

Amrit Performance Note

String Quartet by **Kala Ramnath** (2016),
arranged by Reena Esmail

Backing Track:

Amrit consists of an Alap, or free section, and Raga, a metered section. The backing track contains a tambura drone and, in parts, the accompaniment of a tabla, a North Indian percussion instrument.

To begin the piece, first start the backing track, and then begin playing about five seconds after the drone fades in. Kronos has timed the unmetred section to coincide with the timing of their performance of the Alap section. The tabla will then enter at measure 1 (Raga section), at the top of the second page, which is the beginning of the metered section. The rhythm you hear will be the eighth-note pulse (as cued in the parts). The quartet should then enter as shown, on beat 3.5 of measure 2. For the end of the piece, the rhythm will stop at the end of the metered section, and a small portion of drone will accompany the last few unmetred seconds of music before fading out.

For rehearsals, Kronos has provided a long drone track to help with intonation in the Alap. Also for the Raga section, there are practice tracks at slower speeds, allowing the quartet to get used to the tabla part while working up the tempo. The tempos of 110, 115, or 120 are acceptable performance tempos.

The source material of the backing track is from an App "iTablaPro" with the setting "Teentaal (16) at 240 bpm." This Taal is a 16 beat pattern, but it is doubled to make it an 8 beat one—2 measures of 4/4 at the 120 tempo.