

# Intercultural activity in electroacoustic music: integrating Indian music cultural sound emblems into new works

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## (i) Research outline

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- Practice-based research - electroacoustic music composition
- Incorporating **culturally unfamiliar sound material** into creative work
- Examination of the **process of collecting and incorporating** Indian cultural sounds originating from Indian musical instruments
- **Working with an external partner:** Milapfest (UK's leading Indian Arts Development Trust) to investigate the perceptions and understanding of cultural sound
- The research aimed to **address the current lack of contextual documentation** associated with cultural sound borrowing/incorporation into sonic arts

## (i) Research outline

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- An aim was to examine the **transition and translation** of cultural sound material from one context to the next (Indian classical music to experimental electronic works) - **what happens to this highly referential material?**
- Research methods: **creation of new compositions**
- Studio/field recordings of approximately 30 musicians (UK and India-based)
- Interaction with musicians and project partners aimed **to establish a framework for understanding the processes of musical exchange** across cultural boundaries

## (ii) How the research relates and contributes to the theme

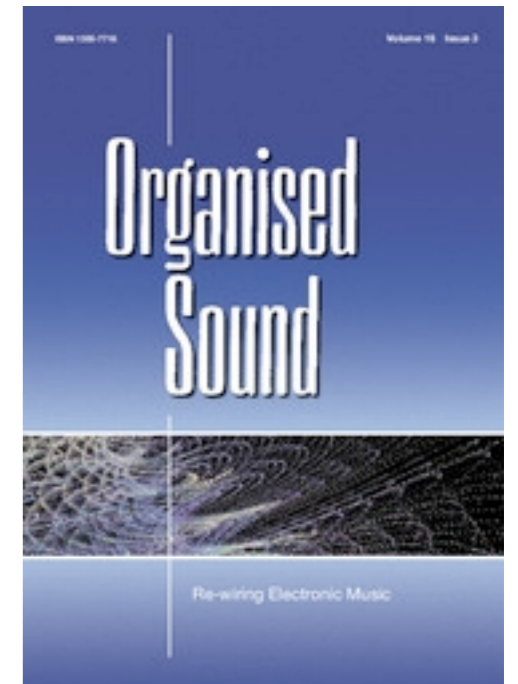
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- Following the **transition and translation of sound materials** taken from one culture to the next
- **Confronting culturally unfamiliar sound**, which now frequently occurs on one's doorstep through ever-increasing globalisation - common and diverse in our multicultural environments
- Examining the **changing relationships to cultural sound** over time
- Examining my own process of **acclimatising to a culturally unfamiliar musical tradition** as an outsider
- Presenting cultural materials (data, sound materials etc...) in a **digital format for non-academic audiences** via an educational website

# Research Outputs - completed

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- Two musical compositions: Javaari (2013) and New Shruti for sarod and electronics (2013)
- Journal article 'Instruments INDIA: A sound archive for educational and compositional use' *Organised Sound* (CUP), Vol.19 (2), 2014.
- Editorial and edited journal issue of *Organised Sound*, (CUP) Vol.19 (2) 2014. - 'The Sound of Cultures'
- Conference paper, Electronic Music Studies Network Conference (EMS) Lisbon 2013.
- Online sound archive/educational resource
- Research blog



## (iii) External engagement

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- Partnership between **Liverpool Hope** and **Milapfest**
- Project partners **linking musicians to the research**
- Collaborators in building the online educational resource: **Instruments INDIA**
- Sounding board for ideas/development
- **Mutually benefiting** from the research

