

Raag-time: Incorporating Non-Western Musical Traditions

Omar Roy, DMA, NCTM

Assistant Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy

University of South Carolina

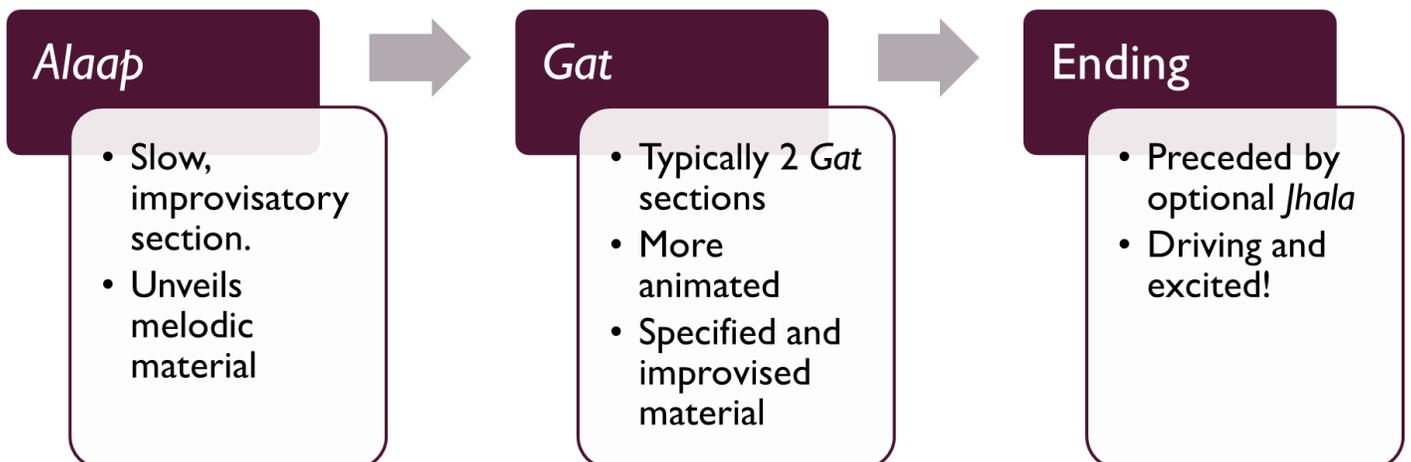
2022 MTNA National Conference

What is a Raag?

- Genre within the tradition of Indian Classical Music (ICM).
 - Structured Improvisation
 - Different Raags for different times of day
 - Scales unique to that part of the world
- Instrumentation
 - Melodic instruments: Sitar, Bansuri
 - “Continuo”: Tanpura, Harmonium
 - Percussion: Pakhawaj

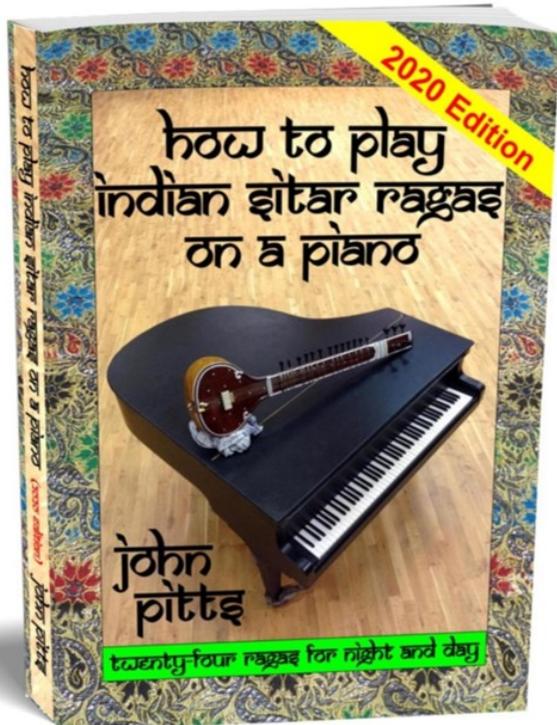


Structure



Adaptations

- William Hamilton Bird, *The Oriental Miscellany: Airs of Hindustan* (1789)
- John Pitts (b. 1976)
 - [*How to Play Indian Sitar Ragas on a Piano: Twenty-Four Ragas for Night and Day* \(2016, revised 2020\)](#)
 - [*Indian Ragas for Piano Made Easy* \(2018, revised 2020\)](#)



- Intermediate to Advanced
- Very detailed
- Excellent for serious study



- Elementary to Intermediate
- Notated examples as a guide
- Excellent place to start

Pedagogical Uses

- Authentic exploration of the musical traditions of other cultures
- Experimenting with improvisation
- Collaboration
- Independence of hands
- Development of Aural Skills