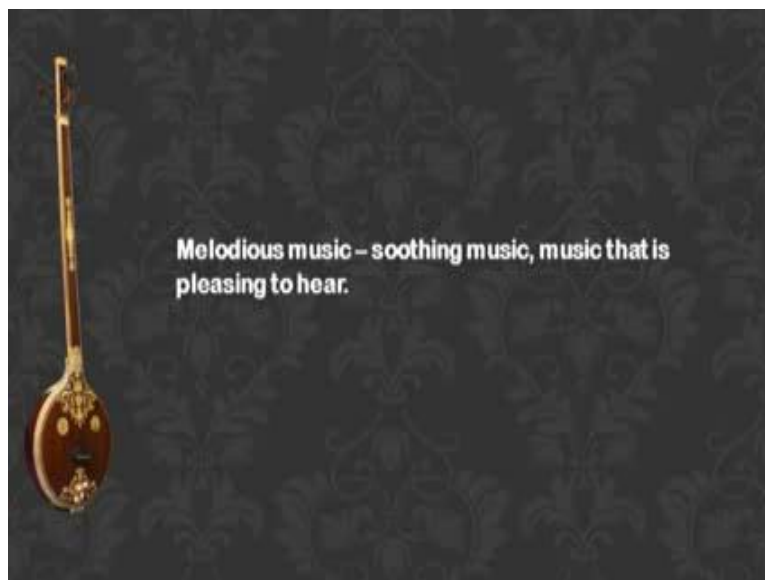


**Appreciating Carnatic Music**  
**Dr. Lakshmi Sreeram**  
**Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**

**Lecture - 04**  
**Music through Melody Music through harmony**

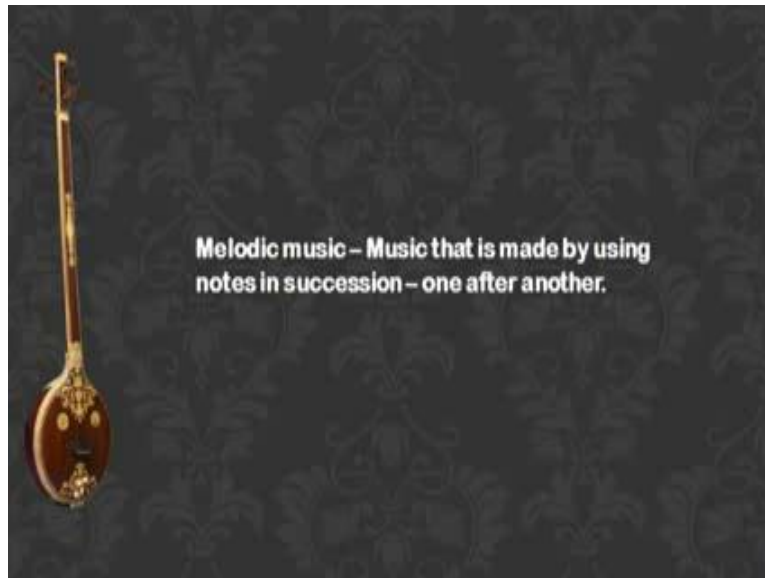
One of the first things, to be said about Indian music, in general is that it is Melodic. (Video Starts: 00:20) (Video Ends: 00:47) What do we mean by saying, that a Music is melodic? It is easy to confuse the word melodic, with the word melodious. To say, that some a piece of music is melodious, is to say that it is pleasant to hear, it is soothing it is a value judgement, to say that the song is melodious.

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Or it was rendered melodiously, to say that it was very pleasant to, listen to. But to call a form of music melodic, is to describe the way the music has been made.

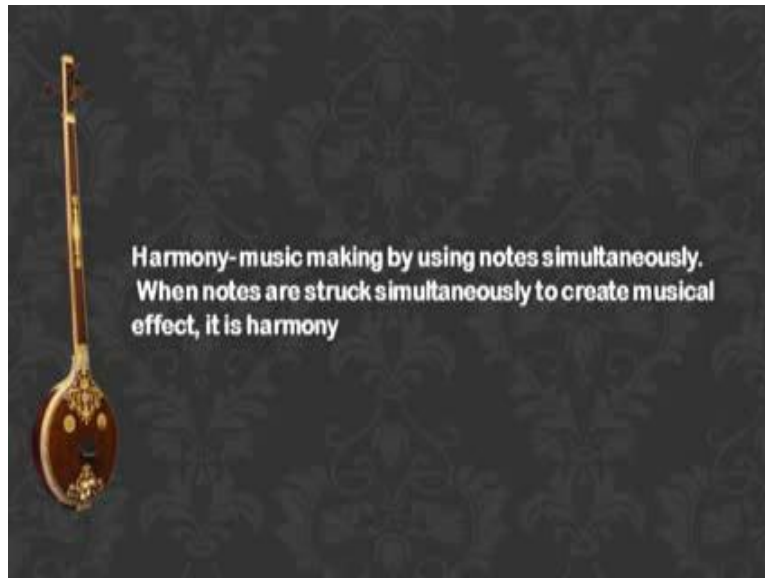
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A melody is, very simply is, just to tune. It is a set of notes, struck in succession and this is opposed to the other way of making music, which is to strike notes simultaneously, in a very fundamental way. Melody is common to all music, across the world. All kinds of music are fundamentally based on melody. But musical systems like, western classical note to play, they have used harmony to embellish melody, to make a melody much more impactful, much more interesting, to give texture to the music.