### (iii) External engagement

<http://www.milapfest.com/instruments-india/>



## (iii) External engagement - musical performances

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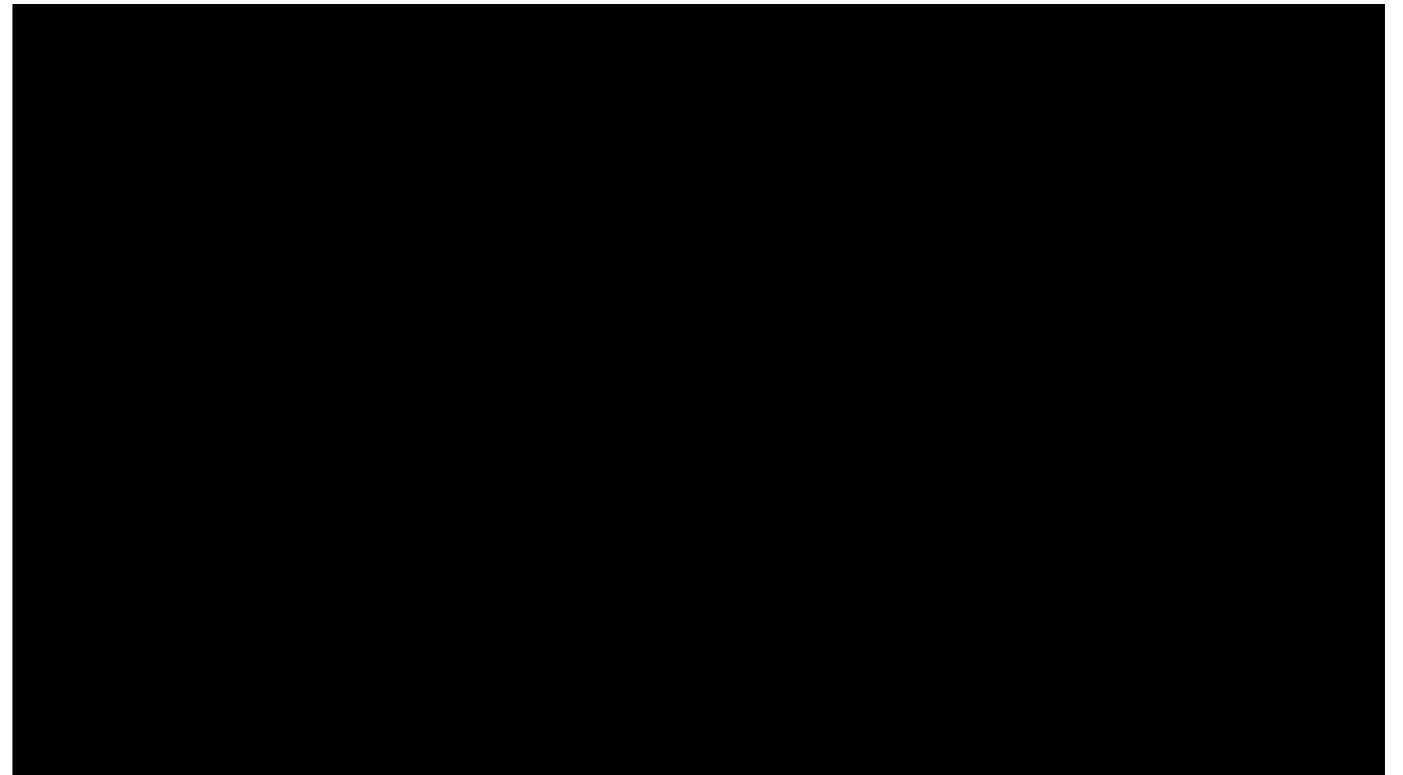


- *New Shruti* for sarod and electronics 27th April 2013, Liverpool Hope University
- *New Shruti* for sarod and electronics 22nd November, EMPAC, Rensselaer Polytechnic, Troy, NY, USA
- *Javaari* for loudspeakers 15th November, Arts Electronica Centre, Linz, Austria
- *Javaari* for loudspeakers 15th November, NoiseFloor Festival, Stafford, UK
- *Javaari* for loudspeakers 9th August, International Computer Music Conference, Perth, Australia
- *Javaari* for loudspeakers 4th April, Segal Hall, New York, USA



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## (iv) Challenges

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- Interaction with musicians - communication lost in translation...
  - Process of sound recording (research method) became an unforeseen research focus
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- Building a relationship with external partners - vital
  - Establishing a balance between academic rigour and the repackaging of collected data for social benefit

## (v) Project innovation and future direction

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- Revelation of interactive behaviours/nuances based on musician's regional tradition (Hindustani vs Carnatic) & insight into the existence of a British Gharana (UK-born Indian music performers) - future investigations
- Instruments INDIA website - only small snapshot of a larger picture. Delhi museum houses over 600 Indian musical instruments!
- Instruments INDIA users are concert-goers, young learners, laypeople, students etc... this has led to the development of a downloadable app for tablet and mobile phone devices

