

RAVI AND SHASHI BELLARE ARTS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

FESTIVAL OF TABLA™

▲ JULY 29 & 30, 2023 ▲

5TH ANNUAL INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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RAHUL PARIKH

Sanatan Dharma Cultural Center
15311 Pioneer Blvd, Norwalk, CA 90650

WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL OF TABLA™



On behalf of the Ravi & Shashi Bellare Arts Foundation we lovingly welcome you all to the 5th annual 'Festival of Tabla'(FOT). This Festival is one of a kind and very unique in many ways. You will see artists from around the world participate in this two day Indian Classical Music Festival. From the youngest budding artist to the grand masters who all perform on the same stage, each will receive the same respect and care. We ask that each of our guests take the time to view and experience not only the music but also the gallery of old Indian Classical Music records and dot and lipon art paintings by Chandrika Kotecha.

As an audience member, please enjoy, respect, and applaud, all the hard work and dedication to the art form that our Festival artists are so graciously bringing to the platform. Please give your undivided attention to them and save the talking for break time. Enjoy the sight, sounds, aroma, food, peacefulness, visual arts, and much more of this amazing two-day event and let your friends know that they should come and join you to support this unique endeavor in preserving Indian Classical Music and Art.

We'd like to thank our many donors, vendors, volunteers, and supporters who have made today's event possible. Lastly we thank YOU, the audience, for being here and gracing our festival with your presence.



The Legacy of Pandit Taranath Rao

RAVI AND SHASHI BELLARE ARTS FOUNDATION

Pandit Taranath Rao giving blessings to his nephew Pt. Ravi Bellare on Guru Purnima day. A picture of Taranathji's Guru Ustad Shamsuddin Khansahib can be seen in the background. This is truly a rare treasure in time. Taranthaji trained both his newpews Ravi & Shashi who became some of the most sought after tabla players in the 50's and 60's and presented both of them in Julglebandi's (Duet's) as early as 1940's.

True tradition of Guru Shishya Parampara can be seen in this photo.



The Ravi & Shashi Bellare Arts Foundation memorializes and implements the rich legacies of Pandit Taranath Rao, Pandits Ravi and Shashi Bellare. The Foundation, is a small non-profit that has had a significant impact on the Southern California community. The founder, Rupesh Kotecha, began promoting local California artists of Indian music and tabla by hosting intimate house concerts (or "dungals") starting in 1983. As the years passed, and the foundation took flight, Rupesh and his wife Mona, began inviting master artists from around the world to showcase their expertise on the stage, and to act as workshop leaders for younger musicians and artists. Before our organization started hosting these events, one seldom heard a tabla solo in concert unless you attended a performance of one of the great masters. Seeing this as a crucial gap, our organization made it a point to open up the stage to other performers: from masters to amateurs. The Foundation's milestone event, Festival of Tabla, carries the goal to bring back the rich tradition of solo tabla performance at each event and to present many artists of all genders, color, caste, creed, age, and/or disability with its programming. In particular, the project seeks to provide an unbiased platform for the highly underrepresented female tabla solo artists. Since 2017, the festival has grown by way of attendee numbers and performers. This growth is an example of the inclusive nature and ambience that is created and that attracts and engages all members (from performing artists to audience to volunteers) present during the two-day event. We have since, discovered an immense interest in the percussive arts of India because people are now able to experience a two-day festival and immerse themselves in various art-forms of India, especially the art of tabla solo. The festival has given life and hope to a new generation of performers.

THIS FESTIVAL IS DEDICATED TO THE LIFE AND WORK OF MY GURUS

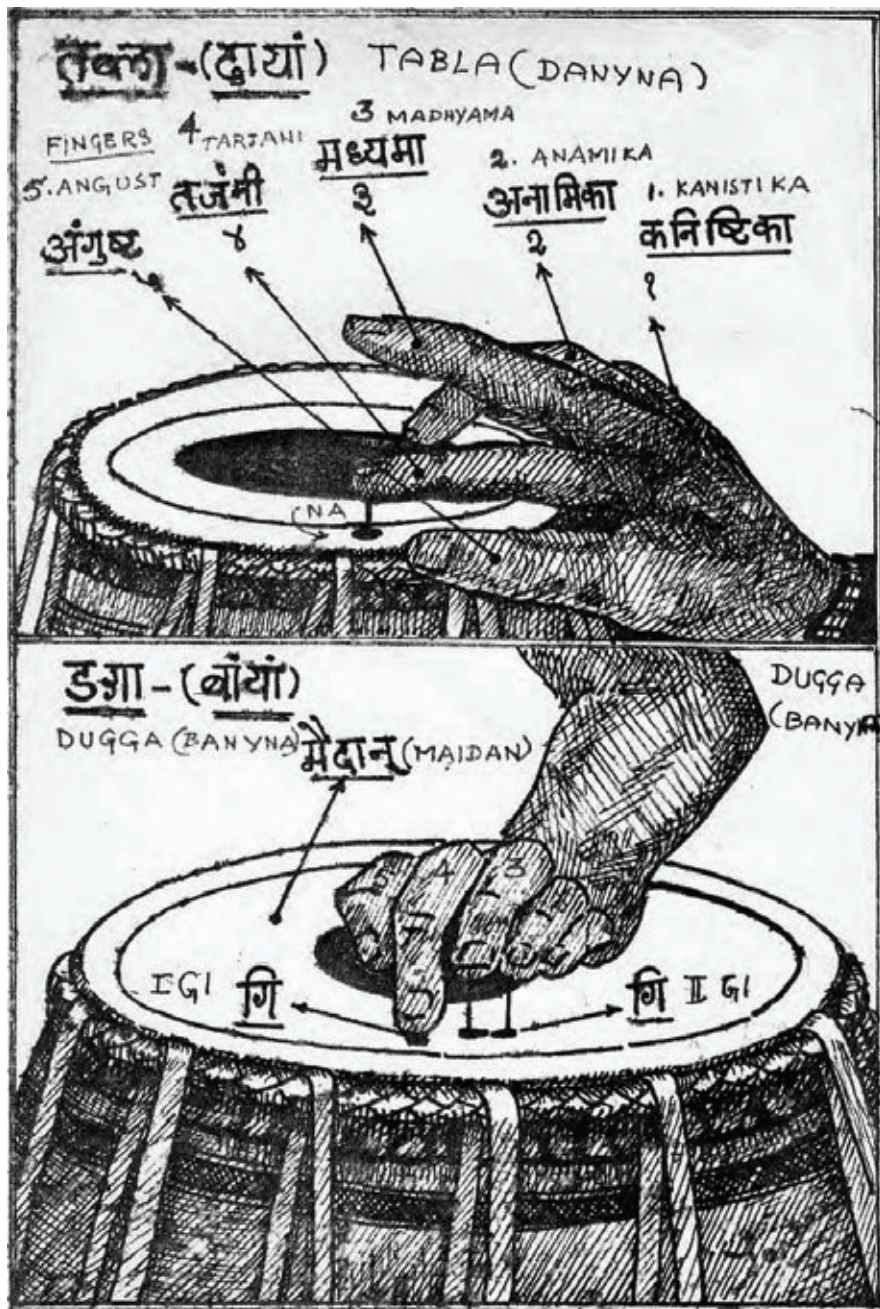
For the last 5 years of my Gururji's life on this earth, I spent every morning with him just documenting information about Indian Classical Music, Art, and Dance. Ravi ji had so much to offer and we could have continued to write for decades and it still wouldn't have been enough time. His work remains unfinished and as time permits these works will be published as he dictated along with what Rupesh has collected over all the years of learning with Ravi Ji and the many Guru's he has learned and interacted with. Our future goal is to open a center for the Indian Classical Arts where all the vast traditions can be kept alive in an interactive environment in which various arts and artists come together. We are looking for vacant land or building donations.



