

Uşşak Taksim Practice

Art as Spiritual Discipline
September 14, 2017

Friends, we encourage you to improvise in Uşşak makam. One way to begin this journey is to spend time with the bichords, trichords and tetrachords below. Set a drone to B and call that "la", just as we did in class and in the listening examples.

La area

Background trichord trichord Foreground tetrachord

la sol la sol fa la si do la si do re

Re area

Background trichord trichord Foreground tetrachord

re do re do si re mi fa re mi fa sol

Start by singing the bichord in the la area and *play* with la and sol. Feel that la is home and sol is some place away from home. Maybe you will find that you like spending time away from home, like on vacation. That is ok! Maybe you will want to sing endless la's with a few quick sol's, like you're curled up in the dead of winter.

Go on to experiment with the other trichords and tetrachords situated around la. Try to bring about the feeling of uşşak as found in the compositions we are learning. Perhaps you will find new feelings. We'd love it if you shared them with the class, but it is fine to keep them to yourself.

Move on to the chords built around re. How does this space differ from the la area? Once you have a taste for the different bichords, trichords and tetrachords, play freely among them. Try to start and end your taksims on la to maintain the feeling of uşşak.

Take your time. Perhaps just get to know one corner of uşşak, just a few of the chords. Be free and non judgemental. We're not performing, we're getting to know uşşak. What's it showing you? Or what are you showing yourself through its atmosphere?