

An Analysis of Amy Dunker's *Raga India*

By

Amy Dunker

www.amydunker.com

Instrumentation: Standard String Orchestra (with optional Improvisation section – written solos also provided for all instruments)

Duration: ca. 4 Minutes

Grade: 4

Harmonic Language: Tonal (Modal Type Scale)

Meter: 4/4

Texture: Monophony with drone and ostinato

Improvisation Based on Raga (or scale): Ananda Bhairava raga (modified)

Ostinato (Tala): Tintal (modified)

Composition Date: 2007

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Composer Bio:

Composer-trumpeter-educator Amy Dunker's music resists easy categorization. From avant-garde improvisation to minimalistic sound sculptures to neo-romantic echoings, Amy delves deeply into the nature of human experience. Her works have been performed throughout the United States, Czech-Republic, Italy, the Ukraine, France, Thailand, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Great Britain, and Puerto Rico. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills and trumpet. Amy received her bachelor's degree (music education) from Morningside College, a master's degree in trumpet performance from the University of South Dakota, a master's degree in composition from Butler University and a doctorate in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City - Conservatory of Music. Major influences in her musical education include Stanley DeRusha, Chen Yi, James Mobberley and Michael Schelle. Amy's works have been recorded on the ERM Media, NextAGem, Centerpoint and Whatsit labels. Her music is published by Alliance Publications, Inc.

Other String Orchestra Works by Amy Dunker:

Strings Around the World Series:

African Serenade (Grade 3 ½)	AP – 4122
Bossa Nova Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4114
Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4109
Cumbia! Cumbia! (Grade 3)	AP – 4106
Gvovi (Grade 2)	AP – 4110
Golden Ring Dance (Grade 2)	AP – 4116
Raga India (Grade 4)	AP – 4108
Reggae Jamaica (Grade 3)	AP – 4124
Rondo on a Puerto Rican Folk Song (Grade 1)	AP – 4121
South Africa Sings (Grade 3)	AP – 4115
Tango Loca (Grade 4)	AP – 4118
Tanz! (Grade 3)	AP – 4118
The Mambo Kings (Grade 3)	AP – 4119
Tribute to the Mariachi (Grade 3)	AP – 4117

Strings Today Series:

As Darkness Falls (Grade 4)	AP - 4111
Homage to W. A. Mozart (Grade 4)	AP – 4112
Rain Sketch (Grade 3)	AP – 4123

India:

India, officially the Republic of India, is a sovereign nation in South Asia. It is the seventh largest country by geographical area and the second most populous country. Bounded by the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, and the Bay of Bengal, India has a coastline of 4,671 miles. It borders Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Burma. Home to the Indus Valley Civilization and a region of historic trade routes and vast empires, the Indian subcontinent was identified with its commercial and cultural wealth for much of its long history. Four major world religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism) originated in India.

Gradually annexed by the British East India Company from the early eighteenth century and colonized by the United Kingdom from the mid-nineteenth century, India became a modern nation state in 1947 after a struggle for independence that was marked by widespread nonviolent resistance led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, amongst others.

India's culture is marked by a high degree of cultural pluralism. It has managed to preserve established traditions while absorbing new customs, traditions, and ideas from invaders and immigrants. Indian Architecture, including notable monuments, such as the Taj Mahal and other examples of Mughal architecture and South Indian architecture, is the result of traditions that combined elements from several parts of the country and abroad.¹

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India> (accessed 02/14/08).

Indian Classical Music:

The origins of Indian classical music can be found in the oldest Hindu scriptures, the Vedas. Indian classical music has its origins as a meditation tool for attaining self realization. All different forms of these melodies (Ragas) are believed to affect various energy centers or chakras.

Indian classical music has one of the most complex and complete musical systems ever developed. Like Western classical music, it divides the octave into 12 semitones of which the 7 basic notes are Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Dha Ni Sa, in order, replacing Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do. However, it uses the just intonation tuning as opposed to the equal temperament system used in Western classical music.

Indian classical music is monophonic in nature and based around a single melody line which is played over a fixed drone. The performance is based melodically on particular ragas (scale systems) and rhythmically on talas (rhythmic ostinati). There are two distinct yet related styles of Indian classical music, Hindustani or North Indian music and Carnatic (Karnataka Sangeeth) or South Indian music. Instruments typically used in Hindustani music include sitar, sarod, tanpura, bansuri, shehnai, sarangi, and tabla. Instruments typically used in Carnatic music include Flute, gottuvadyam, veena, mridangam, kanjira, and violin.²

Performance Notes:

Raga India is based on the Ananda Bhairava raga or scale which is a raga to be performed in the early morning hours. It's tala or rhythmic ostinato is the tinal. Both the raga and the tinal have been modified for easier performance by Western musicians.

At rehearsal letter D, you may choose to either perform the passage as written and continue with the piece as written or you may repeat the passage a third, fourth, etc., time for optional solo work. The solos may be improvised using the raga given or you may choose to use the written solos provided. Each of the two written solos is provided in treble, alto and bass clef for easy selection of players and voicing.

Technique: Double Stops and Grace Notes

Form:

Introduction	ms. 1 – 8	Drone and Tala
A	ms. 9 – 39	Melody, Drone and Tala
A'	ms. 28 – 52	Solos, Drone and Tala
<i>(Repeat for Solos)</i>		
A''	ms. 60 – 72	Melody, Drone and Tala

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_classical_music (accessed 02/14/08).

Tala (modified):

2 Tintal (16 Matras 4+4+4+4) (Adapted)

Ananda Bhairava Raga (modified):

Ananda Bhairava (A Rag for Early Morning)

Theme (Violin I, 9 - 16):

11

Vln. I

15

Vln. I

Raga India Rhythms

1.)



2.)



3.)



4.)



5.)



6.)



7.)



8.)



9.)



Recommended Recordings:

Ravi Shankar: Three Ragas

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00004U92Q?ie=UTF8&tag=amduap-20&linkCode=xm2&camp=1789&creativeASIN=B00004U92Q>

Ravi Shankar: The Sounds of India

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0000024SZ?ie=UTF8&tag=amduap-20&linkCode=xm2&camp=1789&creativeASIN=B0000024SZ>

The Raga Guide: Survey of 74 Hindustani Ragas [BOX SET]

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00000JT5P?ie=UTF8&tag=amduap-20&linkCode=xm2&camp=1789&creativeASIN=B00000JT5P>

Dr. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA, USA where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills, trumpet and directs the new music ensemble.

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