Rupesh with his Gururji Pandit Ravi Bellare at his residence in Chino Hills 2004



ARTWORK OF PANDIT TARANATH RAO



PROGRAM

Saturday, July 29

- 09:30 AM - | **Ticketing Opens / Record Album Gallery Opens**
- 9:50 AM - 10:00 AM | **Introduction to the Festival**
- 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM | **Gregg Johnson + Leonice Shinneman, Tabla Duet** | Dave Cipriani, Indian Slide Guitar
- 10:40 AM - 11:10 AM | **Viral Mehta, Tabla Solo** | Chirag Dixit, Sarangi
- 11:20 AM - 11:50 AM | **Ted Morano, Surbahar Solo** | Mehar-Jot Singh Sagoo, Jori
- 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM | **Jagjit Arora, Tabla Solo** | Chirag Dixit, Sarangi
- 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM** | *** LUNCH ***
- 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM | **Shree Steve Oda, Sarode Solo** | Pt. Nishikant Barodekar, Tabla
- 2:25 PM - 2:55 PM | **Sandeep Hattangady, Tabla Solo** | Pt. Pankaj Mishra, Sarangi
- 3:05 PM - 3:35 PM | **Dave Cipriani, Indian Slide Guitar** | Shivam Sudame, Tabla
- 3:45 PM - 4:30 PM | **Vivek Pandya, Tabla Solo** | Pratyush Goberdhan, Violin | Kaavya Valiveti, Harmonium
- 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM** | *** CHAI TIME ***
- 5:00 PM - 5:40 PM | **Gaayatri, Vocal Solo** |
Kaavya Valiveti, Harmonium | Pratyush Goberdhan, Violin | Shivam Sudame, Tabla
- 5:50 PM - 6:20 PM | **Bharat Maru, Tabla Solo** | Rupesh Kotecha, Harmonium
- 6:30 PM - 7:10 PM | **Raaginder, Violin Solo** | Vivek Pandya, Tabla
- 7:15 PM - 8:15 PM** | *** DINNER ***
- 8:15 PM | **Pt. Nayan Ghosh & Ishaan Ghosh, Tabla Duet** | Pt. Pankaj Mishra, Sarangi



ARTISTS

GREGG JOHNSON

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT TARANATH RAO AND PT RAVINDRANATH BELLARE

Gregg attended CalArts as an Ahmanson Scholar, completing a BFA ('77) and MFA ('79) in World Music Performance with specialization in the classical music of India. He studied and performed extensively with the great tabla maestro Pandit Taranath Rao (late) while at CalArts and for 11 years until 1991. In 1990, Gregg toured India with Pandit Taranath presenting solo and ensemble recitals on the tabla and pakhawaj. Then, from 1991-2005, Gregg continued an intensive study in the Guru-Shishya system with Pandit Taranath's nephew, Pandit Ravindranath Bellare (late), specializing in the Farukhabad Gharana which emphasizes recitation of rhythmic Sanskrit poetry and ancient Hindu prayers set to the intricate rhythmic cycles known as Tala in settings for Kathak Dance. Gregg received the California Institute of the Arts Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005.



LEONICE SHINNEMAN

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT TARANATH RAO

Leonice Shinneman is recognized as the foremost American disciple of the legendary North Indian



tabla and pakhawaj master Pandit Taranath Rao. Broadening his expertise in the Farukhabad style of tabla performance, Leonice continued his studies with Pandit Ravi Bellare. Leonice's original research on calculations within the tala system has shed new light on the art of improvising rhythmic resolutions in real-time. Lessons with renowned South Indian Ghatam master T.H. Subash Chandran have led to his mastery of Karnatic percussion. Ustad Alla Rakha, T.R. Harihara Sarma, Swapan Chaudhuri and T.R. Rajamani were also his teachers. Leonice has given tabla and pakhawaj solos in Europe, India, Mexico and the U.S.A. and has performed Indian classical music in concert with Amiya Dasgupta, L. Shankar,

Ganasaraswathy, Zakir Hussain and Rajeev Taranath. He is co-founder of the world music group Dark whose recordings "Dark" and "Tamna Voda" were produced by CMP records. Combining East Indian and West African Rhythms, Leonice performs utilizing an innovative drum kit of his own design. He holds several U.S. patents for original percussion equipment and received his BFA and MFA from California Institute of the Arts, where he also served on the faculty.

VIRAL MENTA

DISCIPLE OF SHRI ADITYA KALYANPUR



Viral first started learning Tabla at the age of 9, under the tutelage of Shri Parshuram Bhorrani ji at The Sangeet Academy Rajkot, Gujarat. He was also very fortunate to get blessings and guidance from



Shri Sudhir Kumar Saksena, a leading exponent of Ajarada Gharana. In his early days of Taalim, Viral had the privilege of learning compositions from the Farukabaad, Delhi and Ajarada traditions and had opportunity to participate in Pandit Omkarnath Thakur Music festival more than once.

After continuing the musical journey for 8 years at the academy, Viral went on to pursue career in Medicine and ultimately moved to Southern California to pursue advanced training and practice of Interventional Cardiology. Although tuning up the rhythms of his patients' hearts kept Viral very busy, he always remained very passionate for Tabla

On one day in summer of 2019, Viral received a very interesting call; this time it was not a call from a patient, but one from his friend inviting him to attend the Festival of Tabla. Attending the festival and listening to the great Maestros like Sapan Da, Anindo Ji and Ustaad Taari Khan saab so up close, inspired Viral to pick up from where he had left off in 1978. After nearly a 40-year hiatus Viral resumed his musical journey once again, this time under the tutelage of one of the foremost exponents of Punjab Gharana, Aditya Kalyanpur Ji.

Viral feels extremely grateful and fortunate to have been inspired by the Festival of Tabla to resume this wonderful journey of rhythms, and humbly seeks everyone's best wishes and blessings along the way. biopharmaceutical industry and lives in the LA area with his wife and two daughters.



Chirag Dixit is a student of Pankaj Mishra of the Banaras Gharana. He has been learning Sarangi for the past five years. He previously studied Hindustani vocal music under Geetha Munshi. Chirag recently graduated from UC Riverside with a degree in computer engineering.

CHIRAG DIXIT

DISCIPLE OF PT PANKAJ MISHRA



TED MORANO

DISCIPLE OF PT AMIYA DASGUPTA



Ted Morano began listening to Indian Music at the age of twelve. Ten years later, in 1981, he began learning Sitar with the late Vasant Rai at the Alam School of Indian Music in New York City. After one year of study, he decided to pursue musical studies full-time. In 1983, he began learning Sitar, vocal music, and theory from the late Amiya Dasgupta at the California Institute of the Arts. At the same time, he began learning Tabla and theory from the late Pt. Taranath Rao, and later, Pakhawaj. In Pt. Taranath's Tala Vadya Kacheri ensemble, he played lehra on Sitar and Dilruba. Eventually, he became a teaching assistant to Amiya Dasgupta and Pt. Taranath, teaching beginning Sitar and Tabla. At CalArts, he earned a BFA and MFA in North Indian Classical Music, Sitar Performance.

