# A CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR INDIAN MUSIC LITERATURE

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There exists a sizeable volume of literature on Indian music in the form of manuscripts, books, periodicals, pamphlets etc., in the various Indian languages, in English and also in some of the European languages. In addition to these, phonorecords and tapes, now available for Indian music, although comparatively newer media of communication, are invaluable sources of information. With the increasing attention being paid to research and teaching, this fairly vast body of literature is likely to grow in the future. It is, therefore, imperative that this material is properly organised, systematically listed and made available to scholars for their pursuit of study and research. That proper bibliographical control of literature and good library services are essential infrastructure facilities for any kind of research activity, is a well recognised and accepted fact. In order to organise library and documentation services on an efficient basis, increasing attention is being given to improving the various tools and techniques of library service and documentation. Researches are going on to press the electronic computers into service for speedy dissemination of information in many scientific disciplines including library operation. Techniques of classification, cataloguing, indexing, abstracting etc., are also being constantly improved to suit the increasing needs of the times. This paper deals with one of these techniques, namely, classification as applied to Indian music. The present attempt is a preliminary effort to develop a scheme of classification for Indian music, choosing Karnatak music for this exercise and experimentation.

# **Classification Schemes for Music**

Classification schedules for Western music have been more or less well developed in general classification schemes such as the Dewey Decimal

#### SANGEET NATAK

classification and the Library of Congress classification. Special schemes, exclusively for music, have also been prepared by Lionel McColvin and more recently by Coates. The British Catalogue of Music which systematically brings out a classified list of Western music every quarter and cumulated annually, uses the system of classification designed by Coates. While many alternatives are available for classifying literature on Western music, none of these schemes give any treatment to Indian music. Indeed it is impossible to use any of these schemes for classifying Indian music literature. The only attempt is that of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the National Research Professor in Library Science and the author of the well known Colon classification. He has given a skeleton schedule for Indian music, indicating generally the lines on which the schedule could be further developed. But even this requires to be looked at afresh. In this context, there is undoubtedly an urgent need to work on the design of a classification scheme for Indian music.

#### Methodology for Design

The method followed here for the design of this schedule is based on the ideas propounded by Dr. Ranganathan. According to this method, the terms (concepts) relating to a particular subject are first collected as exhaustively as possible and thereafter grouped into homogeneous categories (Facets), the groups themselves being mutually exclusive. Each one of the groups is further divided to form again mutually exclusive subgroups and this process is continued until a point is reached when no more division is ever possible. The groups and sub-groups thus formed are arranged in a helpful order, which should fairly reflect the approach of the majority of specialists in that subject. In this way a structure is built up displaying the relations existing between the different concepts. The classification schedule will then consist of separate unit schedules listing the different concepts under the facets chosen for the subject. Notational symbols are given to each one of the concepts listed, in order to mechanise the order of sequence arrived at. When a document is to be classified the symbols standing for these particular concepts are related according to set rules.

## The Proposed Schedule

In this proposed scheme, music is first divided to form two major systems viz. Melodic and Harmonic systems.<sup>1</sup> Indian music which falls under the category of the former is again grouped into Karnatak and Hindustani music. The possible facets that could be taken into consideration for grouping the concepts under Karnatak music literature are as follows: (These concepts have been collected from a number of sources, the list of which is given in the bibliography at the end).

Other major systems where musical material is arranged differently — e.g. Indonesian music — could also be included. — B.C.D.

Facets	Examples of divisions
Common Subdivisions	Dictionary, Encyclopaedia, History, Education
Techniques	Composition, Performance
Elements	Sruti, Svara, Mela, Raga
Character	Folk music, Dance music, Drama music
Form	Gita, Varna, Kriti
Executant	(Medium through which music is produced) Vocal, Instrumental
Composer	Tyagaraja, Dikshitar, Shyama Sastri
Style	(Bani)

It is to be examined whether the language of compositions should be taken as a Facet or to be treated in any different way.

The same Facets could be used for developing the schedules for Hindustani music. In fact, as there are many common points between Karnatak and Hindustani music, the divisions of the 'Facets', 'Elements', 'Character' and 'Techniques' could, perhaps be, the same for both these types.

