

# Instructional Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR	DEPARTMENT
Steven Marsh	Performing Arts - Music
ACTIVITY TITLE	DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY
World Music Guest Performance/Lecture series IRA # 604	March 12. 2014

## PLEASE EXPLAIN (1) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

**THIS MUSICAL EVENT PRESENTED TWO VISITING MUSICIANS WHO ARE EXPERTS IN THE HINDUSTANI MUSICAL TRADITION OF INDIA. THIS EVENT WAS CONNECTED TO THE WORLD MUSIC COURSE THAT I TEACH. THE IRA PROPOSAL NUMBER IS 604. NEELAMJIT DHILLON AND PAUL LIVINGSTONE HAVE VISITED OUR CAMPUS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST, AND ONCE AGAIN THEY PROVIDED AMAZING INSIGHTS INTO THE VERY INTERESTING WORLD OF INDIAN MUSIC. BESIDES PRESENTING CLEAR AND INFORMATIVE EXPLANATIONS ABOUT THE TECHNIQUES AND PHILOSOPHIES OF INDIAN MUSIC, OUR GUESTS PLAYED SEVERAL RAGAS FOR THE STUDENTS.**

### THE MUSIC OF INDIA - PAUL LIVINGSTONE & NEELAMJIT DHILLON



**PAUL LIVINGSTONE**

Paul Livingstone is one of the leading Indian sitarists in America today. Paul began his studies of sitar in India at the age of fifteen and has performed with many of the leading Indian classical musicians today. Mr. Livingstone taught at CAL Arts in Valencia for five years, and he founded the Sangeet School of World Music in Los Angeles.



**NEELAMJIT DHILLON**

Neelamjit Dhillon is a professional musician equally versed in both Eastern and Western traditions. This firm rooting in two distinct styles gives him a unique perspective into the universality of music. He has completed an MFA in table performance at the California Institute of the Arts [CalArts] and is now pursuing his doctorate.

**WED, MAR 12, 2014**  
12-1:15pm in Malibu Hall 140

All students, faculty, and staff are invited to join the CI World Music class for this special performance/demonstration.  
The World Music Guest Performer Lecture Series is an IRA-sponsored event for the PAMU 332 World Music course.



California State University

**INSTRUCTIONALLY  
RELATED  
ACTIVITIES**

CHANNEL  
ISLANDS

CONTINUED...



**(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S):**

**OUR GUEST ARTISTS GAVE OUR CI STUDENTS VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THEIR SPECIFIC MUSICAL CONCEPTS AND PLAYING TECHNIQUES. OUR GUESTS ALSO DEMONSTRATED THE SITAR, TABLA, AND BANSURI INSTRUMENTS. OUR WORLD MUSIC COURSE STUDENTS ALL AGREE THAT IT IS VERY VALUABLE FOR THEM TO SEE THESE EXOTIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS PERFORMED LIVE, AS OPPOSE TO ONLY BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU-TUBE CLIPS OF THE MUSIC. FOR OUR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE UNIVERSITY MUSIC ENSEMBLE, MUSIC THEORY, MUSIC THEORY, MUSIC APPRECIATION, AND PRIVATE LESSONS, THIS PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTED OBSERVABLE DEMONSTRATIONS OF VERY HIGH LEVEL MUSICIANSHIP, MUSICAL INTERPLAY, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MELODIC AND RHYTHMIC ELEMENTS IN THE COURSE OF A LIVE PERFORMANCE. ADDITIONALLY, THE DEPLOYMENT AND USAGE OF SPECIFIC MUSICAL SCALES WERE DISCUSSED AND DEMONSTRATED TO THE STUDENTS. MY CLASS ALSO WAS GIVEN A WRITING ASSIGNMENT ABOUT THIS MUSICAL EXPERIENCE, AS PART OF OUR EFFORT TO PRACTICE “WRITING ACROSS THE CIRRICULUM”.**