In 1985, Ted had the honor of performing for Pt. Ravi Shankar.

While at CalArts, he studied the fundamentals of Carnatic Music with L. Ganasaraswathy. He also learned and extensively performed Balinese Gamelan with Nyoman Wenten, Javanese Gamelan with KRT Wasitodiningrat, and West African Music with Kobla and Alfred Ladzekpo.

After graduating from CalArts in 1989, he continued learning from Amiya Dasgupta until his death in 1994. 2017-2019, he attended workshops with the Gundecha Brothers, learning Dhrupad singing. While at CalArts, he began providing Tanpura accompaniment for his Gurus and other artists. He played Tanpura for 17 years at the annual all-night Indian Music concerts arranged by Chhandayan in New York City. This gave him the privilege of being onstage with such artists as Aashish Khan, Gundecha Brothers, Ulhas Kashalkar, Rashid Khan, Joya Biswas, Tejendra Majumdar, Rajiv Taranath, Ajoy Chakrabarty, Kushal Das, Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Kala Ramnath, Anupama Bhawgat, Anindo Chatterjee, Suresh Talwalkar, to name a few.

He has also provided lehra for Tabla and Pakhawaj solos on Sitar, Surbahar, Dilruba, and Harmonium for Yogesh Samsi, Manik Munde, Samir Chatterjee, Suryaksha Deshpande, Sadanand Naimpalli, and Ray Spiegel. He has worked as a consultant, recording engineer, and Tanpura player for CMP Records, Raga Records, and Simla house Records. He also teaches Sitar, Tabla, and theory privately, and lectures on Indian Music. In addition to Indian Music, he has been composing Western music since 1974 in the mediums of analog and digital synthesis, chamber music, and other idioms. He worked full-time in the field of audio-visual technology 1992-2019. He now devotes himself full-time to music. His main focus is on playing Surbahar with emphasis on the Dhrupad Ang.



MEHAR JOT SINGH SAGOO

DISCIPLE OF USTAD SURDARSHAN SINGH CHANA

Mehar-Jot Singh is a 17-year-old Indian classical Tabla and Jori artist from the U.K. He is a dedicated student of the internationally renowned Ustaad Surdarshan Singh Chana, who he began learning from at the age of 6. Mehar-Jot Singh engages in weekly lessons and summer intensive retreats, both as a student and youth mentor, to support his practice as a growing musician.

Mehar-Jot's playing style draws heavily on the Benaras and Punjab Gharanas, learning an extensive repertoire of authentic compositions that have been passed down through the ages.

With the blessings of his Ustaad, he has been fortunate enough to learn the Jori; an ancestral predecessor of the Tabla.

Academically, Mehar-Jot has embarked on his first year of A-Levels, studying Psychology, Philosophy and Economics. He hopes to work within the field of Business and Finance. Along with these career ambitions, he aspires to develop in his own artistry, while maintaining a grounding spiritual practice.



JAGJIT ARORA

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT RAMAKANT AND PANDIT ANINDO CHATTERJEE

Jagjit is a tabla player from Delhi. He started learning the tabla at the age of 25 + from The Great Legend Tabla Maestro Pandit Ramakant Ji of Punjab Gharana and The Living Legend Pt. Anindo Chatterjee Ji of Farrukhabad Gharana.

He is a freelance tabla performer and has performed with various artists, such as Pandit Budhaditya Mukherjee (Sitar Maestro) and Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Mohan Veena Player), Pt. Rajeev Janardhan (Great Sitar Player) and also with many others.

He has played (Tabla solo, Tabla Duet and Tabla Mridangam Jugalbandi) with so many Carnatic Musicians in India and overseas. He has received TAAL SADHAK award by Indian Arts Conservatory Delhi, SANGEET SADHAK award by Arohi Kala Sansthan Moradabad (U.P), and SANGEET SAHODAR award in Ninaad Sangeet Mahotsava 2015 Agra, SANGEET SADHAK AWARD from Naad Sadhna Festival Agra in May 2016, SANGEET SADHAK AWARD, KLA NIDHI AWARD, TAAL RATNA AWARD, TAAL SHIRI AWARD from Swar Gunijan Samaroh Nangal, Punjab, LAYA KA DHANI AWARD from his Guru Ji Pt Rama Kant Ji Jalandhar(Punjab) and many more from different organizations. He is approved Graded Artist from ALL INDIA RADIO.

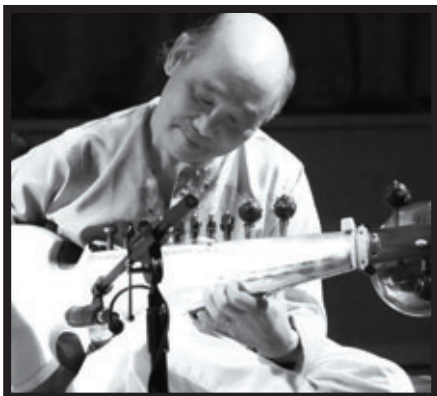


SHREE STEVE ODA

DISCIPLE OF USTAD ALI AKBAR KHANSAHIB



Steve Oda began his musical education at the age of seven, learning to play slide guitar and then jazz guitar. A Canadian of Japanese ancestry, his love of creativity through musical expression led him to the classical music of North India and the sarode. For over 45 years Steve Oda has dedicated himself to



learn this complex art form and carry on the teachings of his illustrious guru, the legendary musician, the late Ustad Ali Akbar Khansahib, one of India's treasures. Steve's many international performances have included Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan, Europe, Canada, and throughout the U.S. He currently resides in San Francisco, California actively teaching and performing the beautiful classical music of North India. Following Ustad Ali Akbar Khansahib's passing in 2009, Steve Oda has been blessed to continue his music studies through the teachings of Padmashri Pandit Rajeev Taranath-ji, a senior sarode disciple of Ali Akbar Khansahib. Steve Oda was blessed to have Taranath-ji help to arrange his performances in India just prior to the pandemic of COVID-19.



SANDEEP HATTANGADY

DISCIPLE OF PRABHAKAR BETRABET | USTAD SHABBIR NISAR | PANDIT MOHAN BALVALLI

Sandeep has pursued Tabla for more than two decades, learning from eminent Tabla Gurus including Shri Prabhakar Betrabet, Ustad Shabbir Nisar and Pandit Mohan Balvalli. He has also received extensive guidance from Pandit Sadanand Naimpalli and Pandit Omkar Gulvady. Sandeep has performed in India, UK and USA, playing both solo and accompanying for vocal, instrumental and dance with artists such as Pandit K Sridhar, Vidushi Shubhada Paradkar, Pandit Partha Bose and Dr. M. Narmadha among others. Based in North Carolina (USA), Sandeep balances his musical interest in performing and teaching Tabla alongside his professional pursuit in the semiconductor industry. He has co-authored the book, TIHAAI, with his Guru Shri Prabhakar Betrabet for students of music.



