

Exploring sound & music through Dhrupad

Schedule and contents

Day 1 (24 Aug)

19:00 - 20:30 IST : Introductory session - Meet&Greet, followed by introduction to first module:

Voice culture, melodic fundamentals and introduction to scale of Raga Bhoopali

Developing the vocal instrument is a major focus area in Dhrupad - usage of breath, usage of body posture & resonators, pronunciation, stability, building vocal resonance.

Building perception of melodic pitch and the fundamental ingredients of music - musical notes - through effective engagement of aural awareness and memory. Understanding the Tanpura - the most crucial reference sound for all Indian music - and learning to sing with it.

Learning the notes of Raga Bhoopali (major pentatonic scale), and building familiarity with the scale. The rest of the workshop will use the template of Raga Bhoopali to cover the other topics.

Day 2 (25 Aug)

19:00 - 20:30 IST : Coaching session 1.1

Day 3 (26 Aug)

-rest day-

Day 4 (27 Aug)

19:00 - 20:20 IST : Teaching session 2

Melodic frameworks and exercises

Central to creating music of any form is the idea of arrangements and building patterns with the musical notes. A form of music like Dhrupad, that has evolved over many centuries, comes with a wonderful toolkit of practices and exercises that allow us to build this ability. This stage is also essential to be able to sing a Raga and/ or improvise.

21:00 - 22:00 IST : Coaching session 2.1

Day 5 (28 Aug)

-rest day-

Day 6 (29 Aug)

19:00 - 20:20 IST : Teaching session 3

Time perception and rhythm

Temporality is as central to music as is melody. Time treatment can be implicit (not divided into distinct measurable pulses) or explicit (clearly divided into distinct pulses). We will explore practices and exercises to develop our sense of time perception, measurement and execution. After learning to build rhythms and grooves, we will look at basic methods of integrating melody with rhythm through some models that the Dhrupad form contains.

21:00 - 22:00 IST : Coaching session 3.1

Day 7 (30 Aug)

19:00 - 20:30 IST : Coaching session 3.2

Day 8 (31 Aug)

-rest day-

Day 9 (1 Sep)

19:00 - 20:20 IST : Teaching session 4

Raga and alap

The phenomenon of Raga is very unique to Indian music and is a fascinating approach to creating music. We will look at some of the philosophical and musical constructs of the Raga, and learn to engage with Raga Bhoopali in more detail. We will learn the syllables used in Dhrupad alap. The alap is the non-lyrical exposition of a Raga, and we will learn the methods of creating this kind of improvisatory music building on the previous exercises.

21:00 - 22:00 IST : Coaching session 4.1

Day 10 (2 Sep)

19:00 - 20:30 IST : Coaching session 4.2

Day 11 (3 Sep)

-rest day-

Day 12 (4 Sep)

19:00 - 20:20 IST : Teaching session 5

Tala and bandish : Rhythm cycle and composition

Where alap can be looked as pure science, bandish becomes an applied science. It is a compilation of sorts of the rhythmic and melodic frameworks we engage with that takes the shape of a “song” set to a particular rhythm cycle, with poetry composed to a tune in a particular Raga. We will engage with the Tala (rhythm cycle) and learn a Dhrupad composition in Raga Bhoopali, with an introduction to “upaj” or improvised extrapolation of the composition.

21:00 - 22:00 IST : Coaching session 5.1

Day 13 (5 Sep)

19:00 - 20:30 IST : Coaching session 4.2

Day 14 (6 Sep)

19:00 - 21:00 IST : Concluding session