



**Prakriti
Foundation**

**Gharana Festival of Indian Music
(2013)**

About Gharana Festival 2013

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 2013 edition of the festival was themed around “Women Performers” which featured a range of multi-faceted women Hindustani musicians including – Vidya Shah, Panditha Anuradha Pal, Amit Sinha and Astha Tripathi.

Schedule

Concert by Vidya Shah

Synopsis: “Women on Record” a concert and exhibition by Vidya Shah, a well-known Hindustani musician, composer and writer from New Delhi, focuses on the contributions of yesteryear women performers from the gramophone era in India.

Date: 28th June 2013

Time: 6:30 pm

Venue: The Museum Theatre, Egmore

Concert by Pandita Anuradha Pal

Synopsis: World renowned Tabla maestro and percussionist, Pandita Anuradha Pal, will perform a Tabla jugalbandi with herself. She will be accompanied by Sathish Koli on Harmonium

Date: 29th June 2013

Time: 6:30 pm

Venue: The Museum Theatre, Egmore

Concert by Amita Sinha and Astha Tripathi

Synopsis: Highly talented vocalists, Amita Sinha and Astha Tripathi will showcase their versatility and repertoire in Hindustani classical by showcasing a vocal jugalbandi.

Date: 30th June 2013

Time: 6:30 pm

Venue: The Museum Theatre, Egmore

Artiste Profile

▪ ***Vidya Shah***

Vidya Shah is a composer, musician, and writer from New Delhi, India. She was initially trained in Carnatic music, and later received guidance in the North Indian genres of Khayal (from Shubha Mudgal and Mujahid Hussain Khan), Thumri Dadra, and Ghazal (from Shanti Hiranand). She has performed at national and international forums, including the Tansen Samaroh in Gwalior, The Kennedy Centre in Washington D.C, The Asia Society in New York and the Bode Museum in Berlin

A popular performer and a prolific composer, she is a recipient of the Charles Wallace Award and a Senior Fellowship from the Government of India for her project "Women on Record", a performance highlighting the contributions of the forgotten women performers in the Gramophone era.

"Women on Record" offers a wealth of both listening pleasure and information. It responds to a very wide range of music interest thanks to its accessible, user-friendly format, with biographies, interviews, photographs, audio-recordings, videos, film clips...It is an exhibition and performance recreating the ambience of the gramophone era in India.

▪ ***Pandita Anuradha Pal***

Pandita Anuradha Pal is a world-renowned, multifaceted Tabla virtuoso, multi-percussionist and Music composer who has been hailed as the first professional female tabla player in the world by Encyclopedia Britannica and the Limca Book of Records. She has performed for dignitaries like the Honourable President and Prime Minister of India and Queen Elizabeth of Britain, at major diplomatic events like the SAARC Summit and the CHOGM Summit. She represented India in the 'Asian Performers Summit' in Japan (1999) and at the Commonwealth Games Festival, UK (2000).

Superbly trained by tabla legends Late Ustad Alla Rakha & Zakir Hussain, Anuradha Pal is the youngest and only female Indian Musician to have performed at the prestigious Woodstock Festival (Poland, 2008), where she performed with her World Music band, Recharge for an audience of 4 lakh people. She is also the youngest Indian Musician to have performed at the renowned WOMAD Festival (Reading, 1999), where she performed with her all-female percussion-based Music ensemble, Stree Shakti, for an audience of 1.5 lakh people.

She has performed sensational Tabla Solos and astutely accompanied some of the best musicians of India like Pt. Jasraj, Pt. Shivkumar Sharma, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Smt. Girija Devi, Ustad Sultan Khan, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, as well as acclaimed Jazz, Latin & African musicians in major Indian & International festivals.

▪ ***Amita Sinha***

Amita Sinha comes from a music loving family in Bishnupur, West Bengal. She was introduced to music by her parents and encouraged by them to become a dhrupad singer. She did her masters in music (Hindustani Classical Vocal) from Visva Bharati University, Shanti Niketan, West Bengal and stood first in her class. She got her initial training in dhrupad from Shrimati Kaberi kar. Later on, she joined the Dhrupad Sansthan Bhopal where she learned the art of Dhrupad in the Gurushishya Parampara from Umakant Ramakant Gundecha. She received Merit scholarship from Visvabharati University, Shanti Niketan from 1997 to 2000. She also received the Sachi Shankaran Fellowship and Sir Dorabji Tata Scholarship for higher studies in Dhrupad Sansthan Bhopal.

She has performed in many music festivals in India including 'Arambh' – Bharat Bhavan Bhopal, Dhrupad Mela- Varanasi, Dhrupad Festival – Gwalior, Yuva Mahotsav of Sangeet Natak Academy, Kal ke kalakar Festival, Mumbai, Dhrupad Sandhya – Pune, Bangalore. She has given vocal support to her Guru – Gundecha Brothers in many concerts.

▪ ***Astha Tripathi***

Astha Tripathi was born in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh in 1982. She was introduced to music by her parents. She started learning music in Ambikapur from Shri Chandrashekhar Khanwalkar. She is a post graduate in Music from Indore University with first position in merit list.

For the past 4 years she trained under the able guidance of Shri Gundecha Bandhu in Gurukul, Dhrupad Sansthan Bhopal under Guru Shishya Parampara. She is recipient of Sir Dorabji Tata Scholarship. She has performed at many places including Sangeet Samaroh, Tikamgad, Sanskrit Gaurav, Vidisha, Dhrupad Vrind, Bhopal, Music Festival, Maheshvar, Kal ke kalakar, Mumbai, Yuva Mahotsav, Mumbai, Dhrupad Sandhya, Pune,

Dhrupada Sandhya, Banglore , Dhrupad Sandhya, Chennai.

Press

Times of India, Chennai, 28 June, 2013

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/An-evening-with-women-from-the-gramophone-era/articleshow/20807080.cms>