DAVE CIPRIANI

DISCIPLE OF USTAD ASHISH KHAN

Award-Winning Guitarist Dave Cipriani is one of the few advanced exponents of Indian Slide Guitar in America, a senior disciple of Ustad Aashish Khan, grandson of legendary Baba Allaudin Khan. Dave was first introduced to Hindustani music in 1998 with sitar master Jai Kishor, and began serious riyaz with late Indian Slide guitar pioneer Pandit Barun Kumar Pal in 2003. He holds an MFA in North Indian Music from California Institute of the Arts, where he also studied Indian rhythm concepts with Randy Gloss and Pt. Swapan Chaudhuri. Dave leads the fusion group Mahadev, and has performed at concerts, venues and



SHIVAM SUDAME

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT ANINDO CHATTERJEE

Shivam started learning tabla at the age of 7 from Shri Hemant Ekbote in Irvine. He went on to learn online from Shri Muthu Kumar from Bangalore, before spending 3 years with Shri Aditya Kalyanpur, one of the foremost exponents of the Punjab Gharana. He has since been receiving taleem with the legendary Pt. Anindo Chatterjee from the Farukhabad Gharana.





VIVEK PANDYA

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT ANINDO CHATTERJEE



Vivek was naturally inclined towards the tabla at a young age, due to early exposure to music from his family. His uncle and father learnt Indian classical music and used to regularly practice at home. Slowly, Vivek's uncle, (Viral Pandya) set his hand onto the tabla. As time went on, Vivek's father (Kalpit Pandya) took firm interest in a musical future. At the age of 5, Vivek was accepted as a disciple of the world renowned maestro, Pandit Anindo Chatterjee. This journey has been continuing to date.

Vivek Pandya has been regarded as a tabla prodigy who can carry the legacy of the maestros to date, accompanying renowned young artists and respected musicians all around the globe, in Mumbai Pune, Kolkata, Bangalore, Solapur, NY, NJ, Phoenix, Texas, Delaware and more. He has currently two

albums to his name, one with santoor player Vinay Desai called Chidaksha. He also featured in an album called 20 for 20, along with NY philharmonic member, Yale University and Juilliard Grad, Inbal Segev. He has been awarded to conduct an extra mural lecture series under MSU university in Baroda twice. To spread the legacy and culture of Indian Classical Music, Vivek has started to teach a few young students, who will be the future of this great art.



PRATYUSH GOBERDHAN

DISCIPLE OF SRI PANKAJ MISHRA

Pratyush Goberdhan grew up around Hindustani classical learning from grandfather the late Prof. Hari Shanker Adesh and his mother Smt. Surabhi Adesh primarily doing vocal and violin. He is now a student of Sri Pankaj Mishra with whom he has been studying the sarangi for the last two years and continues his vocal studies with Pt. Arijit Mahalanabis and his mother Smt. Surabhi Adesh.

He was also briefly learning violin from Vidushi Kala Ramnath and vocal with Pt Radharaman Kirtane of the Mewati Gharana.



GAAYATRI

DISCIPLE OF USTAD ALI AKBAR KHAN

Gaayatri is a Hindustani vocalist hailing from the Rampur Maihar-Senia gharana, having trained under the late Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, beginning her vocal training from him in the traditional Guru-Shishya parampara at the age of 4 until the age of 18. Her repertoire consists of Dhrupad, Khyaal, Tarana, Light Classical, and Regional Folk pieces rendered in the unique Maihar vocal style. Her classical technique consists of Dhrupad, Khyaal, and Beenkar elements, as the lineage takes root from Rampur's musicians of all three styles. She is one of the very few living practitioners of this lineage of vocal music, having been extensively trained in this by her Guru.



BHARAT MARU

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT NAYAN GHOSH AND ISHAAN GHOSH

Bharat Maru was born with a passion for Tabla. Growing up, he was captivated by the art of percussion and its ability to enhance musical performances. His parents, although supportive of his passion, could not afford to send him to take lessons from the many great Tabla musicians at the time. So, he took it upon himself to experiment and learn wherever he could, from friends and family. From a young age, he would volunteer to play wherever possible, including at Navaratri celebrations and temples. As the years passed and he continued to learn, his musical journey allowed him to spend time with some of his idols, including Ustad Alla Rakhaji, Pt. Ravi Shankar, and Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia. These moments were milestones in his life.

In 1987, when Bharat was 28 years old, his wife Ullasini (Joy), who also shares his passion for music, introduced him to Sangeet Maha Bharti. Through this connection, he was introduced to and had the opportunity to receive training from Pt. Nayan Ghosh. He jumped at the chance and felt immense gratitude and honor to begin his formal training from Pt. Nikhil Ghosh at their residence in Khar, where "the Father of Tabla", Ustad Thirakhwa Saheb, had stayed for 13 years. After moving to America, Bharat would proudly use all of his vacation time from work to travel to India for four weeks at a time for a talim (lesson) under his Guru, Pt. Nayan Ghosh. This continued for many years before he started a family and pursued his Juris Doctor degree in Law, which took his time and focus away from his passion of playing Tabla. As with all passions, it was only a matter of time before his love for Tabla found him again after more than 30 years. Beginning in 2020, Bharat once again began receiving formal training from Pt. Nayan Ghosh and his son, Ishaan. Over the last few years, he has devoted himself to learning, practicing, and performing in every opportunity provided. Bharat is grateful to Rupesh & Mona for the honor of being invited to play in the Festival of Tabla.



RAAGINDER

MAIHAR SENI GHARANA

Raaginder is a violinist and music composer from the San Francisco Bay Area. Hailing from the school of Maihar-Seni Gharana, Raaginder implements improvisation, rhythmic patterns, and the sounds of Indian Classical music on a modified five-string violin. While keeping that foundation, Raaginder is also immersed in contemporary music. He has produced several albums in which the sounds of Indian classical violin and hip-hop music intermingle. These works bring forth lyrical and rhythmic sections which stem from traditional elements while also infusing a modern touch.

Raaginder has performed in prominent venues all over the world such as The White House, Staples Center, Wembley Arena, Kennedy Center, and many more. Through these endeavors and experiences, Raaginder's art brings forth a new, intense, and interesting sound for his audiences to hear.



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◀ TALK WITH TED TED MORANO ▶

During the festival you will be able to attend a couple of breakout sessions to ask whatever is on your mind about Indian Classical Music and gain some insight into the intricacies of Ragas and Talas. Ted Morano has lived this music now for nearly a half century and is eager to share his vast knowledge on the subject. This will be a free-form session and they will let the questions lead the conversation, so don't be shy. We are sure you will enjoy these breakout sessions between the two days. The **time will be announced during the festival** and the session will take place in one of the class rooms or dining area. Be sure to jot down your questions as they come up in your mind!



◀ DOT ART BY CHANDRIKA KOTECHEA ▶

Chandrika had always been extremely creative, and has had an intuitive understanding of colors that complement each other and always appreciative of the traditional art forms of India. Having spent most of her life raising a family and working in the family business, she never really had an opportunity to explore her inborn artistic talent. Over the past 24 months, being restricted due to Covid and mostly at home; She slowly started to explore the art forms she was intrigued by and always found fascinating. She started by doodling on a sketch pad and quickly realized that she must transition to using paint and some dotting tools.

With many fans from her own family and encouragement, she began to explore this art form on stones, canvas and practically whatever she could get her hands on. In a very short time, she was able to create a small portfolio of her own art pieces which were a combination of dot art and mandala art styles. Few posts on Facebook of her work immediately got a lot of praises for her talent. Chandrika started to spend several hours a day taking her artistic talent to a new level. Chandrika says "It's truly meditative". We are happy to showcase her portfolio of art pieces and offer them for sale at the Festival of Tabla 2023. Please be sure to stop by and appreciate her attention to fine detail in this art form and also have the opportunity to purchase any of the pieces here at the Festival.



