
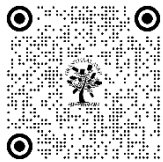


KINSHIP OF PHRYGIAN DOMINANT SCALE AND RAGA BASANT MUKHARI OF INDIAN MUSIC

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ABSTRACT

The research paper shares the kinship between Indian Raga and Western music scale. Western system of music consists of scales and chords. A scale is of ascending and descending order of notes. The term scale comes from the Latin word scala meaning ladder. A scale is considered a set of intervals. An interval is a number of semi tones that separates from one pitch to a different pitch. A semitone, also called a half step or a half tone, is always termed the smallest musical interval considered in Western music. It is defined the interval between two adjacent notes of a 12-tone scale from C to C#. Two semi tones are termed as a whole tone or whole step. A specific scale is defined by its interval patterns and by a special note also called as the root note of the scale or the tonic note. For example-in a C-major scale C is the tonic note. There are seven basic degrees in western music which can also be known as seven swaras in Indian music. For example: Degrees in relation with Key C in Western music:

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
do	re	mi	fa	sol	la	te	do
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Dha Ni Sa

In Indian music twelve semi tones can be defined as seven pure notes or shudh swaras and five altered notes known as vikrit swaras. Out of seven notes Sa and Pa are constant notes which do not change their positions and Re Ga Dha and Ni can be played pure as well as flat, also known as Komal swaras. Ma note can be played as a pure note or Tivra swara also known as a sharp note.

Keywords: Indian Raga, Western Scale Theory, Intervals



1. INTRODUCTION

The twelve semi tones in western music system in Key C with relation to Indian Music:

- C - Sa
- C# or Db- Komal Re
- D - Shudh Re
- D# or Eb- Komal Ga
- E- Shudh Ga
- F- Shudh Ma
- F# or Gb- Tivra Ma

- G - Shudh Pa
- G# or Ab- Komal Dha
- A - Shudh Dha
- A# or Bb- Komal Ni
- B- Shudh Ni
- C- Sa

b=flat/lowered by one semitone; #=sharp/raised by one semitone

These notes are the foundation on which the entire music in the world exists. These notes have all kinds of combinations or permutations from which different music in this world have been evolved. Music has fixed systems but yet it is so diverse in nature that all the music that has been produced in the world share a major kinship between each other.

Raga Bhimplasi (ascending) C-Eb-F-G-Bb-C (descending) C-Bb-A-G-F-Eb-D-C. This raga can be related to a Minor Pentatonic ascending and the Dorian scale descending. Raga Bhairav can be related as Double Harmonic Scale or Byzantine scale(C-Db-E-F-G-Ab-B). Raga Bhopali can be related as Pentatonic Major Scale(C-D-E-G-A-C).

Phrygian Dominant scale:

This scale associates itself to middle eastern music. The scale has a number of other names such as Spanish Gypsy, Bayati Maqam, Phrygian Major Scale.

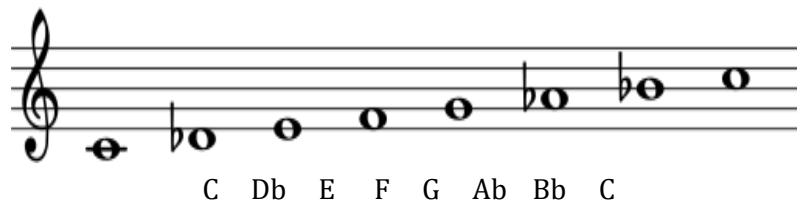
The Phrygian Dominant scale comprises of H-WH-H-W-H-W-W.1

- W = Whole step
- H = Half step
- WH = Whole-and-a-half step

The numerical formula for the scale:

1 - b2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - b6 - b7 - 8

The scale in relation to key C in staff notation:



2. PHRYGIAN SCALE

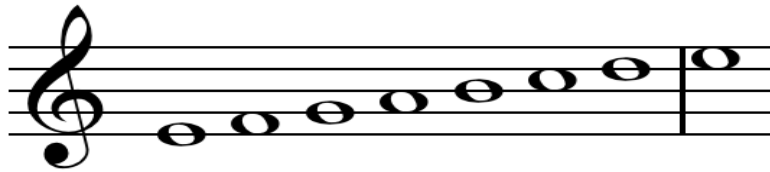
The following is the Phrygian Scale starting on key E:

E Phrygian

E Phrygian	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E
Numerical formula	1	b2	b3	4	5	b6	b7	1

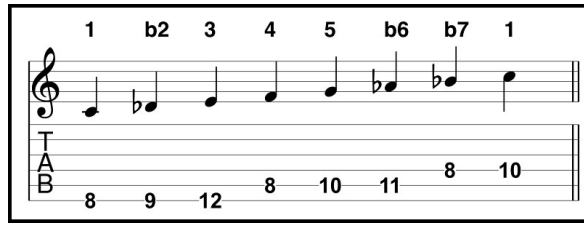
Therefore, the Phrygian scale comprises of root, minor second, minor third, perfect fourth, perfect fifth, minor sixth, minor seventh, and octave. Alternatively, pattern of Semitone, Tone, Tone, Tone, Semitone, Tone, Tone or H-W-W-W-H-W-W. The scale is widely used in Rock and Metal genre of music.

- W = Whole step
- H = Half step



E F G A B C D E2

The characteristics of Raga Basant Mukhari in aspect to staff notation.



The swaras used in Raga Basant Mukhari are Sa, re, Ga, Ma, Pa, dha, ni, Sa. All the Komal swaras are denoted by small alphabets.

In Hindustani classical music, if we compare the notes or swaras of Raga Basant Mukhari to the above western scale we would arrive to the conclusion that the same notes or swaras are used in both the systems.

3. CONCLUSION

Therefore, one can come to the conclusion that western music scale Phrygian Dominant or also known as Major Phrygian has direct kinship with Indian Raga Basant Mukhari.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None.

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