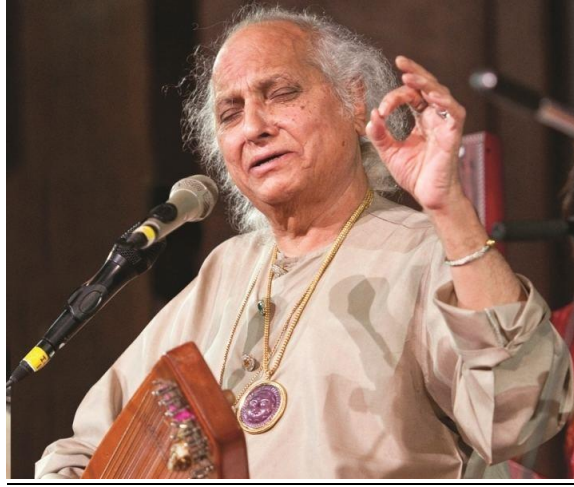




नादाधीनम् जगत् सर्वम्

**PANDIT JASRAJ SCHOOL OF MUSIC FOUNDATION
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!
1994 – 2024**

THE LEGEND LIVES ON



Featuring

PANDIT RATTAN MOHAN SHARMA | SWAR SHARMA

September 14, 2024 | Burnaby Hall, 7837 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC | 6:30 p.m.

Dear Friends,

Greetings and Blessings from the President, Asha Lohia, and the Board of Directors of Pandit Jasraj School of Music Foundation (PJSOM). We extend a warm welcome to all of you at this celebratory 30th anniversary concert and sincerely thank you for your continued support. The visionaries who formed Pandit Jasraj School of Music Foundation in 1994, through serious consultation with Panditji, ascertained that this organization had the potential of longevity, and could be used to promote Indian Classical Music in Vancouver. It is so appropriate that we have Panditji's primary torchbearers, nephew **Pandit Rattan Mohan Sharmaji and his son Swar Sharma**, for this 30th year celebration. The Program for this concert has a dual purpose: it also serves as a Newsletter, taking us through 30 years of our achievements and our commitment to the community. Thank you for attending this program and for your continued support.

On behalf of the PJSOM Board of Directors, I wish you all a wonderful evening!

Teresa Rehman, Vice-President, PJSOM

SANGEET MARTAND PANDIT JASRAJ JI

SANGEET MARTAND PADMA VIBHUSHAN PANDIT JASRAJ JI was one of India's premier classical vocalists and foremost exponent of the Mewati Gharana. Panditji was born in Hissar, Harayana in an orthodox Brahmin family of vocalists in the Mewati Gharana. After his father passed away, Panditji received training from his elder brother, Pandit Maniram ji, and later from Maharaja Jaywant Singhji Waghela ji and Swami Vallabhadas ji of the Agra Gharana. The word '*gharana*' is derived from the Hindi word '*ghar*' which means 'family' or 'house.' A *gharana* is a system of social organization linking musicians or dancers by lineage, apprenticeship, or adherence to a particular musical style.

Panditji's rich and soulful voice used precise diction and crossed effortlessly over all three and a half octaves, a trademark of the Mewati Gharana's style of *khayal*, or classical singing of Northern India. His music is so magnificent that it penetrates the soul of every listener. Panditji was accredited with creating over 300 *bandishes* (compositions), bringing life to ancient Sanskrit verses of great poets and saints in the pure Indian classical tradition. This work has initiated a major spiritual revolution in classical music. Panditji sang these Sanskrit compositions with such divine inspirations to rapt audiences worldwide.