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PANDIT PANKAJ MISHRA

SARANGI MAESTRO

Sarangi artist Pankaj Mishra born into a lineage of exceptional family of musicians, the son of Sri Satyanarayan Mishra, Grandson of Pt. Mahadeo Prasad Mishra, and great-grandson of Sarangi Virtuoso Pt. Saraju Prasad Mishra, Pankajji was trained from an early age by the renowned Sarangi maestro Pt. Mahesh Prasad Mishra of the Benaras Gharana. His dance recital performances with kathak exponent Padmabhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj, Pt. Chitres Das, Pt. Vijay Shankar have been widely acclaimed. Vocal accompaniment with Padmabibhusan Girija Devi, Bidushi Purnima Chowdhury and others. He has performed for Hollywood movies and documentaries. In 2022 for the very first time in the United States you heard seven Sarangi Artists together on stage performing and all under the guidance of Pankaj. FOT was very excited to bring



you that one of a kind performance by so many talented students of Pandit ji. The FOT team is indebted to Pankaj for always making himself available to play at the Festival each year without fail. His music is sublime and you will be put into another dimension the minute he slides his bow to the instrument.



PANDIT NAYAN GHOSH

GRAND MASTER ARTIST

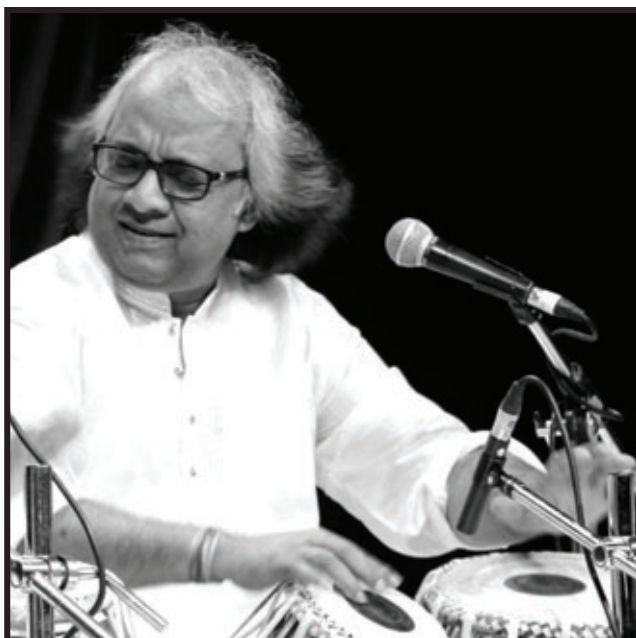


One of India's foremost Tabla maestros, Nayan Ghosh is held in high esteem for his innate artistry, rich repertoire, tonal brilliance and suave musicianship. He is regarded as an important reference source for his in-depth knowledge and mastery in the traditional Tabla art.

Widely acknowledged as a brilliant soloist and a refined accompanist, he is considered one of the foremost repositories of the priceless works of the Farukhabad, Delhi, Ajrada and Lucknow styles (Baqj) of Tabla. His recitals are noted for the presentation of the artistic repertoire of great masters through authentic execution (nikaas) along with dynamic dexterity and ease. His performances stand out for their aesthetic appeal transporting the percussive element of Tabla into the realm of musical experience.

Nayan Ghosh has received rigorous and immaculate training from his late father, the renowned maestro 'Padmabhushan' Pandit Nikhil Ghosh, considered an important musical figure of the 20th century. He was fortunate to receive invaluable guidance and inspiration at an impressionable age from the legendary grandmaster of Tabla, Ustad Ahmedjan Thirakwa, and later also from his father's first guru Pandit Jnan Prakash Ghosh. Nayan's elder uncle was the pioneer flautist Pannalal Ghosh.

The blessings that he has received for his performances in the presence of such Tabla stalwarts like Ustad Ahmedjan Thirakwa, Ustad Amir Hussain Khan, Gurudev Jnan Prakash Ghosh, Ustad Keramatulla Khan, Ustad Alla Rakha, Ustad Inam Ali Khan and Ustad Nizamuddin Khan is what he cherishes deeply.





ISHAAN GHOSH

SON AND DISCIPLE OF PANDIT NAYAN GHOSH



Ishaan Ghosh, the 20-year-old son and disciple of tabla and sitar maestro Nayan Ghosh, may very well be the first internet-famous tabla player. Over the past few years, video excerpts from his solo performances have created an online buzz and caught the attention, praise, and criticism of tabla enthusiasts around the world.

Praised for the speed and clarity of his tabla playing — the mark of a hot-blooded youngster eager to be taken seriously — Ghosh is known to play traditional compositions that demand dexterity, accuracy, and contemplation. On the concert circuit, he can be seen accompanying some of the most popular classical musicians, like Kaushiki Chakraborty and Purbayan Chatterjee, among others.



More music with Taranath Gharana

COUNTRY & EASTERN 2023 RELEASES



DAGAR BROTHERS JUNIOR WITH RAVI BELLARE
RAAG JALJAIWANTI

DAGAR BROTHERS JUNIOR
WITH RAVI BELLARE
RAAG JAIJAIWANTI
CEX39



DAGAR BROTHERS JUNIOR WITH RAVI BELLARE
RAAG DARBAR

DAGAR BROTHERS JUNIOR
WITH RAVI BELLARE
RAAG DARBAR
CEX40



DAGAR BROTHERS JUNIOR WITH RAVI BELLARE
RAAG SOHINI

DAGAR BROTHERS JUNIOR
WITH RAVI BELLARE
RAAG SOHINI
CEX41



PANDIT TARANATH
TABLA
CEX18



M.R. GAUTAM &
PANDIT TARANATH
LIVE IN BOMBAY
1967
CEX18



BALE KHAN &
PANDIT TARANATH
LIVE IN LONDON
1966
CEX24



SADANAND
NAIMPALLI &
PANDIT TARANATH
LIVE AT TRINITY
CLUB BOMBAY 1967
CE01



SADANAND
NAIMPALLI &
PANDIT TARANATH
TAL ASHTA
MANGAL/TRITAL
BOMBAY 1967
CEX02



SHASHI & RAVI
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PROGRAM

Sunday, July 30th

10:00 AM | **Ticketing Opens / Gallery of Records Open**

10:20 AM - 10:30 AM | **Introduction to the Festival**

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM | **Seema Gulati, Sitar Solo** | Anubrata Chatterjee, Tabla

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM | **Malhar Ambhaikar, Vocal** | Jagjit Arora, Tabla | Kaavya Valiveti, Harmonium

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM | **Jyoti Prakas, Tabla Solo** | Kaavya Valiveti, Harmonium

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | *** LUNCH ***

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM | **Ray Belli, Drum Solo**

2:40 PM - 3:10 PM | **Sheela Bringi, Bansuri Solo** | Leonice Shinneman, Tabla

3:15 PM - 4:00 PM | **Pt. Nishikant Barodekar, Tabla Solo** | Pt. Pankaj Mishra, Sarangi

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM | *** CHAI TIME ***

4:30 PM - 5:15 PM | **Vinay Desai, Santoor Solo** | Ishaan Ghosh, Tabla

5:25 PM - 5:55 PM | **Hemant Kulkarni, Tabla Solo** | Pratyush Goberdhan, Violin

6:10 PM - 6:40 PM | **Kaavya Valiveti, Harmonium Solo** | Rohit Panchakshari, Tabla

6:45 PM - 7:45 PM | *** DINNER ***

7:45 PM - 8:00 PM | **Arjun Prasad, Tabla Solo Debut** | Chirag Dixit, Sarangi

8:15 PM | **Pt. Anindo Chatterjee & Anubrata Chatterjee, Tabla Duet** | Pt. Pankaj Mishra, Sarangi





SEEMA GULATI

DISCIPLE OF USTAD SHAHID PARVEZ

Seema Gulati is quickly becoming a rising star in the Indian Classical Music scene in the US. The emotional musicality she brings to the stage has enchanted audiences in Phoenix, Arizona where she resides, and around the country. Her expressive style and virtuosic performances have wowed audiences and peers alike, garnering praise from many of her listeners.

