

# Learn Sitar through the Internet with Prof. Sanjoy Bandopadhyay



It is now possible to learn to play Hindustani music on the sitar through the Internet. Now the teaching is conducted through:

- Posting lessons in text and audio format<sup>1</sup> through the Internet [email/downloading from the supplied URL]
- Discussion of problems and/or live teaching through Internet audio/Chat/Voice-chat [usually once in every fortnight or/and as per specific requirements of the students.]<sup>2</sup>

**For going through the learning process a student must have:**

1. Internet access to his/her computer
2. The computer must have a soundcard, speakers/headphones and microphone
3. A web camera connected to the computer will be required for learning through video mode.
4. **ADOBE Acrobat Reader** [free software available at [www.adobe.com/acrobat](http://www.adobe.com/acrobat)]
5. Any sound editing software [e.g. **Cool Edit Pro**, **Sound Forge**, or some similar software]
6. Any mp3 player software and mp3 converter, e.g. **Musicmatch Jukebox** [freeware available at [www.mp3.com](http://www.mp3.com)]

Students of Sarod, Guitar, Violin and other instruments may also join!! Click here for details.

The student has to submit a demo of his/her current performance duly recorded in analog tape or CD. This will be required for designing of appropriate learning program that may suit every student's individual requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> Audio demo lessons will be on the sitar.

<sup>2</sup> Teaching through Internet-video is expected to get started shortly.

## Learning Sitar through the Internet

### General 5-year program

- This program is designed for the students those have the basic knowledge of handling the Sitar.
- A student will be first assessed through his/her performance CD/Cassette and then s/he may be allowed to start at any higher stage, e.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> year of this program or special consultancy program<sup>3</sup>.
- To take lessons through the Internet it is important that the student must have some live training for general handling of the instrument.
- The students will normally receive one lesson per week. But, the students must submit their work for assessment before obtaining the next lesson.
- To give considerable boost in progress a student may consider of visiting *Kolkata* for live lessons for at least 10 days [*10-day crash course*]<sup>4</sup> every year.
- Required music related instrument/equipment for effective training:
  - The instrument [sitar/sarod]
  - Electronic tabla<sup>5</sup>
  - Electronic drone machine

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## GENERAL CURRICULA LAYOUT

### First year: [4 units of 12 lessons each]

Unit 1: One raga<sup>6</sup> with at least two *drut* compositions in *Trital* with *tana-s* and *jhala*.

#### Additional [as required]

1. Practicing tips for developing better handling of the instrument.
2. General *laya* training.

Unit 2: One raga<sup>7</sup> with at least two *drut* compositions in *Trital* with *tana-s* and *jhala*.

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<sup>3</sup> Special consultancy program is aimed at considerably advanced students those might be looking for specialized guidance on some specific problem. This may be for a shorter period [usually not less than 3 months]. The fees for such consultancy will be separately quoted depending upon the raised area for discussion.

<sup>4</sup> During the Crash Course program a student will be with the teacher for 1 to 2 hours every day during his/her stay in Kolkata. The fee will be INR 500 per hour and payable in Indian Rupees.

<sup>5</sup> The best practicing mode is to practice with some **able tabla player**.

<sup>6</sup> The raga-s will be other than the already learnt rag-s [excepting in special circumstance when the teacher and student both agree on some raga because of some specific training requirements.]

<sup>7</sup> The raga-s will be other than the already learnt rag-s [excepting in special circumstance when the teacher and student both agree on some raga because of some specific training requirements.]

### Additional [as required]

- a. Practicing tips for developing better handling of the instrument.
- b. General *laya* training.

Unit 3: Same as unit 2 but with advanced tips and on different raga.

Unit 4: Same as unit 3 but with advanced tips and on different raga.

### Second year [4 units of 12 lessons each]

Unit: 5: One *raga-s* with *Maseetkhani gat* [with *Bant* and a few types of *tana-s*]; and *Drut gats* with *tana-s*.

Additional guidance on requirement:

- ◆ Introduction to *Maseetkhani gat*.
- ◆ Discussion on some types of *tana-s*.
- ◆ Discussion on better handling of the instrument [as and when required].

Unit 6: One *raga-s* with *Maseetkhani gat* [with *Bant* and a few types of *tana-s*]; and *Drut gats* with *tana-s*.

Additional guidance as in Unit: 5

Unit 7: Same as Unit: 6 on a based on different raga.

Unit 8: Same as Unit: 6 on a based on different raga.

### Third year [4 units of 12 lessons each]

Unit: 9 to 12 will cover the following areas:

1. Introduction to improvisations as adapted in Hindustani Music
2. Introduction to *Alap*, *Jor* and *Jhala* [associated with *alap-jor*].
3. 3 *raga-s* with *alap*, *jor*, *Jhala*, *Maseetkhani gat* with its general development, *Rezakhani gat* with its development.
4. 1 to 2 *gats* set to *tala-s* other than *Teentala*.
5. Discussion on better handling of the instrument [as and when required].

### Fourth year [4 units of 12 lessons each]

Unit 13 to 16 will cover the following areas.

1. Introduction to *layakari*.
2. 3 *raga-s* with *alap*, *jor*, *Jhala*, *Maseetkhani/popular style of Vilambit gat* with its general development, *Rezakhani gat/popular gayaki-ang gat* with its development and general application of *layakari* in the *gat* part.

### Fifth year [4 units of 12 lessons each]

The unit 17 to 20 will cover the following areas.

1. Actual performance: The discussion on preparations, psychological and musical aspects.
2. Detailed training on 2-ragas.
3. Discussion on better handling of the instrument [as and when required].
4. Any discussion relevant under specific context.
5. Additional counseling on requirement.

### **SPECIAL NOTE FOR THE STUDENTS THOSE WILL BE USING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OTHER THAN SITAR FOR THEIR MUSIC EXPRESSIONS.**

The students those will be using musical instruments other than sitar will be provided with suitable music making materials and general guidance on practicing. The technical guidance will be restricted to general advices. For advanced level techniques the students must seek live guidance of the professional touring musicians those might be reachable by the student.

### **The fees and payment mode**

- US \$ 20 per weekly lesson.
- To start a student must pay one unit's fee [12 lessons] in advance, i.e. US \$ 320
- All tuition fees should reach the account before the beginning of a unit.
- The fees may be dispatched through **Western Union** [Money Transfer]

For queries send your mails at [sitardivine@vsnl.net](mailto:sitardivine@vsnl.net) or alternatively at [sitardivine@rediffmail.com](mailto:sitardivine@rediffmail.com)

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