

DHRUPAD CONCERT BY USTAD F. WASIFUDDIN DAGAR

(a part of the international conference on The Dual Mysteries of Gauge Theories and Gravity organized by the Department of Physics, IIT Madras)



Accompanied by Pandit Mohan Shyam Sharma (Pakhwaj)

TIME: 7:30 PM IST (UTC + 5:30)

DATE: OCT 24, 2020

TO BE HELD ONLINE AND TO BE STREAMED LIVE ON YOUTUBE:

<https://youtu.be/m2KdtXdtXNU>

Dhrupad:

Dhrupad is the oldest known form of Indian Classical music and has its origins in the Sāma Veda, which is said to date from the third century B.C. Evolving from the rhythmic chanting of the Vedic scriptures, this developed into *chhand* and *prabandh* (rhythms and phrases) taking an independent artistic life. Dhrupad used to be sung in temples. However, with time, Dhrupad reached the courts

of the kings. In the sixteenth century Raja Man Singh Tomar of Gwalior gave a new dimension to Dhrupad by encouraging saint-poets to write in Awadhi and Brij Bhasa (languages spoken by masses) instead of Sanskrit. Dhrupad was the dominant style until the Mughal times. Swami Haridas and Tansen who flourished during the Mughal times were among the most prominent Dhrupadiyas.

There are four schools/ *bani*s of Dhrupad presently- Dagarvani, Khandarvani, Nauharvani and Gauharvani. Dagar stems from the word *dagar*, a path. This *bani* is famous for its simple elegance and purity.

Ustad F. Wasifuddin Dagar:

Ustad F. Wasifuddin Dagar is the leading exponent of the Dagarvani Gharana today. He was awarded Padma Shri (one of the highest civilian awards) by the Government of India in 2010 at the age of 42. He began his career at a very early age singing with the legendary Dagar duo, his father, Ustad N. Faiyazuddin Dagar and his uncle, Ustad N. Zahiruddin Dagar. After the death of his father in 1989, he performed and recorded with his uncle in India, Europe, Japan, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Since 1994, after the death of his uncle, he has been performing, teaching and recording solo. He became the president of the Dhrupad Society in 1994 (that was founded in 1984 by his father and uncle to promote Dhrupad). He performed at the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of the Millennium Peace Summit held at New York in 2000. In 2001, he performed at the World Festival of Sacred Music in New York at the invitation of Phillip Glass. In 2003, College de France honored him with the title of Dr Honoris Causa. In 2003, he also performed at the prestigious World Classical Music Festival curated by Seppo Kimanen in Finland. He is currently part of the expert committee of Ministry of Culture and is an appointed member of General Council and Executive Board of Sangeet Nayak Academy, National School of Drama, etc. He has produced many performing students in India, Europe, Japan and US.

Pandit Mohan Shyam Sharma:

Pandit Mohan Shyam Sharma is one of the leading Pakhwaj players of India. He has accompanied the Dagar brothers and then Ustad Asad Ali Khan and Zia Mohiuddin Dagar extensively in India and abroad. He is a much sought-after accompanist for all the most eminent exponents of Dhrupad in both its vocal and instrumental forms. He has also performed solo in France, Italy, Belgium, Japan, Switzerland, Austria, Russia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Hong Kong, etc.

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