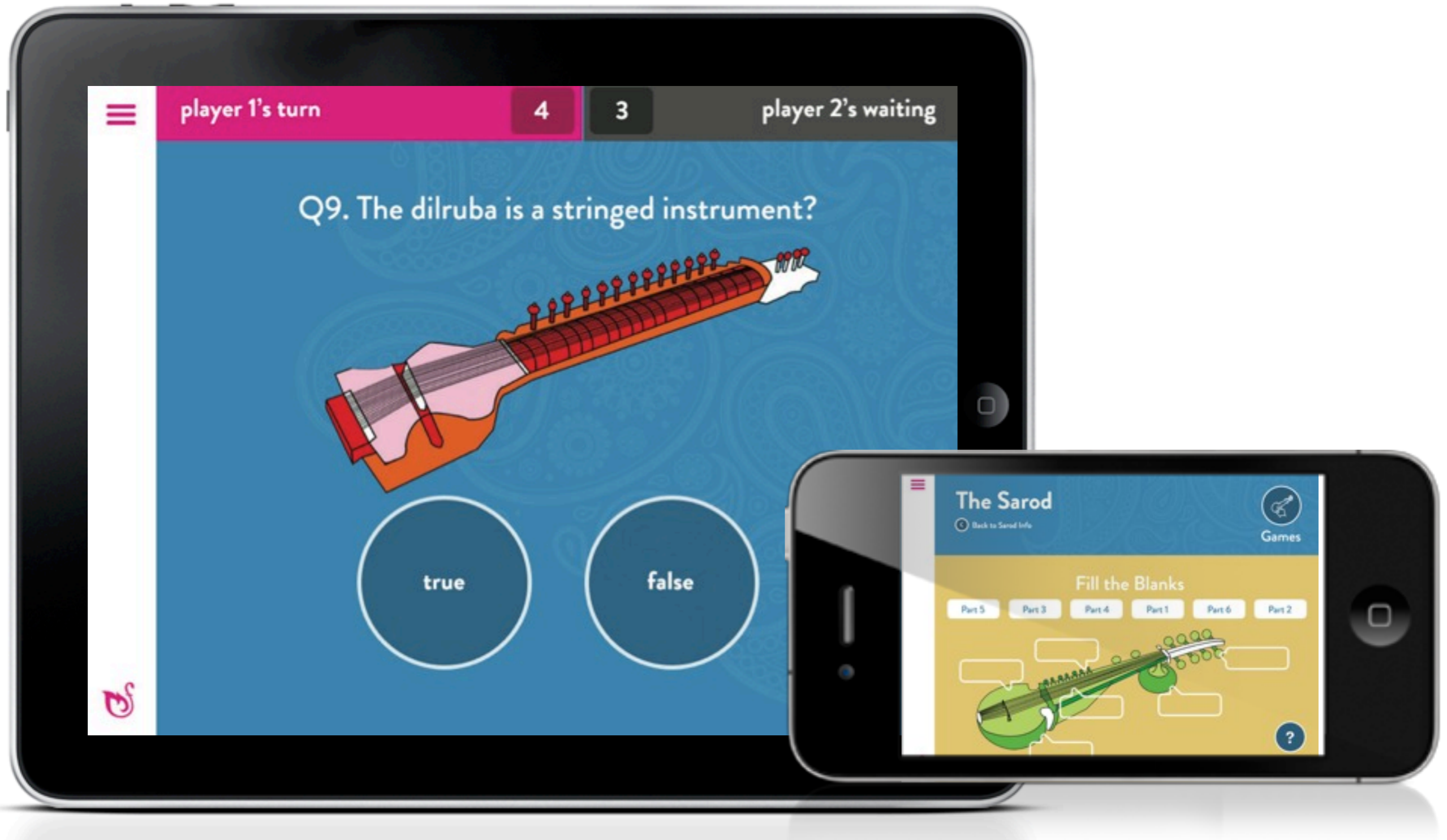
## (v) Project innovation and future direction

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## (v) Project innovation and future direction

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- What next? A composition commissioning project
  - Composers, sound artists, installation artists
  - New intercultural activity
  - examination of the use of cultural sound - not having a connection with the recorded material
  - Using the Instruments INDIA website as a shop window into the soundworlds of the instrument