The order of arrangement of the Facets cited above is the next important decision to be taken. As the desirable arrangement of any subject would be to proceed from the general to the specific, it is expected the order of the Facets as cited above, will meet this necessary requirement.

Brief schedules for each one of the Facets are developed. No attempt is made here to make these schedules very exhaustive, although nearly 2,000 concepts have been collected. The 'Facets,' 'Elements', 'Form' and 'Character' are examined in some detail.

#### Notation

The symbols used for the schedules given in this paper are very tentative and are merely meant to help the arrangement of terms collected, to display their filiatory sequences. Roman small and caps and Indo-Arabic numerals are used to represent the different divisions.

## Classification of documents

Most topics in music, as in other subjects, comprise a number of components such as the composer, a composition, its form, character, its *raga*, *tala*. For example, the subject Utsava sampradaya kritis of Tyagaraja is made up of terms Utsava sampradaya (Character), Kriti (Form), Collection (a Common Subdivision) and Tyagaraja (Composer). Each of these terms is given an individual symbol which could be combined to form a class number which would represent the composite subject. The class number for this, according the schedule developed here, is

8HAIFL67D5C8kx

Where 8HA1 stand for Karnatak music, FL67 for Tyagaraja, D5 for Utsava Sampradaya, C8 for Kriti and kx for collections.

In this way all the factors in a composite subject can be coded and arranged in a systematic order. By means of a specially constructed complementary alphabetical index, any of the elements in any composite subject can be easily traced.

The schedule and a brief list of about 100 entries featuring some selected books and articles on different topics are given in two separate sections.

In this paper, concentration has been mainly on the choice of the first facets and their sequence, in working out the divisions of the 'Facets 'Elements', 'Form' and 'Character'.

## Classification schedule for Indian Music Literature

Facets and their order

- a z Common Subdivision
- Α Technique B Elements С Character D Form Ε Executant F Composer G Style Bani (Gharana) Η School Indian
  - Karnatak Hindustani
- J Systems Melodic Harmonic

System	School	Style	Composer	Executant	Form	Character	Elements	Technique	Common subdivision
J	н	G	F	E	D	С	В	A	a-z

The terms enumerated in this schedule, representing the different concepts, are in the Indian languages and in English. No standardisation has been attempted here. The terme are given as they are found in the various sources. Note : sources.

#### **Common Subdivisions**

## General Works

- a Bibliography
- ь Dictionary

## DOCUMENTATION

- Encyclopaedia С
- Periodical d
- Serial e
- f Composite works, Conference proceedings
- History g h
  - Biography

General

- Individual
- k Illustration, pictorial materials, etc.
- Collection, Selection kx
- Terminology m
- Notation n
  - 1 Solfa
  - 2 Staff
- Study of music, music education р
  - 1 Education at different levels
  - 2 Teaching
  - 3 Curriculum
  - 6 Research
- Organization q
  - 1 Library
  - 2 Music academy, Society, association, etc.
- Music profession r
- Patrons of music s
- t Music festivals
  - Music in relation to other subjects
- W Music compared with another subject
- Music expounding another subject W
- Music influencing another subject х
- Music expounded by another subject У
- Music influenced by another subject z
  - A Technique
- Α 1 Composition
  - 2 Performance
    - 21 Accompaniment
  - B Elements of
  - Nada 1
    - 2 Anhata Ahata
      - 1 Sruti
        - 2 Svara
        - 3 Grama
          - Shadja grama 1
          - 2 Madhyama grama
          - Gandhara grama 3

- 4 Murchana
- 5 Jati
- 6 Mela (That)
- 1 Raga
  - Raga Lakshana
- 2 Raga classification systems
  - 1 Grama Murchana Jati System
  - 2 Suddha Chayalaga Sankirna System
  - 3 Raga Ragini parivara system
  - 4 Janaka Janya system
  - 5 Melakarta system (Sampurna mela paddhati)
  - 6 Asampoorna mela paddhati
  - 7 Classification based on gana kala

Further subdivisions of Melakarta system (For Karnatak Music) 1 Chakras

1 Indu

5

6

- 2 Melakarta ragas to be enumerated under Notra 3 Agni each chakra
- 4 Veda

Bana

Rutu

Janya ragas to be enumerated under each

- raga alphabetically
- 7 Rishi
- 8 Vasu
- 9 Brahma
- 91 Disi
- 92 Rudra
- 93 Aditya

Further Subdivision of Janaka Janya system as expounded by Nagamat-e-Asfi and Pandit Bhatkhande (Hindustani Music).

