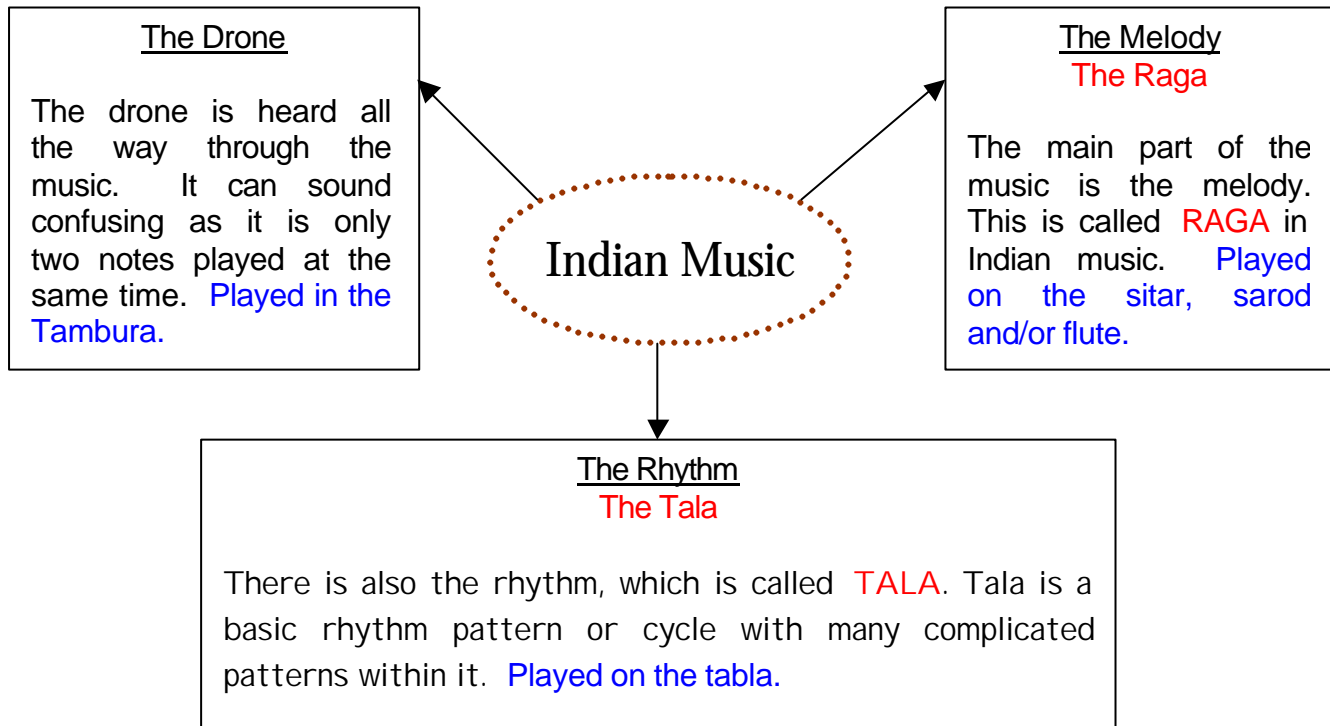


Indian Music



Indian music is made up of three main parts. Different instruments play each part. Read the diagram below to find out more,



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Test your understanding so far.

1. How many different parts is Indian Music made up of?
2. What is a raga?
3. What is a tala?
4. Which instrument plays the drone and explain what a drone is?
5. How is the tala different to Western rhythms?

Indian Instruments

The Sitar



The Sitar is a stringed instrument. It is one of the most common Indian instruments and is used for solo improvisation. It has a gourd sound box and a long neck with movable frets. There are seven main strings. One is used as the main melody string while others play drone notes. This main string is often pulled to bend notes. There are also 'sympathetic' strings tuned to the notes of the raga. These are not played but vibrate, giving the sitar its characteristic sound.

A plucked stringed instrument without frets, made from a hollowed out piece of wood covered with a skin and metal fingerboard. The strings are plucked with plectrums.

The Sarod



Tabla



Tabla is the most popular Indian percussion instrument. Tabla is a set of two drums with leather heads and leather straps for tuning. Different parts of the drumhead make different sounds, which are produced by the skilful combinations of finger movement as the table player improvises around the tabla.

The Tambura



The Tambura is a drone instrument, similar in shape to the sitar. It is played vertically and has only four strings, each tuned to the drone notes.