

Year 4 – Indian Music

Learning Progression

The children will explore the key elements of Indian classical music, including ragas, tal, drones, and alaps. They will compose their own raga, learning to select and arrange notes to express a particular mood. Students will add a drone to accompany their raga, practice playing a simple tal (rhythmic cycle), and improvise an alap (slow, free-form introduction).

- 1 – Introduction to Indian Music
- 2 – Composing a Raga
- 3 – Understanding Tal
- 4 – Adding a Drone
- 5 – Improvising an Alap
- 6 – Performance and appraisal

Key Vocabulary	
Raga	A musical mode or scale in Indian classical music
Tal	A rhythmic cycle used in Indian Classical music
Drone	A continuous sound that support the melody
Alap	The slow, improvised introduction of a raga
Swaras	The notes used in a raga
Teentaal	A 16 beat tal commonly used in Indian music

Sticky learning

New Knowledge	New Skills
<p>Introduction to raga, tal, drone, and alap</p> <p>Understand the Structure and mood of a raga</p> <p>Learn about rhythmic cycles (tal) and common examples like Teentaal</p> <p>Understand the role of a drone in supporting the raga.</p> <p>Explore the concept of alap as an improvised introduction to raga.</p> <p>Combine all elements learnt and create a performance using raga, drone, tal and alap.</p>	<p>Listen to examples of ragas and tal</p> <p>Compose a single raga using a selected set of notes</p> <p>Practise clapping and playing a simple tal</p> <p>Practice using a drone</p> <p>Improvise an alap based on a raga</p> <p>Perform the raga with drone and tal, improvise an alap.</p>

The sitar – A stringed instrument played upright that can play chords (like a guitar).

The tanpura – A stringed instrument, similar to the sitar but with four strings, which plays long held notes.

The tabla – A type of drum played with hands.

