



Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia

Vidushi Girija Devi

Pandit Shivkumar Sharma

Pandit Birju Maharaj

Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty

Ustad Rashid Khan

Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar

Pandit Buddhadev Das Gupta

Pandit Mashkoor Ali Khan

Pt. Rajan and Pt. Sajan Mishra

BENGAL-ITC SRA CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2012



Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia

Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, the internationally renowned exponent of the bansuri or bamboo flute, loved music from an early childhood. By the age of 15, he was taking his first steps toward a lifetime as a performer by studying classical vocal with Pandit Raja Ram of Benares. He changed his focus to playing the flute after hearing a recital by Pandit Bholanath. Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia has become one of India's most-respected classical musicians, earning several awards, including the Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 1984, the Yash Bharati Samman in 1994, the Padma Vibhushan in 2000 and the National Eminent in 2012. Pandit Chaurasia currently heads the World Music Department at the Rotterdam Music Conservatory and is also a dedicated teacher with several devoted art music students worldwide, many of whom are beginning to make their mark on the concert stage.

Vidushi Girija Devi

Acclaimed by music enthusiasts and connoisseurs alike, Vidushi Girija Devi, the prima donna of the Benaras and Senia traditions, has dedicated her life to the cause of Hindustani classical vocal music for over five decades. Born in Benaras in 1929, she was initiated into music at the tender age of five under the tutelage of Pandit Sarju Prasad Mishra. She later continued with Pandit Srichandra Mishra. She is renowned for her amazing proficiency in khayal, thumri, dhadra, tappa, kajri, hori, chaiti and bhajan. Vidushi Girija Devi has received many awards and accolades, including the Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and the ITC Award. She has been a guru at the ITC Sangeet Research Academy since its inception.

Pandit Shivkumar Sharma

Pandit Shivkumar Sharma is the master instrumentalist of the santoor. Born to the singer Uma Dutt Sharma, his mother tongue is Dogri. Shivkumar said that his father started teaching him vocal music and tabla when he was just five. His mother did extensive research on santoor, and decided that Shivkumar should be the first musician to play Indian classical music on santoor. So he started learning santoor at the age of thirteen, and made Uma Dutt Sharma's dream come true. He gave his first public performance in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1955. He recorded his first solo album in 1960. In 1967, he teamed up with flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia and Brij Bhushan Kabra to produce a concept album, "Call of the Valley" (1967) which turned out to be one of the greatest hits in Indian Classical Music. Shivkumar is the recipient of national and international awards, including an honorary citizenship of the city of Baltimore, USA, in 1985; the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986; the Padma Shri in 1991; and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001.

Ustad Rashid Khan

Pandit Birju Maharaj was born on February 4, 1937. He took training in Kathak dance under the guidance of his father, Achchhan Maharaj and uncles Lachchhhan Maharaj and Shambhu Maharaj. Birju Maharaj is a multi-faceted personality. Besides his mastery over Kathak, he is also a superb musician, percussionist, composer, teacher, director, choreographer and a poet. Birju Maharaj is a recipient of several honours and awards. These include: Sangeet Natak Academy Award, Padma Vibhushan, Kalidas Samman, Soviet Land Nehru Award, SNA Award, Sangam Kala Award etc. He was also conferred with two honorary doctorate degrees and the Nehru Fellowship. Birju Maharaj taught at Sangeet Bharati, Bharatiya Kala Kendra and headed the teaching faculty of Kathak Kendra in Delhi till his retirement in 1998.

Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty

Born in Kolkata, Ajoy Chakrabarty showed extraordinary promise in music from a very young age. He was initially groomed by his father Ajit Chakrabarty, who shaped his early style in North



Vidushi Alarmed Valli



Pandit Kumar Bose



Vidushi Subhra Guha



Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar



Pandit Samir Saha

THE FESTIVAL HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO
USTAD ALLAUDDIN KHAN

The four-day long Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Festival is just a few days away. In a bid to bring back the lost pride and to popularise the heritage of classical music, Bengal Foundation has joined hands with ITC-Sangeet Research Academy (SRA) in organising the festival. The much-hyped festival will kick off on November 29 at Army Stadium in Dhaka. Popular Bangla daily Prothom Alo is the strategic partner and The Daily Star is partner of the festival. Maasranga Television is the telecast partner while abc radio is the broadcast partner. Ice Media Limited is the media partner of the festival.

Observing the history of last 150 years of Bangladesh, we notice many of the brightest patrons of classical music. The names of many pioneering classical music maestros, including Ustad Allauddin Khan, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Ayet Ali Khan and Ustad Vilayet Khan are attached to Bangladesh.



The heritage of Bangladeshi music is very opulent; though it is unknown to some. Such a grand festival can play a key role in generating interest among all.

The entire festival has been dedicated to Sangeet Samrat Ustad Allauddin Khan while opening, second, third and concluding day's programmes will be dedicated to musicologist Waheedul Haque, Ustad Vilayet Khan, Pandit Uday Shankar and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan respectively.

