

SHUBHENDRA AND SASKIA RAO PRESENT

An e-Baithak Series With Live & Virtual Audience

**UNLOCK**
THE MUSIC
Season 2

DEDICATED TO
the artists we lost in 2020/21

Pt Shounak Abhisheki



Saturday, November 27th 9.00 PM IST



Exceptional vocalist Pt. Shounak Abhisheki has carved a niche for himself, gaining prominence as a leading musician in the field of Indian Classical Music.

The son and worthy disciple of the maestro **Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki**, Shounak's presentation of Khayal is an aesthetic blend of the Agra and Jaipur styles of *Hindustani Raag Sangeet*. He had the privilege of being trained by **Smt. Kamal Tambe** of the Jaipur Gharana, subsequently groomed by the rigorous tutelage received from his illustrious father. A keen understanding of the nuances and intricacies of music making coupled with the stylistic techniques imbibed by him, have lent a unique texture to Shounak's music.

Endowed with a voice capable of manifesting intensity and emotion together, enhanced with his striking diction, Shounak is capable to explore new dimensions in music, shouldering his father's musical legacy. His aesthetic approach towards the lyrical content and his keen sensitivity towards the emotive aspects of a composition, gives his performance universal appeal.

Shounak is equally proficient in several other genres of Indian music which he performs with élan through thematic presentations like **SWARABHISHEK, TULSI KE RAM, KABIR, SANTAWANI, ABHANGWANI** predominantly based on his father's compositions.



A regular performer in major music festivals in India, Shounak has also toured extensively overseas for a series of concerts in **USA, the UK, the USSR, the Arabian Gulf, Thailand, Bhutan, South Africa, Europe** etc. He has been recorded by reputed recording companies like **Times Music, Sony Music, Music Today, Ninad Music, EMI** to name a few.

Apart from gaining the distinction of sharing the dais with Vidwan **Dr. M.Balmurlikrishna** in performing a duet with the legendry Carnatic vocalist, Shounak's inclination towards experimentation in music has led him to working with internationally acclaimed artists including musicians from other genres of world music representing groups like **Vibgyor, Taal- Yatra, Miles** from India and Sounds of India. Shounak carries forward the vision perceived by Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki under the aegis of the Charitable foundation, 'Tarangini Sanskrutik Pratishthan', founded by the legendry musician himself , dedicated to conducting activities related to Indian Classical Music such as awarding Scholarships to talented youngsters and providing pensions to veteran classical musicians, apart from organising events at different places, promoting young and talented artistes.



From Court to Concert: Development of Khyal

The 18th century saw the birth of many of the musical forms that are dominant today, like Khayal and thumri. With the central Mughal power in Delhi weakening after Aurangzeb's death, there was a quick succession of emperors. One of them was the legendary Muhammadshah Rangile (1716-1748 AD) in Gwalior. He was a loving and generous patron to many musicians. It was in his court that Nyamatkhan, invented a new genre, the Khayal. He became so popular that he received the title Sadarang. His students were Hassu and Hadu Khan continued the tradition in Gwalior. This style of music became so popular, that it was adapted by many artists who in turn created their own style.

With the decline of the Toyal courts, the Darbars that were the patrons of music, and the rise of less educated patrons of music, the need for easier and more lyrical musical styles arose. The Dhrupad style was serious and only performed by men. The later styles were more lyrical and performed by men and women. Khyal was a combination of local and folk styles with the Dhrupad style of singing. The Khyal was sung by men and women and had a more lyrical character than the Dhrupad, yet was more serious than the local and folk styles so that it could entertain audiences for a longer time.



Sadarang with disciples