So, we can say, that melody and harmony are the basic ways to, fundamental ways of making music. Melody is when notes are struck in succession (Singing Starts: 2:29) (Singing Ends: 2:38) This is simply a melody: (Singing Starts: 2:40) (Singing Ends: 2:45) this is also a melody:

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Harmony comes into a picture, when notes are struck simultaneously. There will be a small demonstration of this, I have Vibha with me, Vibha will play the very well-known melody: “Old MACDONALD had a farm E-I-E-I-O”, she will play the line, just the melodic line and then demonstrate it, with the harmony, so that you can see the difference. It is just the melodic line now just the tune. (Video Starts: 3:16) (Video Ends: 3:32)

So, that was a tune, the melody, basic melodic line. Now she will play with the harmony (Video Starts: 3:37) (Video Ends: 3:52). So, this is a very simple, very elementary, example of harmony. You would have noticed that, where (Singing Starts: 4:00) (Singing Ends: 4:02) there she played, with both her hands.

Notes were struck simultaneously, that is harmony, at a very elementary level. Now she will demonstrate a slight, a couple other examples (Video Starts: 4:13) (Video Ends: 4:18) of harmony, first playing just the melodic line and then embellishing it with the harmony. This is second piece, she will play (Video Starts: 4:28) (Video Ends: 4:41). So, this is just the melody now, harmony along with it (Video Starts: 4:44) (Video Ends: 4:57).

So, as you can see, both the left and the right hand, they strike simultaneously, different notes are sounded together. And that creates, a certain musical effect which is, what is called harmony. Just one other example (Video Starts: 5:15) (Video Ends: 5:43).

Obviously, needless to say, there are principles of harmony. Not any two notes can be sounded together simultaneously. The musical effect created by certain combinations, are going to be much more pleasant than certain others. And it is these principles, that have been explored to great lengths in Western classical music and we have this fantastic musical system of Western harmonic music.

Now, harmony, what is it do? It, as you would have seen, when the melody is played, just the tune is played, it has a certain impact; but when the harmony is also introduced, the music suddenly gains, another dimension. And it lifts off, it becomes that much more exciting; so, that is what harmony does; it embellishes the melody.

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Now Indian music, has no place for harmony. Classical music for all its glory, there is no place for harmony. And what Western music has achieved in the realm of harmony, Indian music has achieved the realm of melody, classical music especially, explores the possibilities offered by melody. And it is not just melodic combinations, but it explores melody, in terms of Nuances.

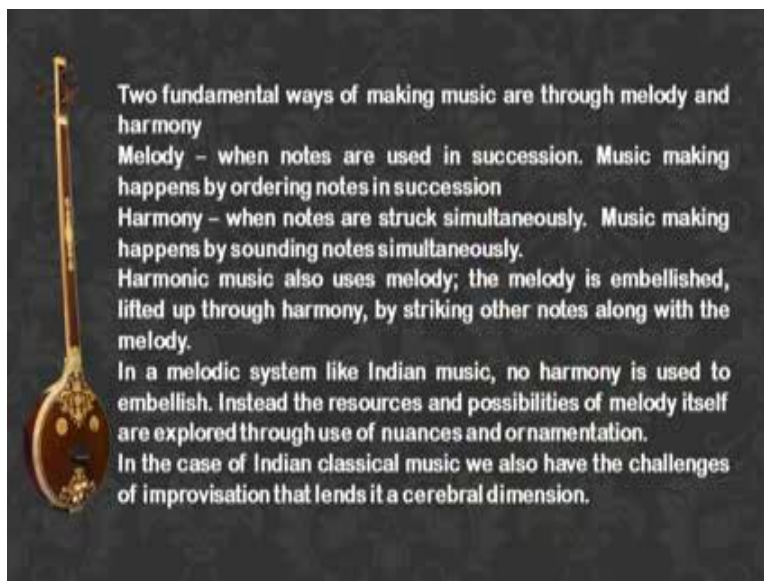
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These, this is something that we will see much later in the course. What we call a Gamaka, how the notes are handled? It is not just (Singing Starts: 7:44) (Singing Ends: 7:46)

No, Indian classical musician would never, seen something like this: (Singing Starts: 7:50) (Singing Ends: 7:59) Now this is just a sample of, what happens in Indian classical music specifically Carnatic music. It is melody that is explored, horizontally, vertically.

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(Video Starts: 8:16) (Video Ends: 8:57)