

## Mystical Melodies

A proposal for an evening concert with Raj on the Bansuri bamboo flute and Utpal on the tabla

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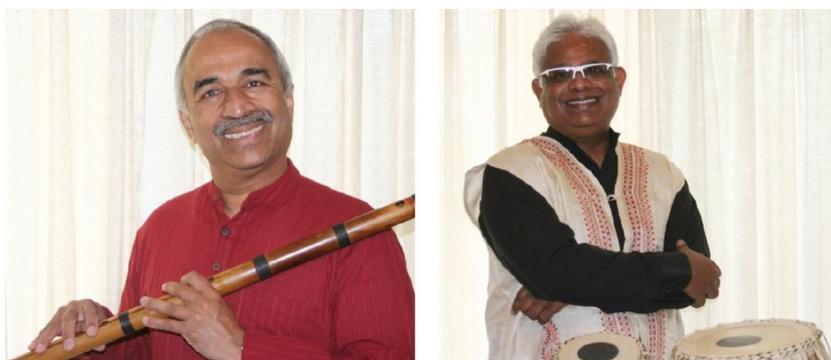
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The ragas that form the basis of the Hindustani classical music of India evoke moods, feelings, and sentiments in ways not experienced with other types of music.

Why and how do the mere acoustical wave patterns of musical notes affect us in such profound manners?

How can the signatures of ragas etch distinct melodic and spiritual messages in our minds that are neither apparent to our auditory senses nor obvious to our intellect?



**Raj and Utpal present** a collection of enigmatic ragas and mystical melodies, each one of which creates a particular mood and conveys a unique sentiment. Immerse yourself in the serene and soothing ambience of ragas. Let the melodies resonate with your feelings. Experience how ragas can help you relax, meditate, contemplate, improve your emotional balance, and enjoy life!

The evening concert will begin with a meditative and contemplative sunset raga such as Puriya, Shri, and Puriya Kalyan. This will be followed by melodious compositions in soothing ragas such as Gorakh, Narayani, Hamsadhvani, Bageshri, Jog, Kaushik dhvani, and Kirvani. The concert will be completed with a few lilting lighter and devotional compositions in charming ragas such as Bhupali, Yaman Kalyan, Shankara, Maru Bihag, Mand, Sohini, and Kalavati. Each concert is designed and developed to suit the particular audience, ambience, and situation. The emphasis in our presentation is always on melodic elaboration maintaining the purity of the ragas and the Hindustani classical tradition.

Raj received training on the bamboo flute "bansuri" from Sri K.P. Shenoy and on the sitar from Sri N.R. Rama Rao in India. He has given many performances in India, Canada, and Brazil, including events for the University of Calgary, the India-Canada Association, the Raga Mala Music Society, 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 providing concerts and lecture-demonstrations in Canada for more than 30 years. Their seven CDs with 50 compositions are available through iTunes, Google, Spotify, Amazon and many other distributors.