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

- **Alaap**
  - Slow, improvisatory section.
  - Unveils melodic material

- **Gat**
  - Typically 2 Gat sections
  - More animated
  - Specified and improvised material

- **Ending**
  - Preceded by optional Jhala
  - Driving and excited!
Adaptations

- 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)

Pedagogical Uses

- Intermediate to Advanced
- Very detailed
- Excellent for serious study
- Elementary to Intermediate
- Notated examples as a guide
- Excellent place to start

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