About a hundred celebrated artistes both from ITC-SRA, India and Bangladesh will perform classical vocal and instrumental music at the festival. Of them, the profiles of several world-renowned artistes are sketched out below.

Performances on the first two days (November 29-30) of the festival will start at 6 pm and will continue till 4:30 am the next day. On the next two days (December 1-2), performances will start at 6 pm and continue till 12 am.

Tarak Saha. Later he received extensive taalim from Satchidananda Goswami before becoming a disciple of Krishna Kumar Ganguly (Natu Babu) of the Benaras gharana. A much sought-after soloist as well as an accompanist, he has participated in all the prestigious music festivals in India and overseas, accompanying vocalists and instrumentalists alike. He has been a full time faculty member of ITC Sangeet Research Academy since its inception.

Pandit Subhankar Banerjee

Subhankar Banerjee, the young tabla-player from Kolkata, has often been an expert accompanist to Pandit Ravi Shankar. Banerjee's tabla has been the rhythmic companion to other musicians like sarod player Ali Akbar Khan, sitar maestro Vilayet Khan, violinist Late VG Jog and flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia. Unlike most tabla players, Banerjee has also learned vocal music as it helps him "create a mood for making good music". He belongs to the Farrukhabad gharana, which is characterised by the extensive use of resonant strokes played on the middle portion of the right hand drum. In the tradition of masters who have borrowed from other gharanas to enrich their playing styles, Banerjee too will play gat compositions from other gharanas like Lucknow, Punjab and Benares.

Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan

Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan was born in Mumbai, India. He was initiated into music by his illustrious father and Guru Ustad Aziz Khan, a famous musician and a noted composer. He got his vocal training from his uncle Ustad Hafeez Khan, a famous singer, surbahar and sitar exponent and received taalim in the tabla from Ustad Munnu Khan of the Delhi Gharana. He has performed in all major musical festivals in India and abroad, including the Festival of India held in the US, Europe, Canada, Africa, Russia, West Asia and Australia. His numerous awards include the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Padma Shri, and the M.L. Koser Award.

Pandit Uday Bhawalkar

Born in 1966, Pandit Uday Bhawalkar is a standard bearer for Dhruvapad and a strong force in its growing recognition and popularity. Uday spent over 12 years studying and living in the traditional gurushishya parampara with Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar (vocal) and Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar (rudra veena), the pillars of the dhruvapad tradition. He has an engaging style and is able to reach out and communicate with audiences of all backgrounds. Uday has received prestigious awards including the Kumar Gandharva Samman given by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (2001) and the Raza Foundation Award (2007) given personally by S.H. Raza, the famous painter. He is a visiting guru of ITC SRA.

Classical artistes -- Abhiram Nanda, Abir Hossain, Adnan Khan, Ahmed Abbas Khan (Shenai), Alif Laila, Allarakha Kalawant, Anirban Bhattacharyya Kathak, Arshad Ali Khan, Arundhati Subramanain Bharatnatyam, Ashok Mukherjee, Bhawanishankar Pakhawaj, Brajeshwar Mukherjee, Chandrachur Bhattacharjee (Kathak), Debosree Bhattacharjee, Ebabul Huq Shaikat (Sitar), Ustad Shahdad Hossain Khan, Ekalalaya Muduli, Gourab Chatterjee, Hassan Haider Khan, Indranil Bhaduri, Jaydev Das, Kilappandal Prabhakar Nandini, Kumar Mardur, Murtuza Kabir Murad, Murugan Krishnan, Nandini Sharma Narayanan, Omkar Dadarkar, Jyoti Gohoi, Pandit Suresh Talukdar, Pandit Yogesh Sami, Pratap Awad, Priyanka Gope, Purbayan Chatterjee, Rajrupa Choudhury, Ramesh Chandra Das, Rupak Kumar Parida, Rupashree Bhattacharjee, Sai Giridhar Kuchibhotla, Sakthivel Muruganathan Subramaniam, Sandip Bhattacharjee, Sandip Ghosh, Sanjay Adhikary, Sarwar Hussain, Sasi Sen, Shashank Makedas, Vidushi Sujata Mohapatra, Takahiro Ari, Ustad Akram Khan, Ustad Murad Ali, Vasudevan Gang Kesevalu, Venkiteswaran Ramani Ghatak, Vidushi Aruna Sayeram, Vital Ramamurthy, Wasseen Ahmed Khan and Yusuf Vaishnav -- will perform either vocal or instrumental music while several others will accompany the featured artistes on various instruments.

Pandit Samir Saha

Known for his dexterity and rare musicianship, Samir Saha was initially trained by his father Sudhanshu Bhushan Saha and his elder brother. His outstanding performances have fetched her many awards. The President's gold medal and also received the Pandit D.V. Paluskar award.



Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar



Pandit Subhankar Banerjee