- 1 Bilaval 2 Kalayan Janya ragas to be enumerated under each 3 Khambai
  - that a melas
- 4 **Bhaira**v
- 5 Poorvi
- 6 Marva
- 7 Bhairavi
- 8 Asavari
- 9 Kafi
- 91 Todi
- 7 Tala
  - 1 Units of tala
    - - 1 Matra
      - 2 Akshara

## DOCUMENTATION

- Talganas
  - 1 Anudrata
  - 2 Druta
  - 3 Laghu
  - 4 Guru
  - 5 Pluta
  - 6 Kakapada
- 3 Sapta tala
  - 1 Dhruva
  - 2 Matya
  - 3 Rupaka
  - 4 Jhampa
  - 5 Triputa
  - 6 Ata
  - 7 Eka
- 4 Tala jati
  - 1 Tisra
  - 2 Chatusra
  - 3 Khanda
  - 4 Misra
  - 5 Sankirna
- 5 35 talas to be enumerated under Sapta tala
- 6 175 *talas* obtained on the basis of *gati bheda* to be enumerated alphabetically
- 7 108 talas
- 8 Other talas
  - 81 Chapu tala
    - 1 Tisra chapu
    - 2 Khanda chapu
    - 3 Misra chapu
    - 4 Sankirna chapu
    - 91 Desadi Tala
    - 92 Madhyadi Tala
    - 93 Navasandhi Tala
  - 94 Pitch
  - 95 Intensity
  - 97 Duration
  - 98 Gamaka
    - 1 Dasavidha Gamaka
    - 2 Pancha dasa gamaka
  - 9A Tonic
  - 9B Drone

79

- C Character
- 1 Folk music
- 2 Music of various stages of life cycles 1 Childhood (Lullabies — Talattu)
- 3 Music of various occupational groups
- 4 Music to accompany activities
- 5 Music to accompany games and sports
- 6 Dance music
- 7 Drama music
- 8 Film music
- 9 Music to accompany social customs
  - 1 Wedding
  - 2 Funeral
- 91 Military music
- 92 Political music
  - 1 National songs
- 93 Religious music
  - 1 Vedic
  - 2 Namavali
  - 3 Divyaanama
  - 4 Devarnama
  - 5 Utsava sampradaya
  - 6 Temple music
  - 7 Bhajana
- 94 Katha Kalekshepam
- 95 Secular music
- 96 Harmony
- 97 Melody

# D Forms

Karnatak music

- 1 Manodharma Sangita
- 1 Madhyama Kala or Tana
- 3 Pallavi exposition
- 4 Sahitya prastara or Niraval
- 5 Svara Kalpana
- 2 Kalpita Sangita
  - 1 Svaravali
  - 2 Alankaram
  - 3 Gita
  - 4 Suladi
  - 5 Svarajati
  - 6 Jatisvaram
  - 7 Varna

# Hindustani music 1 Alap

- 1 Dhrupad
- 2 Khayal
- 3 Thumri
- 4 Dadra
- 5 Tappa
- 6 Sadra
- 7 Sargam
- 8 Tirvat

## **DOCUMENTATION**

9 Chaturanga

10 Ragamala

- 1 Tana Varna
- 2 Pada Varna
- 8 Kriti
- 81 Group Kriti
- 9 Kirtanas
- 91 Pada
- 92 Javali
- 93 Daru
- 94 Tillana
- E Executant (Medium through which music is rendered)
- I Vocal
- 2 Instrumental
  - 21 Tata Vadya (Stringed instrument)
  - 11 Plucking
    - 111 Veena
  - 12 Bowing
    - 121 Violin
  - 22 Sushira (Wind instrument)
    - 1 Flute
    - 2 Nagaswaram
    - 3 Clarionet
  - 23 Avanaddha (Drums)
    - 2 Membranophone
    - 1 Mridangam
  - 24 Ghana (Idiophones) 1 Ghatam
  - F Composer

All composers to be enumerated by their years of birth.

