

Introducing notation

In order to make Indian Takeaway – *Rāg and Tāl Basics* as user-friendly as possible we have presented material using a mix of notation systems:

- Western staff notation
- graphic notation
- *Bhātkhande* notation system

Remember, improvisation is at the heart of Indian music, particularly the classical genres, the purpose of notation is to teach, learn and remember music, rather than to perform it.

Western staff notation

As the majority of music education practitioners in Western countries are familiar with this system, Western staff notation has been used.

Graphic notation

Word rhythms are effective when you teach or learn the rhythmic structures of complicated *tablā* rhythms. The graphic notation used in Indian Takeaway to represent words adds a visual dimension to your teaching or learning experience.

Bhātkhande notation system

Of the many systems of notation that have been developed over the centuries, the one pioneered by musicologist, Viṣṇu Nārāyaṇ Bhātkhande (विष्णु नारायण भातखण्डे) (1860-1936), known as the *Bhātkhande* system, is arguably the simplest and most widely used to this day.

As the *Bhātkhande* system uses the *devanāgarī* (देवनागरी) script for notes and lyrics, for ease of reference, Indian Takeaway also includes a Romanised transcript. The other symbols of the *Bhātkhande* system are introduced later.