Blessed with a love for music at a very young age, Seema began her musical journey in vocals before finding her passion in the "gayaki ang" or "singing" style of sitar. Her transformation under the tutelage of renowned sitar player Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan (commonly known as Ustad Shahid Parvez), from student to "shagird" to finally a performer in her own right, showcases her resolve and dedication to this beautiful art form.

A regular performer at the Discover India Festival organized by the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) in Phoenix, she has also performed in New York for Salon de Virtuosi with violinist, Maya Anjali Buchanan and tabla percussionist Samir Chatterjee. Recent career highlights include her participation in the Silk Road Global Musician Workshop with cellist, Mike Block and Indian classical violinist, Kala Ramnath, presenting and performing for the MIM's "Rediscover Treasures" video sessions campaign, and performing for Norwalk, CA's upcoming 'Festival of Tabla'.



Continuing the tradition of guru-shishya (mentor-student) established by her musical mentor, Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan, Seema has been teaching sitar for over 20 years at the SPK Academy of Music, where she acts as Director. She actively manages projects to educate the next generation of Indian classical musicians, uplifting and inspiring women musicians where ever she goes.



MALHAR AMBHAIKAR

DISCIPLE OF SMT VANDANA GHATE



Malhar Ambhaikar is a student of Smt. Vandana Ghate, a renowned vocalist from Agra gharana who resides in the LA area. Malhar started training with her, learning basics of Hindusthani classical vocal music and nuances of Agra gayaki. Vandanaji's unique and authentic training has enabled Malhar to develop into the vocalist he is today. Over the years, Malhar has learned many traditional bandishes as well as Vandanaji's and her Guru's (Pt. Ratnakantbuwa Ramnathkar's) compositions. In his presentations, Malhar focuses on unfolding the raag with steady alaaps, through authentic delivery of the bandish, and use of raag-appropriate wordings (bol banaavs). Although this is the first time Malhar is performing at the Festival of Tabla, he has presented at several student recitals and given individual performances as well. Malhar works as a scientist in the biopharmaceutical industry and lives in the LA area with his wife and two daughters.



JYOTI PRAKAS

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT ABHIJIT BANERJEE

Shri Jyoti Prakas began his musical journey with his father Sri Nagendranath and then with Sri Sumantra



Guha and presently became a disciple of Pandit Abhijit Banerjee, one of the renowned Tabla artists from India. Jyoti Prakas has performed with acclaimed Maestros such as Padma Vibhushan Pt. Girija Devi(vocal), Padma Vibhushan Pt. Jasraj(vocal), Sangeet-Acharya TSR Krishnan(vocal), Pt. Karthik Sheshadri(sitar), PadmaSri Ustaad Shahid Parvez Khan (sitar), Pt. Tarun Bhattacharya (santoor), National Heritage Fellow Pt. Chitresh Das(Kathak) and famous Hollywood personality Jason Samuel Smith(tap-dancer). Jyoti also played Tabla in the prestigious Emmy Award 2005-Ceremony. Jyoti has

been teaching since 2004 through his DHWANI Academy of Percussion Music in several cities in Southern California.

RAY BELLI

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT DIVYANG VAKIL

Ray Belli is a professional drummer who has been recording and touring internationally for the last 15 years. Originally from NJ, Ray cut his teeth performing as a sideman for rock legends such as Jon Anderson, Gibby Haynes, and Jeff Skunk Baxter among others, all before the age of 18.

In 2013, Ray became a founding member of art-pop band Arc Iris with whom he still performs and records today. As a member of Arc Iris, he has toured alongside major artists such as Kimbra and Jeff Tweedy, performed at major festivals such as Bonaroo (US) and End of the Road (UK), and released four full-length albums. Most relevant to The Festival of Tabla, in 2010, Ray began studying Indian rhythm under Pandit Divyang Vakil, founder of the Taalim School of Indian Classical Music in Edison, NJ. Over the years, Ray has worked closely with Vakil to develop a system for translating the tones and compositions of North Indian classical percussion onto the Western drumset. This unprecedented approach correlates particular tabla notes with particular strokes on the drumset, making the entire repertoire of tabla accessible to him. Ray is also a member of ATMA, a modern Carnatic ensemble.

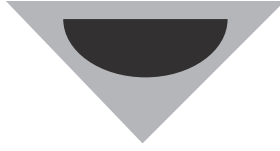


SHEELA BRINGI

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT G.S. SACHDEV



Sheela Bringi is a bansuri flautist, rāga harpist and vocalist. She studied with the bansuri maestro G.S. Sachdev in the Gayaki Ang style of playing flute based on Hindustani Vocal Music. She currently studies with Sachdevji's senior student and master flute-maker, Jeff Whittier. Sheela is also a harpist and vocalist, and explores methods and techniques for using the harp in Indian music - a style she calls "Raga Harp". She studies Hindustani Vocal with Subhashish Mukhopadhyay, a top-most exponent of the Kotali Gharana. Sheela holds an MFA in North Indian Music from the California Institute of the Arts.



PANDIT NISHIKANT BARODEKAR

DISCIPLE OF USTAD ALLARAKHA AND USTAD ZAKIR HUSSAIN



Nishikant is emerging as a front ranking Musician in the Indian Music Scenario today. Music has been his natural inheritance as he embedded it from his grandmother, legendary vocalist Smt. HIRABAI BARODEKAR.

During the initial guidance from Ust. Ghulam Rasool Khan in the Delhi, Ajrada & Farukhabad styles, he was a recipient of the Indian National Scholarship for 3 years.

Later he was most fortunate to receive advance 'Taalim' from the World famous Tabla Maestros USTAD ALLARAKHA & USTAD ZAKIR HUSSAIN.

Being accepted as a 'GandaBandh Shagird' by Khansaheb & receiving his keen and abundant training in the Punjab Gharana Gurukul style, Nishikant has developed an imaginative and aesthetical sense which is distinguished for its finesse in rhythm, versatility and eloquence.

The remarkable depth in his Tabla Solo or accompaniment with Instrumentalists, Vocalists, Dancers, Carnatic artists, Fusion; speaks of the discipline and dedication with which this talented musician has pursued music. He has performed in USA, Canada, Japan, England, Germany, France, Russia, Hungary, Holland, Italy, Turkey, Spain, Malaysia, Thailand, Middle Eastern & many European countries besides Indian Music festivals. Being an 'A' Graded Artist, he regularly performs on All India Radio and National TV. He has recorded with Indian and Western musicians of repute, for some Hollywood films like Miss Beaty's Children, 39 Steps to Heaven & major Bollywood films like Devdas, Saaz. He has accompanied celebrities like Ust. Vilayat Khan, Pt. Birju Maharaj, Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, Pt. Jasraj, Ust. Amjad Ali Khan, Ust. Shahid Parvez, to name a few, besides his own Guru Ust. Zakir Hussain.

