

Terms

April 23, 2013

In the specific case of Kanjira/Mridangam, the definitions of different rhythm components are:

- **Stroke:** Hit/tap on the instrument's surface.
- **Pattern:** Temporal sequence of strokes and pauses played either as solo or as accompaniment to a song. Some examples of patterns are:
 1. "tha. tumki."
 2. "tha thum thum tha"
 3. "thum tha thum thum tha thum thum tha"
- **Diction:** The sequence of strokes in pattern.
- **Accents:** The emphasis on certain strokes, emphasis being loudness, increase of pitch, lengthening of note duration.
- **Intonation:** Controlling a pitch of the bass sounds.
- **Beat:** The smallest unit of rhythm. Counted as beats per minute.
- **Clap:** Set of beats. Denoted by the clap of the hand played periodically after a certain number of beats. If the time signature is $4/4$, then 1 clap is played for every 4 beats, if time signature is $5/4$, then 1 clap is played for every 5 beats.
- **Pause(in a rhythm pattern):** Time interval between the notes played in a rhythm pattern. Pauses refers to the places of silence in a rhythm pattern. Pause is measured in terms of "number of beats".
- **Duration of stroke:** Duration of each stroke played in the pattern. Duration is measured in terms of number of beats. Duration can be used to calculate pauses and vice versa.
- **Phrase:** Refers to a melody phrase or the song.