

## Heroic Journey – Theme Variations

Theme variation or *vistara* (Indian language) in tabla composition is quite unique. The rules are very strict, but this rigidity helps students and players to stay focused on a single emotion, while expanding a specific composition. There are two primary rules. First, we are not allowed to use a syllable that is not in the main theme. Second, we can alter time signatures, but only for the entire composition. For example, we are allowed to play the composition at its double, triple, or quadruple speeds, but not a combination of different speeds.

These variations are composed by me. At the beginning we memorize the variations and practice them hard for several years. Eventually, we develop our own ability to improvise, just like the way we learn a foreign language.

I wrote the main theme in single speed in my last post. Here, I have written its double, triple and quadruple speeds, and the remaining variations will be written at quadruple speed. Ultimately, this composition will be performed at quadruple speed. I will use two claps per line instead of four, because density of notes will increase by two/three/four times. I have also reduced the font size at quadruple speed. Please make a note that phrases are sometimes going over the bar lines depending on the speed. I like to label variations in alphabetical orders (a, b, c...).

Double speed:

a. The entire composition must be played twice to complete 16-beat cycle.

| (Dha Ge Te Te ) (Kre Dha Te Te ) ( Ghe Rhe Na Ra ) (Ghe Rhe Dhe Ne )  
2 1 2 2 2 1

| (Dha Ti Ghe Ne) (Dha Ra Ge Ne | Ta Ka) (Thinge - Na Ra Ke Ne )  
2 1 2 1 ch

| (Ta Ke Te Te ) (Kre Tha Te Te ) (Ke Rhe Na Ra ) (Ke Rhe The Ne )  
2 1 2 2 2 1

| (Dha Ti Ghe Ne) (Dha Ra Ge Ne | Ta Ga) (Dinge - Na Ra Ge Ne )  
2 1 2 1 ch 2 1

| (Dha Ge Te Te ) (Kre Dha Te Te ) ( Ghe Rhe Na Ra ) (Ghe Rhe Dhe Ne )  
2 1 2 2 2 1

| (Dha Ti Ghe Ne) (Dha Ra Ge Ne | Ta Ka) (Thinge - Na Ra Ke Ne )  
2 1 2 1 ch

| (Ta Ke Te Te ) (Kre Tha Te Te ) (Ke Rhe Na Ra ) (Ke Rhe The Ne )  
2 1 2 2 2 1

| (Dha Ti Ghe Ne) (Dha Ra Ge Ne | Ta Ga) (Dinge - Na Ra Ge Ne )  
2 1 2 1 ch 2 1

Triple speed:

b. The entire composition must be played three times to complete 16-beat cycle.

| (Dha Ge Te Te)(Kre Dha Te Te)(Ghe Rhe Na Ra) | (Ghe Rhe Dhe Ne)(Dha Ti Ghe Ne)(Dha Ra Ge Ne  
 2 1 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 2 1  
 | Ta Ka) (Thinge - Na Ra Ke Ne) (Ta Ke Te Te) ( Kre Tha Te Te)(Ke Rhe Na Ra)(Ke Rhe The Ne)  
 ch  
 | (Dha Ti Ghe Ne) (Dha Ra Ge Ne Ta Ga ) (Dinge - Na Ra Ge Ne) (Dha Ge Te Te) (Kre Dha Te Te)  
 2 1 2 1 ch 2 1 2 1 2 1  
 | (GheRhe Na Ra)(GheRhe DheNe)(Dha Ti GheNe)(Dha Ra Ge Ne Ta Ka) (Thinge - Na Ra Ke Ne)  
 2 2 1 2 1 2 1 ch  
 | (Ta Ke Te Te) ( Kre Tha Te Te) (Ke Rhe Na Ra) ( Ke Rhe The Ne)(Dha Ti Ghe Ne) (Dha Ra Ge Ne  
 2 1 2 1 2 1  
 | Ta Ga ) (Dinge - Na Ra Ge Ne) (Dha Ge Te Te) (Kre Dha Te Te)(GheRhe Na Ra)(GheRhe DheNe)  
 cg 2 1 2 1 2 2 2 1  
 | (Dha Ti Ghe Ne)(Dha Ra Ge NeTa Ka) (Thinge - Na Ra Ke Ne) (Ta Ke Te Te) ( Kre Tha Te Te)  
 2 1 2 1 ch  
 | (Ke Rhe Na Ra)(Ke Rhe The Ne)(Dha Ti Ghe Ne)(Dha Ra Ge Ne Ta Ga ) (Dinge - Na Ra Ge Ne)  
 2 1 2 1 ch 2 1

Quadruple speed:

c. The entire composition must be played four times to complete 16-beat cycle.

| (DhaGe TeTe)(KreDha TeTe)(GheRhe NaRa)(GheRhe DheNe)(DhaTi GheNe)(DhaRa GeNe TaKa)(Thinge - NaRa KeNe)  
 2 1 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 2 1 ch  
 | (Ta Ke Te Te) (KreTha TeTe) (KeRhe NaRa) (Ke Rhe The Ne)(DhaTi GheNe)(DhaRa GeNe TaGa)(Dinge - NaRa GeNe)  
 2 1 2 1 ch 2 1  
 | (DhaGe TeTe)(KreDha TeTe)(GheRhe NaRa)(GheRhe DheNe)(DhaTi GheNe)(DhaRa GeNe TaKa)(Thinge - NaRa KeNe)  
 2 1 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 2 1 ch  
 | (Ta Ke Te Te) (KreTha TeTe) (KeRhe NaRa) (Ke Rhe The Ne)(DhaTi GheNe)(DhaRa GeNe TaGa)(Dinge - NaRa GeNe)  
 2 1 2 1 ch 2 1  
 | (DhaGe TeTe)(KreDha TeTe)(GheRhe NaRa)(GheRhe DheNe)(DhaTi GheNe)(DhaRa GeNe TaKa)(Thinge - NaRa KeNe)  
 2 1 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 2 1 ch  
 | (Ta Ke Te Te) (KreTha TeTe) (KeRhe NaRa) (Ke Rhe The Ne)(DhaTi GheNe)(DhaRa GeNe TaGa)(Dinge - NaRa GeNe)  
 2 1 2 1 ch 2 1