

Columbia University
in the city of new york
University Senate
Office of Student Engagement
Interschool Governing Board (IGB)

Student Group Recognition Application

The mission of the Interschool Governing Board (IGB) is to represent and serve the needs of Columbia University student interschool organizations whose membership and mission is interschool in nature and includes a combination of graduate and undergraduate professional schools, groups and students who do not fall under the immediate jurisdiction of other governing boards or individual school councils. IGB is dedicated to overseeing and supporting such student organizations in their efforts to bridge the gaps between various students and academic disciplines on the Columbia University campus.

To apply for recognition, this form and all necessary materials must be completed and submitted electronically to the following email address: igb@columbia.edu. The IGB Budget Committee will determine if everything has been submitted and forward a recommendation to the IGB General Body for official voting. Student Club leadership may be required to follow up with the Budget Committee or attend an IGB meeting to clarify budget details and justifications.

To be considered for recognition, clubs:

- ✓ Must complete and submit the Student Group Recognition Application
- ✓ Can have a faculty/staff **mentor** (a logistics **advisor** will be assigned to you from the Office of Student Group Advising after IGB recognition)
- ✓ Must have a designated President/Chair and Treasurer
- ✓ Must submit a written constitution, and if available, a set of bylaws

Student groups must submit the Student Group Recognition Application and all relevant materials by:

For FALL SEMESTER recognition:

March 1 of the previous school year

For SPRING SEMESTER recognition:

November 1 of the previous calendar year

* No applications will be accepted over the summer.

Date of Application: [March 1, 2018](#)

Application for: (circle one) **FALL** SPRING (year) 2018

Applicant's Name: Jay Gandhi Columbia Email (UNI): jhg2142@columbia.edu

Phone Number: (347)-931-0296 Relationship to Club: President

Club Info:

Club Name: Columbia Raaga Number of Members: 24

Breakdown by School (approximate %'s): | CC: 38% | SEAS: 4% | GS: 8% | Barnard: 8% | GSAS: 8% | JS: 13% | Fu (Grad): 4% | Business: 4% |

Club Mentor: Sejal Kukadia Columbia Email (UNI): sejal@taalim.com

Mentor's Relationship to Columbia: non-affiliate (however, we are open to changing mentors upon recognition. There are a couple of faculty members we can ask)

Club President: Jay Gandhi Columbia Email (UNI): jhg2142@columbia.edu

Club Treasurer: Michel Vazirani Columbia Email (UNI): mvv2114@columbia.edu

Please provide a brief summary of the club's goals, why you feel IGB recognition is important, and how students may benefit from your club.

<<PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR THE SUMMARY>>

The South Asian community at Columbia is extensive, yet we do not have a recognized South Asian music ensemble to represent it. Raaga is unique in this mission. Since its conception in 2013, we have strived to cultivate on campus a popular following and an appreciation for South Asian music, its rich history, and its diverse repertoire. We have achieved this by performing at many undergraduate and graduate events including Glass House Rocks, Tamasha, Naach Nation, and Morningside Review. Raaga has also performed at a number of events off-campus at public schools, CUNY, and New York's premier Indian Classical music consortium, Brooklyn Raga Massive.

The form of Indian Classical Music explores rhythm and melody in unique ways, but also share some key elements with jazz (please see addendum). That said, it is no wonder that Raaga consistently attracts students from a variety of musical backgrounds interested in adapting and inspiring their own playing. We at Raaga proudly encourage cross-cultural musical dialogue between traditions of the East and West, embracing all kinds of instrumentation to perform traditional and contemporary tunes. As such, we provide a platform to a very large community of musicians to engage with South Asian music.

