

Hi everyone!

CI Music Hour Recap (9/16/21)

Last week Robin Sukhadia joined our group to share with us the beauty of the tabla- a percussion instrument central to North Indian musical culture. Robin is a Los Angeles based artist and composer who has been teaching and studying tabla for several years.

After beginning his presentation with a beautiful performance of the tabla, Robin provided the group with a brief history of the instrument. We learned that the tabla is the product of both Islamic and Hindu culture. This fusion resulted from the Persian invasion of North India during the mid 1700s and the Persian's exposure to Hindu culture. The tabla that we know today is a result of the influences from both of these cultures.

We learned about the many differences and similarities between Indian and Western classical music. A notable similarity between the two include how both music cultures use seven major notes, along with sharps and flats. Contrastingly, the human voice and solo performance is central to Indian music while this is not always true for Western classical music. Additionally, Indian music is strongly connected to nature, so much so that there are different types of music that are only played at certain times of day or during certain seasons.

Music played on the tabla is composed of both melodic and rhythmic components. The rhythm is referred to as "tala" and the melody is referred to as "raga." Robin recited words as he played the tabla for the group, which we later learned were the note names within the specific raga (or melody) that he was playing. There are several combinations of notes that can be combined to create specific phrases (or note patterns) that are typical in Indian classical music. We learned that each of these note cycles has a specific structure, function, and name. Robin demonstrated one cycle for us called "TeenTaal" which consists of sixteen beats.

While there is much to learn about this type of music, we were able to appreciate a snapshot of the tabla and Indian classical music with Robin.

Some members of the group shared that the sound of the tabla sounded "crisp" or "clear" to them with their CIs, perhaps because of its percussive quality. If you would like to continue listening to Indian classical music, you can do so with this playlist that Robin put together for the group!

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/08pkb0Nu1NoSYRKynSaHSb?si=vFf0hfx-RvWDNZGzSPmxA&dl_branch=1&nd=1. You can also check out Robin's website at www.tablapusher.com.

Additionally, for those of you who asked for Robin's slides, they are attached to this email below.

Upcoming CI Music Hour (9/23/21)

Tomorrow, we welcome French horn player, Garret Law! His bio is below:

Garrett Law is currently the Fourth Horn of the Omaha Symphony and Second Horn of the South Dakota Symphony. Garrett has also performed with the Nashville Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra, Arkansas Symphony, Dallas Winds, and was the 2015 MTNA Young Artist National Brass Competition winner. Prior to moving to Nebraska Garrett was an active private teacher and freelancer in the greater Dallas/Fort Worth area where he also received a master's degree at Southern Methodist University studying with Greg Hustis and Haley Hoops. Garrett received his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University studying with Leslie Norton. Garrett and his partner Doug, a trombonist, currently reside in Alexandria, Virginia with their ginger tabby cat named Duck.

Looking forward to seeing everyone tomorrow!

Julianne & Chrysa