**AND (3) WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS:**

**I THOUGHT THIS WAS AN OUTSTANDING MUSICAL DEMONSTRATION/PERFORMANCE. AFTERWARDS, SOME STUDENTS EXPRESSED THEIR WISHES THAT MORE MUSICAL PIECES HAD BEEN PERFORMED, WITH SLIGHTLY LESS DISCUSSION TAKING PLACE. SO I WILL**

**CONVEY THAT THOUGHT TO PAUL AND NEELAMJIT FOR THEIR NEXT APPEARANCE. BUT I ALSO TOLD OUR STUDENTS THAT INDIAN MUSIC CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM THE UNDERLYING CONCEPTS AND PHILOSOPHY OF THE MUSIC. THE DEEPER OUR STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THOSE ELEMENTS, THE MORE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO APPRECIATE THIS MUSICAL FORM.**

**QUALTRICS FEEDBACK AND STUDENT COMMENTS TO FOLLOW.**

**EXCERPTS FROM STUDENT COMMENTS.**

We had two phenomenal classical North Indian musicians play for our class this past week. The first musician we were introduced to was a sitar player, and the second played the tabla and also brought a bansuri, which he had recently started to play. Most Indian music I had listened to prior to this assignment was in the pop Bollywood style. Like a small-minded person, I assumed that was the only type of music there was aside from sacred Indian music. This class is truly interesting and inspiring based on its ability to open your mind without having to leave a classroom.

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We learned of the considerable influence that the famous trade route known as the Silk Road had on Indian music, with the confluence of different cultures contributing further to the style of Raga. Indian music was explained to be two-dimensional; the third dimension of music, harmony, is largely unified in Indian music, and does not vary widely as it does in western music. We also learned of different terms, including Arohi (ascending scale) as opposed to Avarohi (descending scale).

On Wednesday, we got to hear a thrilling performance from Paul Livingstone, a sitar player, and Neelamjit Dhillon, a tabla player, as they both took us through the world of Indian music; specifically, music from the north, Hindustani.

I especially appreciated how they started us off with explaining a few of the terms we had learned in class. Mr. Livingstone was keen to make sure the audience understood the concept of “raga”, or the cycle of beats that their music builds on. All in all, this was a wonderful performance. The sheer joy I found in hearing the rhythmic cadences of the sitar combined with the tabla drums' voice was certainly something that I would love to hear again.

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Coming in to the performance, I had a few preconceived notions about Indian music but more specifically, the sitar. With my almost non-existent experience with it, I thought the sitar was twangy to the point of annoyance and I would relate the manner of playing it to a guitarist who just learned how to bend notes but couldn't quite hit them. I also thought that, since harmonies are such a minor part of Indian music, it would be much less emotive than western music. I had to rethink my theory when I actually experienced it live. Paul Livingstone began his first performance by telling us to let go of all of our ideas about Indian music, so I did, and when they began playing, I actually really enjoyed it. All of the bends, which used to seem like nonsense to me, began to make sense. He later explained how the bends were really what gave the music its “highly” emotive quality. That's when I realized that I couldn't feel the emotion in the music because my brain was not yet accustomed to these microtones in Indian music but throughout the performance, I became more and more comfortable with them. This experience did a lot to change my views on what music is. I hope to see more live Indian music in the future.

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On March 12, a performance of North Indian traditional music was held in Malibu 140. An amazing sitar player by the name of Paul Livingstone came in to play, accompanied by a tabla

player who was just as extraordinary as Paul. Before they played the first song, or raga, they explained a little bit of their instruments to us. The sitar is most commonly found in northern Indian territories and the word means “string” in Persian. Seeing this performance live was absolutely amazing for me as a musician. I love hearing new and different styles of music. The musicians really opened my eyes to different concepts, instruments, and sounds that are just as beautiful as the ones I have known all my life. I really appreciate the fact that I got to see this style of music, and I am quite interested in the sitar. I love the sound and the relaxing feel it creates, and I would really like to try out the instrument at some point in my musical career. I am very grateful for the live concerts that are offered at CSUCI, and I can’t wait for what the next one brings!