Recognition is critical for us in several ways. Most significantly, as an unrecognized group we lack the resources to book space and host events, which has been a huge obstacle. For our weekly rehearsals, we are forced to find music practice rooms just before they start, and host in these rooms more people than they can practically accommodate. Secondly, though we have co-hosted events, we wish to host events of our own. Additionally, we would like to open our bi-semesterly lecture demonstrations by distinguished musicians from the NYC metropolitan area to the wider Columbia community. Currently, our lack of funding and space has forced us to restrict such activities to within our group. Finally, having our name on the list of official student groups online will be extremely helpful at increasing our visibility and recognition at Columbia.

<<Please see next page for signatures of 10 group members.>>

<<Please see last page for an application addendum.>>

Please provide the signatures of ten (10) club members.

1. Name: Jay Gandhi Columbia Email (UNI): jhg2142@columbia.edu
School: CC Signature: [Signature]
2. Name: Michel Vazirani Columbia Email (UNI): mvv2114
School: CC Signature: Michel Vazirani
3. Name: Harim van BAH Columbia Email (UNI): hcb2140
School: GS Signature: [Signature]
4. Name: Mukund P. Rao Columbia Email (UNI): mpr2138@columbia.edu
School: GSAS Signature: Mukund
5. Name: RILEY SWAIN Columbia Email (UNI): RJS2226
School: CC Signature: [Signature]
6. Name: Sam Aldridge Columbia Email (UNI): ssa2166
School: C.C. Signature: SL
7. Name: Poorna Kytzida Columbia Email (UNI): ppk2115
School: Barnard Signature: [Signature]
8. Name: Alexandra Romanian Columbia Email (UNI): abr3709
School: GSAS Signature: [Signature]
9. Name: Saiki S. Halder Columbia Email (UNI): ssh2164
School: SEAS Signature: [Signature]
10. Name: Lakshmi Bodapati Columbia Email (UNI): lmb2254
School: SEAS Signature: B.L. Mounik

Thank you for your application! You will receive a formal response from us via email within sixty (60) days of submission with a conditional approval or denial. From there, we will detail you with any next steps.

<<Please see next page for an application addendum.>>

Application Addendum

Our relationship with music:

Indian Classical Music is a dynamic genre that recommends performers to abide by certain melodic and rhythmical frameworks, but simultaneously offers immense scope for freedom and improvisation. On some instances, a performer may choose to creatively break from these frameworks, while staying true to the piece's chosen *bhava* (or emotion). Currently, members specializing in the South Asian tradition sing, and play the sitar (Indian lute), tabla (percussion), and bansuri (flute). However, given that Indian Classical Music evidently shares so many parallels with Jazz, it is no wonder that we have also attracted members specializing in other diverse musical instruments, including the alto saxophone, acoustic guitar, classical guitar, piano, synthesizer, accordion, and the Hichiriki (Japanese Reed Flute).

What makes Raaga unique is our ability to remain true to South Asian musical forms while artistically blending in flavors from other styles. This enables us a large platform for musical collaboration.

Lecture Demonstrations:

We have delivered lecture-demonstrations in collaboration with SPIC MACAY and at public High Schools, in which we have woven in a deep elaboration on the meaning and significance of concepts unique to Indian Classical Music like *raga* (restricted melodic scales), *tala* (rhythm), *shruti* (pitch and microtone), *rasa* (aura), and *bhava* (emotion) together with music performance.

List of Performances (2017-2018)

**Relay for Life (April 14, 2018)*

**Tamasha (2017, 2018)*

**WKCR Raaga Aur Taal (March 25, 2018)*

HSO Avatar (Feb 17, 2018)

Glass house Rocks (2017, 2018)

Morningside Review showcase (2017)

Samatva (2017)

Gaye Holud (2017)

Rabindra Sangeet Night (2017)

Macaulay Honors College Mela (2017)

APAHM – An Asian Musical Exposition (2017)

Boishakhi (2017)

Democracy Prep Charter School lecture-demo (2017)

Feature in Kat's Japanese and Asian Music Ensemble (2017)

MESAAS Graduate Student Conference (2017)

Zamana Mixers (2017)

**Upcoming performances*