Teaching Music is also his forte & he has been a Visiting Professor to Universities in USA, Europe and Japan. Presently he is working with the Sri Satya Sai Mirpuri College of Music in Puttaparthi.



VINAY DESAI

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT SHIVKUMAR SHARMA



Vinay is a direct disciple of the world renowned Santoor Maestro Padma Vibhusan Pandit Shivkumar Sharmaji. Initially, Vinay received knowledge in vocal/harmonium/ tabla from Shafiq Rahman in his teens. After completing his college in both Pre-pharmaceutical science as well as Pre-Law in Delaware, Vinay sought out to learn Santoor in India. In 2011, Pandit Shivkumar Sharmaji guided Vinay to begin his training under Takahiro Arai and Kunal Gunjal before being accepted by Panditji himself. Vinay regularly performs throughout USA, including Hawaii, Argentina, Canada, The Bahamas, Australia, and India . He is known for his meditative and dynamic musical phrases.

His devotion to the purity and the depth of Shivkumar Sharma's style comes forth in performance. Vinay continues to spread his Guru's work not only through performances, but also teaching and lecturing at different places.



HEMANT KULKARNI

STUDENT OF DEBASHISH CHAUDHURI

Hemant Kulkarni is a 17 year old in his Senior year of high school. As a child, he attended Satsungs where he witnessed the tabla being played which caught his attention and interest. Hemant started learning tabla with Sri Rick Hambra for 3 years. He has been studying the art with Sri Debashish Chaudhuri of the Lucknow Gharana for the last 10 years and after moving from Los Angeles to Merced, has continued with online classes. Hemant has been invited to play tabla at various temples in Los Angeles and the Bay Area and also record tabla for various bhajan recordings posted on Youtube. He was given the opportunity to accompany other local artists that sing ghazal, light classical music, Carnatic music, and Western classical music as well.



KAAVYA VALIVETI

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT DR RAVINDRA KATOTI

Kaavya Valiveti received her initial music training in Carnatic music from her mother and in western classical music from various teachers, and for the past ten years has been a disciple of harmonium maestro Pt. Dr. Ravindra Katoti of Bengaluru. She has given solo performances, has been a part of jugalbandis, and has accompanied several vocalists, tabla artists, and kathak dancers.

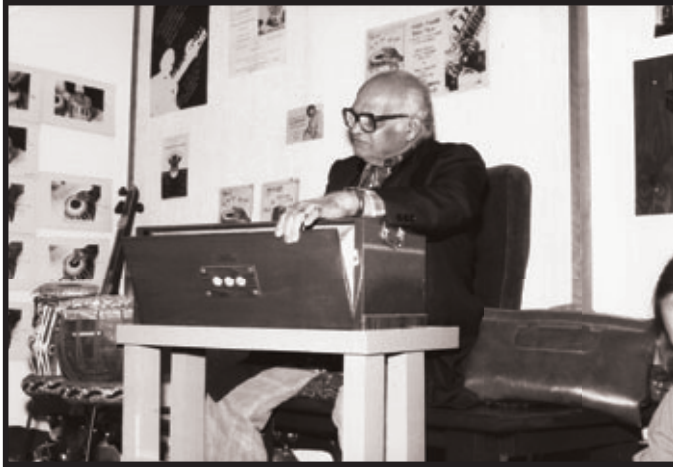


ROHIT PANCHAKSHARI

DISCIPLE OF PANDIT SUPREET DESHPANDE

Rohit A. Panchakshari started learning tabla from Late Pt. Bhanudas Pawar and Nitin Pawar at the age of 8. He has learned the aesthetics of Punjab gharana from Guru Narendra Khot (disciple of maestro Ustad Allarakha Khansaheb), and is very fortunate to continue his "taalim" under the tutelage of Guru Pt. Supreet Deshpande (disciple of Farukhabad tradition torchbearer Pt. Kiran Deshpande and Taalyogi Pt. Suresh Talwalkar). Rohit is also privileged to receive guidance from world renowned tabla virtuoso Ustad Zakir Hussain when he attends his annual tabla workshops. Seeking inspiration from his gurus, in addition to his sincere commitment to music, Rohit has completed his PhD from Harvard Medical School and currently works as an Immunology Scientist at Takeda Pharmaceuticals in San Diego.

🎨 PRESERVING THE ART OF TABLA SOLO 🎨



Master artists who are the current culture bearers of the various age-old compositions are getting older and will all slowly pass. These master artists honed their craft in a period of fewer “distractions” unburdened by technology, social media, and often even school. The knowledge passed down to their disciples must be nurtured and given an unbiased platform to showcase these traditional repertoires to a community of enthusiasts. As a primarily unwritten oral tradition, tabla compositions can only live on through the creativity and spontaneity of a solo performance. Budding artists need to see these masters in performance to

appreciate and witness the art of the past to be inspired to practice and preserve it. FOT also focuses on highlighting the new generation, who need more opportunities to showcase their talent. Young artists are inspired with hope that, with hard work, they too can one day perform at FOT.

Pandit Taranath Rao devoted his life to preserving and passing down the art of Tabla Solo to his students and is pictured here at Cal Arts in the 80's while teaching. It's our goal to use the Festival of Tabla to help preserve this great art form and preserve his legacy...Rupesh & Mona

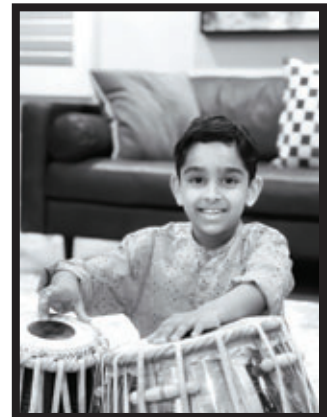
🎨 SUNDAY NIGHT GRAND FINALE OPENER 🎨

ARJUN PRASAD

STUDENT OF SHRI JYOTI PRAKASH AND PANDIT RAJGOPAL KALLURKAR

Arjun showed a growing interest in percussion since he was 4 years old. It all started when he received a drum set as a gift for his 4th birthday. His passion for beats and rhythm led his grandfather to introduce him to tabla. He started learning tabla initially under the guidance of Jyoti Prakash ji. Since 2022, Arjun is continuing his learning under Pt. Rajgopal Kallurkar from Bangalore, India who was a disciple of Pt. Girish Avate and tabla nawaz Ustad Sheikh Dawood Khan. Arjun is 7 years old and is a second grader at Deerfield Elementary. He idolizes the legendary Ustad Zakir Hussain and is excited for his debut performance at the Festival of Tabla.

FOT presents and gives an opportunity of a lifetime to Arjun to perform right before the Grand Finale so he can give inspiration to other youngsters!



PT ANINDO CHATTERJEE

GRAND MASTER ARTIST

Anindo Chatterjee is a rare luminary of TABLA and the senior most musician of our country. Great musicians are not made they are born, Anindo was born to be a Musician's musician. Loved by all great musicians & music lover around the world. Anindo is director of FARRUKHABAD STYLE of tabla.

