

## Melodic improvisation – introducing *tāns*

As we have already seen, improvisation is at the heart of Indian music and in a performance of North Indian classical music by masters, such as Pandit Ravi Shankar (1920 – 2012) the majority of the performance would have been improvised.

One of the ways in which a melody can be improvised is by interspersing it with *tāns*, which are simply fast passages that can be both fixed or made up on the spot. Of course, they must observe the rules of the *rāg* that is being performed, including, for example, they must contain only the *svar* that are present in the particular *rāg* that you are performing.

Learn all seven *tāns* provided. Note that all seven *tāns* given to you in Indian Takeaway – *Rāg and Tāl Basics* start on *mātrā* one or the *sam* but this is not the case with all *tāns*.

**Advice to ‘take away’:** Similar to learning a new musical instrument, practice the various *tāns* slowly in order to ensure you can play them accurately.