



**Prakriti
Foundation**

**Gharana Festival of Indian Music
(2010)**

About Gharana Festival 2010

The Gharana Festival of Indian Music a 3-day festival that takes place in Chennai celebrating and experiencing Hindustani Classical music. The festival intends to showcase this rich Indian classical genre with the goal of bringing something new to the music community of Chennai. This annual festival features stand-out performances by artists who are the true torchbearers of their respective fields, carrying forward the tradition of music.

We at the Prakriti Foundation started the festival as a response to the success of the first edition in 2006, Dhrupad, which included distinguished and legendary musicians of this art form. The enthusiasm witnessed amongst the audience, in a city which is dominated by Carnatic classical music, made it possible to make Gharana an annual festival.

The festival opens its doors to people all over the country and the world, inviting them to experience and get a taste of Hindustani classical music in Chennai. The best part being that it is non-ticketed and is open to all!

The 2010 edition of this festival featured Pandit Indra Kishore Mishra, Pandit Falguni Mitra and Pandit Arun Kumar Mishra presenting Bettiah Gharana. Founded in the seventeenth century, this genre of Gharana mainly flourished during the nineteenth century. It exercised great influence over Dhrupad in the entire eastern region.

Schedule

Dhrupad by Pandit Indra Kishore Mishra

Synopsis: Bettiah Gharāna performance by Pandit Indra Kishore Mishra accompanied by Jayamala Mishra on vocals and Shri Apurvalal Manna on Pakhawaj.

Date: 22nd January 2010

Time: 6:30 PM

Venue: Chandra Mandala, Spaces

Dhrupad by Pandit Falguni Mitra

Synopsis: Bettiah Gharana performance by Pandit Falguni Mitra, disciple of Pandit Bholanath Pathakji of Varanasi accompanied by Mrs. Pratima Mitra on Harmonium and Shri Apurvalal Manna on Pakhwaj.

Date: 23rd January 2010

Time: 7:30 PM

Venue: Chandra Mandala, Spaces

Dhrupad by Pandit Arun Kumar Mishra

Synopsis: Bettiah Gharāna performance by Pandit Arun Kumar Mishra accompanied by Dr.M.Narmadha on Violin and Shri Apurvalal Manna on Pakhwaj.

Date: 24th January 2010

Time: 6:30 PM

Venue: Chandra Mandala, Spaces

Artiste Profile

▪ ***Pandit Indra Kishore Mishra***

Pt. Indra Kishore Mishra Mallick learned Dhrupad Gāyan from his guru and father, the late Mahant Mishra Mallick. He has performed and taught throughout India as well as in the United States, Europe and Australia. Pt. Mishra has been instrumental in preserving the BettiahGharāna which had been nearly forgotten by 1988 when it was revived by Shree Gajendra Narayan Singh. In 2006 SangeetNatakAkademi began offering a scholarship to bring up students in the Bettiah Gharana.

▪ ***Pandit Falguni Mitra***

A foremost exponent of Dhrupad, the authentic and respected form of Hindustani Classical music, Pdt. FalguniMitra was initiated into music by his father, SangeetacharyaPdt. ShibMitra at the tender age of four and a half. A worthy disciple of Pandit BholanathPathakji of Varanasi, a doyen of Bettiah Gharana, Pdt. ShibMitra had the privilege of receiving “taalim” in Alaap from the legendary musician, Ustad Nasiruddin Khan Sahib of Indore, the patriarch of the Dagers. Thus, Pdt. FalguniMitra combines the Dagar style of “Alaapchari” with the Betia style of Dhrupad and Dhamaar with a distinctive stamp of his own personality.

Possessing a deep, melodious voice, FalguniMitra has brought about a reformation in this art-form through successful innovations in its melodic structure and rhythmic variations. Unwavering purity of the Raga, imaginative phrases loaded with emotions and nuances, majestic compositions and intricate “laykari” create an aesthetic charm that permeate his vocal renderings.

An erudite and thoughtful musician, FalguniMitra receives unqualified appreciation for his lecture-demonstrations and articles in various journals in the country and abroad.

▪ ***Pandit Arun Kumar Mishra***

Pt. Arun Kumar Mishra (Mullick) was born in a family of court musicians of the Bettiah Darbar. A leading artiste of the Bettiah Gharana, he was trained in music by his father, Pt. Rajkishore Mishra. Arun Kumar Mishra's music is characterized by stylistic and methodical raga alap, variety in layakari and tihai, integrity of raga, and presentation of Dhrupad composition as handed down in his lineage. His traditional repertoire includes Dhrupad compositions in Gaudhar and KhandarBanis, as well as Khyal and Tappa from the Bettiah tradition.

Arun Kumar Mishra's music has been featured in music festivals organized by the Sangit NatakAkademi, Delhi, Sangit NatakAkademi, Patna and the UstadAllauddin Khan Sangit and Kala Academy, Bhopal. His performances have been well received in Dhrupad festivals all over the country.

Press

The Hindu Friday Review, Chennai, 20 January 2010 - Resonant notes

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/music/Resonant-notes/article16838696.ece>

The Hindu Friday Review, Chennai, 18 February 2010 - Rendezvous with raags

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/music/Rendezvous-with-raags/article16815566.ece>