

राग रंग

The colours of Indian classical music

Music of India is said to be one of the oldest unbroken musical traditions in the world. Many different legends have grown concerning its origin and development. This infographic reveals some of the cultural and scientific secrets behind Indian classical music

स्वर

Swar: Those shrutis which can easily be recognised and reproduced. They are the building blocks of music. There are 7 natural swars (शुद्ध स्वर) सा रे ग म प ध नि, their altered flats (कोमल स्वर) रे ग ध नि and sharps (तीव्र स्वर) म, adding to a total of 12. Each swar has its own personality, determined by its colour, mood, age and origin

नाद श्रुति

Naad: Musical sounds. All naads are said to originate from the Bramha Naad or Om (ॐ)
Shruti: Those naads which we can clearly hear and distinguish. There are 22 shrutis

पूर्वांग poorvang

these swars dominate the 2nd half of the day

उत्तरांग uttarang

these swars dominates the 1st half of the day

१२ noon

१२ midnight

१२ noon

सा रे ग म प ध नि सां

70	60	50	40	30	20	10
240	300	3375	360	405	450	480
do	re	me	fa	so	la	ti
षडज Shadaj or 'Sa' is the sound of a peacock. It means 'ocean' and is dominated by mercury and the colour green	ऋषभ Rishabh or 'Re' is the sound of a skylark. It means 'undefeatable' and is dominated by mars and the colour red	गंधार Gandhar or 'Ga' is the sound of a goat. It means 'sky' and is dominated by the sun and the colour golden	मध्यम Madhyam or 'Ma' is the sound of a crane. It means 'middle' and is dominated by the moon and the colour white	पंचम Pancham or 'Pa' is the sound of a cuckoo. It means 'fifth' and is dominated by saturn and the colour blue	धैवत Dhaivat or 'Dha' is the sound of a snake. It means earth and is dominated by jupiter and the colour yellow	निषाद Nishad or 'Ni' is the sound of an elephant. It means hunter and is dominated by venus and is multi-coloured

This dot represents the higher octave (तार सतक). Similarly, the lower octave (मंद सतक) is represented by a dot below the swar

If the swar was a man, it would be these many years old

Vibrations per second

Equivalent in Western solfège

राग

Raag: A musical composition built from 5 to 7 swars. There are more than a thousand raags, each derived from the 10 thaats. Raags are associated with different times of the day depending upon the moods that specific notes or combinations evoke. It is believed that only in this period the Raag appears to be at the height of its melodic beauty and majestic splendor. A few popular raags with their time periods are listed below

थाट

Thaat: Parent scales containing 7 swars from which all the raags are born. The 10 basic thaats form the basis for organisation of the raags in North Indian classical music. Each that is also a raag. It is associated with a particular time of the day, as are the raags under it

संध्या evening

- खमाज Khamaj
- दुर्गा Durga
- तिलक कामोद Tilak Kamod
- नट बिहाग Nat Bihag
- देस Des
- हम्सध्वनि Hamsdhwani
- यमन Yaman
- मल्हार Malhar
- भूपाली Bhupali
- केदार Kedar

रात्रि night

- काफी Kafi
- बागेश्री Bageshri
- दरबारी कानडा Darbari Kanada
- अडाना Adana
- मालकोन्स Malkauns

संधिप्रकाश dusk

- मारवा Marwa
- पूर्वा Poorva
- जेत Jait
- गौरी Gauni
- पूर्वी Poorvi
- श्री Shri
- पूर्वा धनाश्री Poorva Dhanashri
- दीपक Deepak

संधिप्रकाश dawn

- भटयार Bhatiyar
- भंकार Bhanakar
- ललित Lalit
- भैरव Bhairav
- कलिंगडा Kalingada
- गुणकली Gunkali
- रामकली Ramkali

दोपहर afternoon

- पीलू Peelu
- ब्रिंदावनी सारंग Brindavani Sarang
- भीमपलासी Bheempalasi
- आसावरी Asawari
- जौनपुरी Jaunpuri
- देसी Desi
- भैरवी Bhairavi
- बिलास्थानी तोड़ी Bilaskhani Todi
- धनाश्री Dhanashri

प्रातः morning

- बिलावल Bilawal
- देशकर Deshkar
- देवगिरी Devgiri
- हिन्दोल Hindol
- मुद्राकी Mudraaki
- तोड़ी Todi
- बहादुरी तोड़ी Bahaduri Todi
- लीलावती Leelavati
- तोड़ी Todi
- लौलावती Leelavati

ऋतु

Ritu (season): some raags are associated with a particular season. During this season the raags can be sung at any time of the day

- बसंत spring
- शरद autumn
- शीष्म summer
- हेमंत mild winter
- वर्षा monsoon
- शिशिर extreme winter

१२ noon

रस

ras (mood): raags can evoke different emotions in the listener as well as the singer. some raags may produce many emotions

- अदभुत delightful
- शृंगार romantic
- रोद्र angry
- भयानक scary
- हास्य comic
- बिभत्स grotesque
- वीर heroic
- करुणा, शान्त compassionate, peaceful