the stage. He also trains in voice, rhythms, and chants for meditation and yoga groups. Utpal has coproduced and has been credited in several albums featuring Jazz, Flamenco, Celtic, Bluegrass, Latino, and Choir music.

Raj and Utpal have been performing together in Canada for more than 30 years and have produced seven CDs with Hindustani music in a variety of themes. They have provided guest lecture-demonstrations in courses on South Asia, World Music, and Ethnomusicology at the University of Calgary. Their music has been licensed to several prestigious museums as well as yoga and meditation schools. They have collaborated with several musicians of different genres, and firmly believe that music transcends all boundaries! Their seven CDs with 50 tracks are available through iTunes, Google, Spotify, Amazon and other distributors.

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