



**Prakriti
Foundation**

**Gharana Festival of Indian Music
(2009)**

About Gharana Festival 2009

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!

Schedule

Concert by Ut.Irshad khan

Synopsis: performance by Ut.Irshad Khan accompanied by Rudra Narayan Kalyan on Tabla.

Date: 23rd March 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: The Museum Theatre, Egmore

Concert by Pt. Krishna Ram Choudhary

Synopsis: performance by Pt. Krishna Ram Choudhary accompanied by Hemant Raj Choudhary on Table, Vivek on Harmonium, Deepak on Swarpetti and Mangal Prasad on Dukkad.

Date: 24th March 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: The Museum Theatre, Egmore

Concert by Ms. Shanno Khurana



Synopsis: performance by Ms.shanno Khurana accompanied by Akhtar Hasan on Tabla, Bharat Bhushan Goswami on Sarangi and Maitreyi Majumdar on Swaramandal.

Date: 25th March 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: The Museum Theatre, Egmore

Artiste Profile

■ *Irshad Khan*

As one of the foremost representatives of a musical heritage unprecedented in India and the torch bearer of the younger generation of the ImdadKhani Etawa Gharana, Irshad Khan is internationally recognized as one of the greatest sitar players and as the leading Surbhar exponent of his generation. Irshad Khan's individual stamp in both these instruments ascends from the distinctiveness of his technique and mental prowess. His style is followed and inspired by many formative and professional sitar players of his generation. His dedication to the subtleties of the raga, in bringing out its essence in rendering its pure form of feelings and expressions. His phenomenal control of the intricate "Gayaki-Ang" (vocal) and "Tantra-Ang" (instrumental) styles makes Irshad Khan one of the most dynamic musicians of today.

Being recognized as a child prodigy, today he has emerged, to be among the most sought after and versatile Indian musicians of India. He has achieved unparalleled mastery over Sitar-Surbahar technique and in different genres of Indian music such as Dhrupad, Khyal, Tappa and Thumree. Whether he is performing pure classical, folk or worldbeat/newage, audiences are stunned by his supreme virtuosity and musicality. This remarkable versatility allows Irshad Khan to transcend cultural barriers and turn each performance into a spellbinding and unforgettable experience for audience everywhere.

Irshad Khan is the son and disciple of Ustad Imrat Khan and nephew of Ustad Vilayat Khan. His family represents the most respected Gharana (musical heritage) known as the Imdadkhani Gharana, of Sitar and Surbahar players in the world. Dating back over four hundred years, Irshad's ancestors had been among the best musicians and leading sitar players of India and are credited for the introduction of the Gayaki -Ang, vocal style on the sitar. His family has been paramount in the evolution of the sitar into its present form as well as in the creation of the Surbahar, which was invented by Irshad's great-great grandfather Ustad Sahebdad Khan.

Irshad Khan gave his first public performance at the age of seven. His international debut was at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, England when he was only 13. At 18, he made history by becoming the youngest soloist to perform at one of the most prestigious



international music festivals held in London, known as the Indian All night concert at the Proms Since then, through his performances and International press accolades and ground breaking albums, he has proved to be an outstanding worldmusician. He has given more than 2000 performances, over 30 nations in 5 continents.

▪ ***Krishna Ram Choudhary***

Pt. Krishna Ram Choudhary was born in Benaras. The musical environment of the family enabled him to imbibe the best in Indian musical traditions and paved the way to achieving proficiency and perfection in his chosen field. He began his professional career in Shehnai playing at the age of twelve under the guidance of his father late Shri Buddha Lal Choudhary, a devoted Shehnai player and disciple of late Pandit Bade Ram Das Ji, the famous Hindustani Classical Vocalist of India. He further went on to learn the nuances of Raga-exposition and higher technique of Shehnai playing at the feet of the great Vocalist of Benaras Gharana, late Pandit Mahadeva Prasad Mishra, Varanasi (India).

He has also been seeking guidance in Shehnai playing from his respected uncle late Shri Ram Lal , the famous Film Music Director of India, who composed music for super hit films, like 'Sehara', 'Geet Gaya Patharo Ne' etc,

He has partipated and performed in almost all important music concerts, conferences and festivals all over India and few out side India. Recently he has performed in Saptak Music Conference at Ahmedabad on 1st Jan.2009.

He received the Special President's Award in All India Music Competitions bestowed on him personally by the Honourable President of India Dr. Sarvapalli Radha Krishnan.