## Illustrative

Purundara Dass Svati Thirumal Shyama Sastri Tyagaraja Dikshitar Papanasam Sivan

## 8. Musical Literature

# 8HA INDIAN MUSIC

8HAd Periodical

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8НАрб	Research Danielou A: Some problems facing research on Indian literature on music. J. Mus. Acad. 1952, 23, 117- 20.
	Danielou A: Research on Indian music. J. Mus. Acad. 1953, 24, 57-69.
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8HA	<ul> <li>Schools</li> <li>Danielou A: The different schools of Indian music. J. Mus. Acad. 1948, 19, 165-67.</li> <li>Ratanjankar: Points of affinity between Hindustani and Karnatak music. J. Mus. Acad. 1950, 21, 73-87.</li> <li>Subba Rao T. V.: The uniqueness of Indian music. J. Mus. Acad. 1944, 15, 27-28.</li> </ul>
8HA1	KARNATAK MUSIC
8HA1b	Dictionary Sambamoorthy P: Dictionary of South Indian music and musicians. 2 vols. Madras, the Indian music publishing house, 1952.
8HA1s	<ul> <li>Patrons</li> <li>Raghavan V: Some musicians and their patrons about 1800 AD in Madras City. J. Mus. Acad. 1945, 16, 127-36.</li> <li>Ranade G. H.: The chief of Ichalkaranji; a great patron of Indian music. J. Mus. Acad. 1943, 14, 79.</li> </ul>
8HA1p2	<ul> <li>Teaching</li> <li>Srinivasan R: Teaching of music theory. J. Mus. Acad. 1955, 26, 73-75.</li> <li>Subba Rao T. V.: Teaching of music. J. Mus. Acad. 1955, 26, 76-80.</li> <li>Sambamoorthy P: Teaching of music. J. Mus. Acad. 1940, 10, 78-98; 11, 48-76.</li> <li>Sambamoorthi P: Music in training schools. J. Mus. Acad. 1941, 12, 33-43.</li> </ul>
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8HA1B

8HA1B21

Elements	
Sruti	

Mela

Raga

21

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8HA1B6611 Raga Lakshana

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8HA1B625

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8HA1B98

8HA1B7

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8HA1B9B

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8HA1F180h	<ul> <li>Purandara Dasa — Biography</li> <li>Bhat M. Mariappa: Purandara Dasa (1480-1564). J. Mus. Acad. 1943, 14, 72-79.</li> <li>Sitarama Rao B: Sri Purandara Dasa. J. Mus. Acad. 11, 77-79.</li> </ul>
8HA1FLh	Kshetrajna, Biography. Appa Rao V: Kshetrajna. J. Mus. Acad. 1950, 21, 110-29.
8HA1FLkx	<ul> <li>Works — Pada</li> <li>Viswanathan T: Rare padas of Kshetrajna and Ghamam</li> <li>Krishnanier. J. Mus. Acad. 1955, 26, 182-88.</li> </ul>
8HA1FM16h	Svati Thirumal Venkitasubramonia Iyer S: Maharaja Svati Thirumal and his times. J. Mus. Acad. 1951, 22, 154-60.
8HA1Fm13kx	<ul> <li>Works — Ragamalika</li> <li>Venkitasubramonia Iyer S: The ragamalikas of Svati Thirumal. J. Mus. Acad. 1953, 24, 81-89.</li> <li>Padas</li> <li>Venkatasubramonia Iyer S: The padas of Sri Svati Thirumal. J. Mus. Acad. 1946, 17, 157-69.</li> </ul>

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