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The Indian music concert featuring Paul Livingstone and Neelamjit Dhillon was absolutely delightful. To hear them play and have them speak about their craft was enlightening. Their presence was calm and relaxed yet they played with ferocity. It was a fascinating dynamic to witness. Their music was often fast and vigorous but they seemed to be at peace. It was almost as if their fingers and hands were operating separate from the rest of their bodies and they were able to sit back and feel the music. They both felt the rhythm and you could see it in their presence. I thoroughly enjoyed the Indian music concert. I thought Paul and Neelamjit were fantastic musicians and fantastic people. They were masters of their craft and not only knowledgeable but they were able to explain it with ease in ways that those of us who are not overly familiar with Indian music could understand. They were excellent teachers. I not only enjoyed the music but the learning as well.

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All in all, I enjoyed this performance. I got a much more thorough understanding of traditional Indian music and now I finally understand the terminology. I really did enjoy the rhythmic lesson on how to keep time in an Indian raga. This I found to be fun and challenging. In conclusion, the music that I did hear was great, and I did learn a large amount of knowledge of traditional Indian music.

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On March 12, 2014, we had an Indian themed concert. The musicians were Paul Livingstone, who played the sitar, and Neelamjit Dhillon, who played the tabla. This was my first experience listening to the sitar and the tabla in person. It was an amazing experience and the concert furthered my understanding of Indian Hindustani music. The concert was definitely very memorable. It showed me a new style of music. It showed me the power that three instruments can have. The first song was an “Afternoon Raga”, and then they followed it with a “Late Afternoon Raga”. Paul made a point of saying how although each raga has certain notes to play, it’s the artist who makes it moving. An artist must bring the “prana”, or soul of the music to life. Through that concert, I realized how important music is to the Indian culture, and how people could connect to it spiritually.

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Overall the experience of this Indian concert was amazing. The two musicians really impressed me with their intricate knowledge of their instruments and the culture behind it, alongside their great talent as artists. I find Hindustani Indian music to be very beautiful and spiritual. I am very thankful for the experience.



3. Event Name

Text Response	
Indian Music Concert	
Indian Music Concert	
Indian Sitar and Tabla Concert	
North Indian Music Concert	
Sitar and tabla performance: Paul Livingstone and Neelamjit Dhillon	
Sitar and Tabla drum in class concert	
Indian music concert	
Indian Sitar	
Paul Livingstone and Neelamjit Dhillon	
indian concert	
Sitar and Tabla Concert	
Indian music concert; sitar and tabla player	
Indian Concert	
Indian Music Concert	
Flamenco	

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	15

4. Event Date

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Tuesday, March 12, 2014		15	100%
	Total		15	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	1
Mean	1.00
Variance	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00
Total Responses	15

5. How did your hear about this activity?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Instructor		15	100%
2	Word of mouth		0	0%
3	Facebook announcement or posting		0	0%
4	csuci.edu website		0	0%
5	Flyer/ Poster		0	0%
6	CI newsletter or publication- if so, which one?		0	0%
	Total		15	

CI newsletter or publication- if so, which one?

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	1
Mean	1.00
Variance	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00
Total Responses	15

6. Rate your overall satisfaction with this activity- 1 being lowest, and 10 being the highest score.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	1		0	0%
2	2		0	0%
3	3		0	0%
4	4		0	0%
5	5		0	0%
6	6		0	0%
7	7	<div></div>	1	7%
8	8	<div></div>	2	13%
9	9	<div></div>	2	13%
10	10	<div></div>	10	67%
	Total		15	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	7
Max Value	10
Mean	9.40
Variance	0.97
Standard Deviation	0.99
Total Responses	15

