



University of
Nottingham

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA



Maestros

Arnab Chakrabarty
Shahbaz Hussain

THE SAROD

The *sarod* is among the youngest mainstream melodic instruments of classical Hindustani music. Based on the Kabuli *rabāb*, an Afghan instrument brought to India in the fifteenth century, it was first designed by Ustad Niamatullah Khan (1827-1903) of the Lucknow *gharānā* in the Awadh court of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. The sarod is known for its deep, absorbing tone and its distinctly modern sound. It has a hollow wooden body, commonly carved from Indian teak or *tun* wood. The hollow chamber, covered with stretched goatskin membrane, acts as the resonator. The tapering neck is fitted with a fretless, steel or iron plate. All the strings are metallic and include four main playing strings, two *chikārī* strings, and several sympathetic strings. It is played using a coconut shell plectrum, while the strings are pressed using the musician's nails to achieve its characteristic rich sound.

THE MAESTROS

Arnab Chakrabarty started training in Hindustani classical music at the age of 7. A leading scion of the Lucknow and Shahjahanpur *gharānās* of the Sarod, he has trained under erudite luminaries of the twentieth century, including Dr Kalyan Mukherjea, Ustad Irfan Muhammad Khan, & Pt Buddhadev Dasgupta. He has also learnt Hindustani vocal music under Pt Yeshwantbuwa Joshi of the Gwalior *gharānā*. In his music, Arnab imbibes elements from all his gurus, subtly synthesising them into a style uniquely his own, enriched by his unusually large repertoire and fecund imagination. In a career spanning more than 25 years, he has performed in over 35 countries. He is also a sought-after sarod guru and music writer, renowned for his thoroughly researched pieces on music history. He has won major recording and touring grants from the Toronto Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts. In 2023, he received the prestigious Chalmers Fellowship from the Ontario Arts Council.

Shahbaz Hussain began learning the *tablā* at 5 with his father Ustad Mumtaz Hussain. He went on to study with *tabla* legends like Ustad Faiyaz Khan of the Delhi *gharānā*, and Ustad Shaukat Hussain Khan & Ustad Allah Rakha Khan of the Punjab *gharānā*. Shahbaz is among the leading tabla maestros of the world today, equally at ease with traditional repertoires as well as contemporary styles. He is as renowned for his accompaniment skills as he is for his virtuosic solo recitals. His band, Indus, has received critical acclaim for their debut album *Firefly*. Shahbaz is also a passionate and dedicated teacher and has already trained some fine young musicians. He regularly teaches across the country, including at the University of Newcastle and the University of Huddersfield.

PROGRAMME

Rāga Gaud Sārang

Agra gharānā gat

composed by Ustad Faiyaz Khan (1880-1950) & adapted for the Sarod by Dr Kalyan Mukherjea (1943-2010)

Kalpi gharānā sitar gat

composed by Ustad Yusuf Ali Khan (1887-1962), and adapted for the sarod by Arnab Chakrabarty

The serpentine world of Indian rhythm

by Shahbaz Hussain

Rāga Khamāj

a *gat* composed by Pt. Radhika Mohan Maitra (1917-1981) as a mirror *gat* to Ustad Basat Khan (19th century)

Intermission

Rāga Miyān ki Malhār

Ālāpa, Jod, Jhālā

Vilambit gat in Dhamāra

composed by Arnab Chakrabarty

A Traditional gat

Rāga Basant & others

Ends and beginnings: Rāga Bhairavī