

Entrainment and interaction in Hindustani raga performance

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Durham University, UK

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Abstract:

In this paper we will draw together a number of strands in our recent research on the performance of Hindustani classical music, particularly as they relate to the themes of entrainment and interaction. In the first part we introduce the concept of interpersonal entrainment, the mechanism by which different individuals in a group coordinate their actions in time. How can this topic shed light on Indian music's performance dynamics, and the structures involved in the music? We then broaden the discussion out to the theme of interpersonal interaction more broadly. Beyond the dynamics of synchronisation that allow musicians to play in time with each other, numerous other factors play a role in ensemble performance: leader-follower relationships, and various musical and social hierarchies are all involved in the realisation of a successful (or unsuccessful) performance. The talk will be illustrated with examples from our own collection of concert recordings.

About the Speakers:

Martin Clayton is Professor in Ethnomusicology at Durham University. He studied at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, and is a former sitar student of Deepak Choudhury (Maihar gharana). His research interests include Hindustani classical music, rhythmic analysis, musical entrainment and embodiment, comparative musicology and early field recordings, British-Asian music and Western music in India.

Dr Laura Leante is a Lecturer in Ethnomusicology at Durham University. She studied ethnomusicology at the University of Rome "La Sapienza". Her doctoral research focussed on the issues of meaning and cross-cultural reception of music in British Asian repertoires. Her research interests range over Indian classical and folk music, music of the South Asian diaspora, performance analysis, music and globalisation, popular music, and music semiotics.

Clayton and Leante have worked together extensively since 2003 on topics in the performance of Hindustani classical music. They have worked with many established and up and coming musicians, including the late Veena Sahasrabuddhe, Manjiri Asanare-Kelkar, Nayan Ghosh, Debashish Bhattacharya, Kushal Das, Murad Ali Khan, Vishwanath and Seema Shirodkar and many others.