He was awarded Surmani in 1976 by the SUR SINGAR SAMSAD one of the leading cultural organizations of India.

In 1978 he received "Gold Medal" award by Bihar Sangeet Conference, Patna for excellence in Shehnai playing.

In recognition of his famous contributions towards the Indian Classical Music he received a Certificate as a Sensational Shehnai Player and was honoured by Indian Social Lovers Organisation (ISCLO) in 1982.

He received the C.C.I (Critic Circle of India)Award in 1981 towards his outstanding in enriching India's cultural and social tradition in playing Shehnai in 1982.

He has been Awarded "Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi" Award in 1991. He received "Bharat Ke Sangeet Ratna" Award by The Art And Culture Trust of India, New Delhi on 23rd October 2008 at Stein Auditorium,Habitat Centre, New Delhi .

The Central Sangeet Natak Akademi , New Delhi has conferred on him its prestigious



National Award Sangeet Puraskar for the year 2008 for his contribution in the field of Hindustani Instrumental Music (Shehnai). This award is the highest National honour an artiste can look forward to in India.

Besides giving numerous solo-Shehnai performances, he has also given charming Shehnai recitals as a partner in duet with renowned Violin Maestro Padamvibhushan Pt. V.G.Jog. Sitar maestros sujat Khan accompanied Tabla Samrat Padamvibhushan Sri Shamta Prasad, Nishat khan, Mani Lal Nag and Somitra Lahari.

Sri Krishna Ram Choudhary is a popular and excellent Shehnai Player and has received wide acclaim for truly representing the pure Hindustani Classical and Semi-Classical Music such as Thumari, Chaiti, Kazari, Holi, Dadra and Purvi etc.

▪ ***Shanno Khurana***

Shanno Khurana's legendary voice continues to capture our hearts even today, 63 years after her first broadcast on Lahore radio in 1945. Born in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, in 1927, she was trained from a young age to carry her voice with open abandon, zest and power, a far cry from the modern voices that are created for microphones. Shanno Khurana is one of the greatest living treasures of Hindustani music who has enthralled audiences from the United States to London, Vienna and Paris, through the Middle East, Southeast Asia to Tokyo in some of the most memorable concerts of our times.

Shanno Khurana excels in the entire gamut of Hindustani musical forms. Her Khayal recitals are marked by their deeply affecting plaintive vilambit compositions that are contrasted with vivid drut and taranas. She sings thumris and dadras with the typical lilt and poignant depth of the poorab-ang. And a Maand, Hori, Kajri or Chaiti can see her voice dance sentimentally. Musically, she has inherited a serious legacy: the tradition and rigour of the Rampur-Saheswan Gharana from Padmabhushan Ustad Mushtaq Husain Khan and the intellectual vision of the eminent philosopher and musicologist Padmabhushan Thakur Jaideva Singh.

In a pioneering effort to bring classical and folk music to the public, she composed, directed and sang in five operas which were each based on over 70 classical ragas. These achieved unprecedented acclaim right from the first one in 1956 to the last one in 1980. Her organization Geetika (est. 1968) has brought our attention to some of the most serious issues affecting our music and musicians. To give women musicians (vocalists and instrumentalists, Hindustani and Carnatic) a viable and respectable profession she started a festival called Bhairav-Se-Sohni in 1983 which has now grown into a nation-wide movement. For the past ten years her prime concern has been to bring awareness to the many disappearing rare ragas that are hardly heard anymore.

She is also an eminent musicologist and has published over 40 papers on Indian classical and folk music, their history, Ragamalas and Indian aesthetics, music therapy in neuropsychiatry, etc. Further, she has produced two substantial pieces of research: the first providing a stylistic analysis and history of the eight major Hindustani Gharanas, and the



second, her doctorate, was an in depth musicological analysis of the folk music of Rajasthan. Both have been published.

Shanno Khurana was recorded by UNESCO in Paris as part of the Intangible Heritage of the World. She was given the honorific of "Oltin Bulbule", the Golden Nightingale of the East, by UNESCO in a glittering ceremony in Samarkand. She has performed in every major festival in India and across Europe, Asia and the US. The country's highest professional honour for the performing arts, the Ratna Sadasya or Fellowship of the Sangeet Natak Akademi was conferred on her in 2003. She has been awarded the Padmabhushan, Padmashri, Panjabi Akademi Award 2006 - 07 for lifetime contribution to music, Punjab Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshani, the Baba Alauddin Khan Award, amongst many others.

Press

No Update