Born in a musical family. He started his performing career when he was merely a child of 10 years at "Sadarang Music Festival at Kolkata" and then he never looked back. His performances spans nearly 6 decades and made him one of icons of Indian music and art today. He has visited nearly 60 countries and performed at esteemed venues before august audiences. His performances include CARNEGIE HALL in New York, Royal Albert hall, Royal festival(London), SYDNEY opera house BOLSHOI Ballet Theatre of Moscow with Bharat Ratna Pandit Ravi Shankar, and made Indian music and art proud. His performance was marked at house of common British parliament as the youngest indian musician ever in 1989. Having represented India as a Cultural Ambassador of India in several countries(China, Mongolia, Japan, Russia etc), He is the TOP grade panel artist of ICCR, ALL INDIA RADIO & DOORADARSAN SINCE 1990. Needless to say, Anindo Chatterjee stands today as one of the colossal figures of INDIA

His philanthropic activities and contribution marked for several charity and fund raising concert, Blood donation camp, Thalasemia and cancer. During the COVID-19 Anindo was deeply involved in Numerous fundraisers and single handedly donated to COVID affected people through his music.



Anindo ji has performed Rashtrapati Bhavan for the president of USA, Barack Obama at his visit INDIA, mesmerised him with his TABLA and he was offered as a honorary citizen of USA. Anindo Chatterjee has developed and distantly individual style which reflect Authentic knowledge he has perfected his technique, rich repertoire of traditional TABLA with the ability to weave the most intricate textures and rhythmic pattern and extremely high speed while still maintain the clarity, crisp and finesse is unparalleled with the vast knowledge of gharanas(style of tabla) he has raised that in the field.

Anindo has received several awards and recognition throughout India, which in 1970 he received the president award and the prestigious "SANGEET NATAK AKADEMY AWARD" from honourable Dr. APJ ABDUL KALAM in 2002. As a successful teacher he produced his own son ANUBRATA CHATTERJEE, who is most amazing and well versed Tabla player of younger generation and hundreds of disciple who are working all over India in this field. Anindo's ambition shows to promote our music and art to all over and raise country's pride to the Globe as an Indian ambassador and will be with our Governments support forever. His IDIOSYNCRATIC style of playing stepped in tradition yet brimming in uniqueness and unparalleled. His command, clarity, artistic brilliance leaves the audience speechless has reached to a new dimension of tabla fill the connoisseurs with awe, feel the heart all kind of audience, needless to say Anindo Chatterjee is an invaluable asset to Indian music.





ANUBRATA CHATTERJEE

SON AND DISCIPLE OF PANDIT ANINDO CHATTERJEE



Anubrata Chatterjee is one of the leading tabla exponents of the current generation.

He is the son & disciple of the world renowned tabla maestro, Anindo Chatterjee.

Anubrata's creative approach towards his music, traditional repertoire of Farrukhabad & Lucknow styles of tabla and a modern touch in the presentation of his art makes him connect to the youth as well as the connoisseurs of music.

He has been the spear head of many musical concepts like Beats & Pieces, The T20 of Classical Music.

He is a regular collaborator of music with stalwarts like Amjad Ali Khan, Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Birju Maharaj, Ranjit Barot, Shankar Mahadevan etc.



✿ LUNCH AND DINNER CATERING ✿

The Ravi & Shashi Bellare Arts Foundation would like to thank Jay Bharat Restaurant for providing excellent service and catering for this two day Indian Arts Festival and thier sponsorship which allowed us to be able to afford and provide food at the Festival.

We couldn't have done it without thier support!

We encourage everyone to patronize Jay Bharat for all sorts of catering as well as sit-in or takeout dining. The restaurant is located in the heart of Little India on Pioneer Blvd.



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Your applause and love for the artists makes them feel great!

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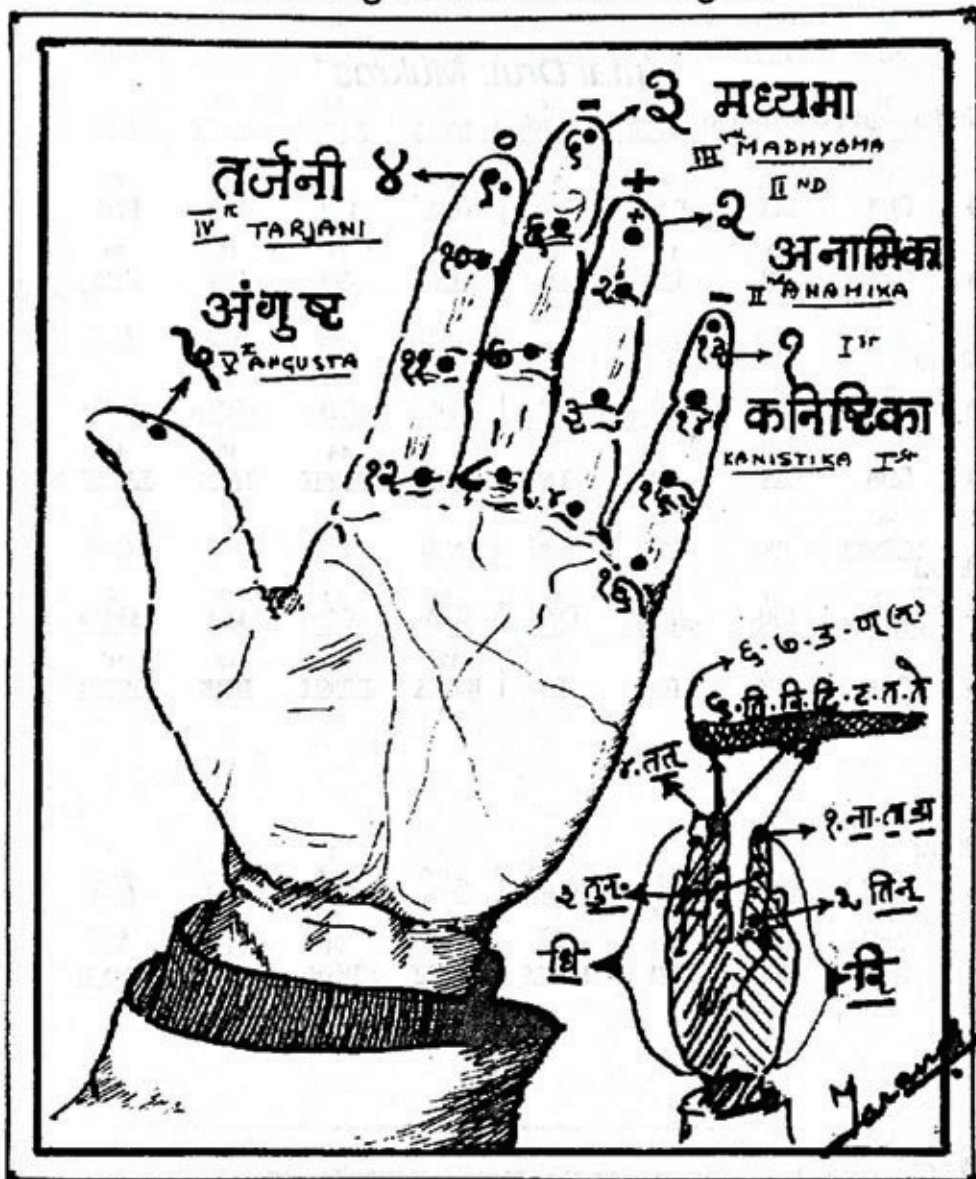
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Counting Beats on the Fingers



The diagram indicates that matras 1 through 4 are counted by the thumb of the same hand touching the ring finger successively from the tip to the base. Matra 5 through 8 are similarly counted on the middle finger, from the tip to the base. Matras 9 through 12 are counted on the index finger, and matras 13 through 16 are counted on the little finger. The inset shows the parts of the fingers and hand used to strike each of the right-hand strokes.

—Drawing by Taranath.

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We started today's Festival **\$35,000 short** of break-even point.

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