

Vocabulary

Call and response - a musical conversation. An idea is heard and then repeated by a different section of the orchestra.

Coda - the 'ending'.

Drone - one long, continuous sound (pitched or unpitched) that is present throughout a piece, usually at the bottom of the texture.

Improvise - make it up on the spot!

Pitched percussion - percussion instruments that can play different pitches – xylophones, glockenspiels, chime bars, etc.

Raga - a special scale used in Indian music, different to the major or minor scales used in western music.

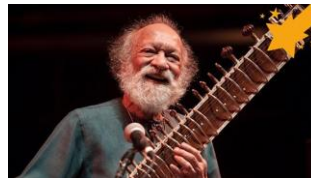
Unpitched percussion - percussion instruments that can only make a limited number of sounds – drums, shakers, woodblocks, tambourines, etc.

Symphony (Finale) – Ravi Shankar

What are the features of Indian music?



About the composer:



Born in 1920 and considered the most famous sitar player of all time, trailblazer Ravi Shankar shared his passion for the sound and traditions of Hindustani classical music with the whole world.

In his early years, Shankar travelled to Paris, performing in his older brother's dance group. During the group's tours of Europe and the USA, Shankar heard Western orchestras and jazz music.

Shankar gave up dancing to study Hindustani classical music and, by the mid 1950s, was playing the sitar in concerts around the world.

Shankar collaborated with many people, including violinist Yehudi Menuhin and composer Philip Glass. He also inspired The Beatles to use the sound of the sitar in their recordings.

Prior learning

Work in KS1 on untuned percussion and rhythm, listening to and appraising a variety of classical music, playing tuned and untuned percussion in the Wider Opps Scheme.

Interesting ideas:

Two of the key ideas of Hindustani classical music (raga and tala) are found in the finale of Ravi Shankar's Symphony.

The sitar and orchestra play melodies based on a raga (a pattern or selection of notes that form the basis of a composition) inspired by the Banjara people of India.

Shankar also takes tala (rhythmic cycles) that would normally be performed on the tabla or drums and shares them out among many different orchestral instruments, like the xylophone and the French horns.

Useful links:

Follow this link to listen to 'Symphony (Finale)' by Ravi Shankar.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-ravi-shankar-symphony-finale/znk8bdm>