

Listen to an interview with Mahesh Gupta, tabla player and DJ about his music.

Optional exercise: Decide if these statements are true or false. (Answers below).

1. Mahesh thinks that the two styles of music he plays are completely different.
 2. Rhythm is something fundamental to all music.
 3. Mahesh thinks that live music doesn't work in clubs.
 4. He thinks that it is too early to try Djing at a classical music concert.
 5. Indian audiences are far more lively than Western ones.
 6. Mahesh is always looking for new experiences.
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Interviewer (I): Mahesh, you trained as a classical Indian musician, but now you spend most of your time playing records in nightclubs...they're two very different things!

Mahesh (M): Well, yes, they are...the two worlds are very different, but there is something that connects them...

I: ...and what's that?

M: Rhythm. An interest in rhythm. Rhythm is fundamental to everything that I do. Whether it's the rhythmic section of a classical Indian raga, or some "Asian Underground" electronic beats in a club...

I: And you mix the two things don't you?

M: Yes...I've played live tabla to electronic accompaniment in clubs in Europe.

I: How has that gone down?

M: Really well...I think people are getting bored of ordinary clubs and faceless DJs. Some live music is a great addition.

I: And have you tried dj-ing for a classical Indian audience on the other hand?

M: No! I'm not quite sure the world's ready for that yet...still, it's an interesting idea!

I: How are audiences for your music different in India and in Europe?

M: Well, the classical audiences are far more sedate in Europe than in India.

I: How do you mean?

M: Well, in the West people think they have to respect the music, and to show their respect they all sit there very quietly, as if they are at a museum or something.

I: And in India?

M: People participate much more ...they'll clap when they appreciate something...and shout when they don't!

I: Finally Mahesh, what does the future hold for you?

M: A new record in the autumn, then next year I'm looking forward to a new collaboration with some Latin American musicians...I'm always looking for new frontiers...!

Answers: 1F, 2T, 3F, 4T, 5T, 6T