7. What do you consider the positives/ strengths of this activity?

Text Response	
It gave us first hand knowledge and experience on the very subject we are learning about.	
Being able to interact with the musicians through dialogue and participation was a major strength of the performance.	
The personalities of the performers , the participation with the audience, the incredible music they played, the explanations of their instruments, our professors involvement with the performers. EVERYTHING!	
I really enjoyed the up close and personal aspect of this concert.	
The skill of the performers with their respectable instruments made listening to them very enjoyable.	
The strengths of the performance would have to be the sheer skill and chemistry both musician displayed. They worked extremely well as a team and them feeding off each other created a pretty awesome feeling in the room , a distinct comfort.	
Everything about it. Great performance, great question and answer, crowd involvement. Very enjoyable and informative.	
Becoming more culturally aware - i got a great perspective of Indian culture	
They explained the creation of their instruments and the connections they have to them	
This concert offered a glance into the music of India that many people do not see. It was a great opportunity to be exposed to this culture.	
Knowledge that was pass; quality of music. Tabla player kicked ass	
If I hadn't already learned the information about the music style they were playing, I feel I could have still learned a lot. I still learned quite a bit though.	
They played wonderfully and were very knowledgeable.	
The performers personalities. The dancer was incredible. She is a huge part of the music and that is why it is important to not only hear the guitar but to see her too.	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	14



8. What were the weaknesses of this activity?

Text Response	
none	
Not being able to hear more of the music was the only weakness I discovered.	
None. The stage could be a little nicer for our guests though.	
Nothing.	
None that I can think of.	
None.	
N/A	
They only played 2 songs	
None.	
A little too much talking. Not that it's a bad thing; but, was expecting a little more music.	
It was too short, being confined to the length of the class period.	
They did not play enough music; talked a little too much.	
THEY NEEDED A THIRD PERSON TO COMPLETE THE EXPERIENCE. Just like in Indian music, Flamenco music needs a third person to create the entire experience of the music. Lets learn. Lets enjoy learning. Lets really teach people something. I am so grateful for even just the two performers, but they needed that third musician to show us the complete package of the music. They couldn't teach us to the best of their abilities with a missing piece.	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

9. Suggestions or comments for future activities?

Text Response
Irish Music.
Giving the muscians more time to play would be great. A 45 minute performance was squeezed into about 12. Different styles of music take longer to develop than others.
Please keep doing it. I am graduating but I want it to be around for future students. I think it is so important to have the performers because it is an interactive way of learning. You can't learn everything out of a book.
More activities like this more often on campus please!!!
More like this!
Play more songs
Do this same activity again for future students.
N/a
Please spend more money on these activities for future classes. It is very crucial to the learning process.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	9

10. Any other comments?

Text Response	
none	
The concert was excellent.	
We could provide the guests with water bottles and a free lunch in the cafeteria. :)	
none	
I loved it!!	
N/a	
Our professor is great!	

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	7

11. Which course(s) that you are currently taking did this activity relate to?

Text Response	
World Music (PAMU 332)	
World Music	
World Music	
World Music	
Pamu 332 - World Music	
World Music	
World music	
PAMU 332	
World Music, PAMU 332	
PAMU 332	
World Music	
World Music	
Pamu 332 - World Music	
World Music	
World Music	

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	15

12. How did this activity relate to the content and/or learning outcomes of the courses that you are taking?

**Text Response**

We are currently learning about Indian music.

My class is currently covering an entire chapter on Indian music. This concert gave me a first hand introduction to its sound and culture. I was able to further my knowledge and understanding of the subject by being able to both hear and see musicians playing traditional Indian.

It completely relates, and goes along with our learning. The concert was not only a musical experience it was a learning experience. We get the opportunity to learn about people from different cultures, and what makes their music uniquely beautiful and special.

It was live North Indian traditional music. Having the music up close and personal really helped me comprehend the style of this particular music.

Currently learning about Indian music. Discussed sitar and tabla.

We are learning about Indian music, and both of these instruments are played extensively in Northern India.

It directly related to what we have been studying in class.

Learning about Indian music, how the instruments are played and cultural learning.

We studied the sitar, tabla, and Indian traditional music

it related well with the course and helped further my understanding of Indian music

We are currently learning about the different types of music in India.

Studying Indian music in World Music

The content of this activity went along with the information learned in class.

We learned about the instruments that they played in class.

It relates to the entire class. All of these performances are not just for fun, even though they are fun, they provide a real life learning experience which is sometimes crucial to the understanding of certain subjects.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	15