Panditji trained and provided guidance to numerous students who are now accomplished artists performing throughout the world. Among them are: Tripti Mukherjee; Rattan Mohan Sharma; Sanjeev Abhyankar; Suman Ghosh; Hemang Mehta; Pritam Bhattacharjee; Gargee Siddhant Datta; Kala Ramnath; Ankita Joshi; Prasad Dusane and Bollywood singer, Sadhana Sargam. Panditji was a true advocate of Indian classical music throughout the world. Today, music schools bearing his name, and directed by his foremost disciples, are found in Toronto, Atlanta, New Jersey, New York, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay, Mumbai and Kerala. **Pandit Jasraj School of Music Foundation Vancouver, founded in 1994, is the oldest.**

Pandit Jasraj ji was the recipient of innumerable international honours and awards. The most notable are: Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1987); Padma Vibhushan (2000); Sangeet Kala Ratna; Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award; Lata Mangeshkar Puraskar; Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar; Surer Guru; Swathi Sangeetha Puraskaram; Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship; Marwar Sangeet Ratna Award; Bharat Muni Samman. The Padma Vibhushan is the second highest civilian award by the Republic of India which recognizes exceptional and distinguished service to the nation in any field.

During the height of the Covid 19 pandemic, we were grieved by the sudden death of our Guruji, Padma Vibhushan Sangeet Martand, Pandit Jasraj ji, who passed away on August 17, 2020. We are so privileged that our Bade Guruji has enriched us with his music and inspired us over many years. His blessings give us the impetus to carry on with his work as best we can. As a Tribute to our beloved Guruji, the Board produced **SHRADDHANJALI**: memories of the blessings he showered upon us, and glimpses of the precious time he spent with us in Vancouver. Included are snippets of his class recordings in our school, and excerpts of his performances in Vancouver. This program, which premiered on September 5, 2020, is now available on Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiOKz2QnFYo>

Although we were very saddened by the death of our Guruji, we were encouraged to continue his legacy, remembering that he had found time to visit us, teach us, perform for us and give us solicitous advice. Our Guruji had a special place in his heart for PJSOM Vancouver, the oldest school bearing his name and teaching the Mewati Gharana of his lineage.

PANDIT JASRAJ SCHOOL OF MUSIC FOUNDATION (PJSOM)

HISTORY

On September 29, 1994, The Constitution and Bylaws of **Pandit Jasraj School of Music Foundation** was incorporated in Province of British Columbia, signed by: **Chandra Bhan; Dhiru Desai; Asha Lohia; Shushma Sardana; Satwant Singh; Yeshwant Upadhye**. This Constitution and Bylaws have never been amended since, and have served to guide the Foundation successfully for the past 30 years.

Pandit Jasraj School of Music Foundation is the first Indian Classical Music School of the Mewati Gharana in North America, operating under the unequivocal guidance of our Guru Sangeet Martand Padmavibushan Pandit Jasrajji.

PJSOM advances Indian Classical Music in 2 significant ways: vocal music instruction and classical concerts and performances.

VOCAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION

PJSOM Principal, Acharya Asha Lohia, who is a direct disciple of our Gururji since 1996, organizes vocal music classes throughout the year for all ages and levels. Currently, we have the following classes in session: Wednesday Bhajan Class; Thursday Class for Senior Level; Saturday Class for Intermediate Level; Sunday Class for Children. Principal Asha Lohia has given vocal music classes, without interruption for the past 30 years, educating the students in classical music tradition: religious and secular history; ragas; compositions; poetry, etc. To date, the School has published 44 music instruction books.

The curriculum also focuses on training students to become future teachers, which is most helpful to the school. Our student teachers include: Ajit Arivarul; Shruti Krishnamurthy; Avi Mukerji; Keka Sengupta.

During the pandemic, since March 2020, we continued vocal classes by ZOOM. This medium has been very successful, even including students from out of Province. We continue our classes on ZOOM, and meet for in-person classes when the need arises. Listening to class recordings is also very helpful. Our respective sessions usually end with a Student Recital, which is both beneficial and encouraging to the students.

For more information on our classes, please check our Website and Facebook pages.

VOCAL WORKSHOP BY PANDIT RATTAN MOHAN SHARMAJI

Pandit Rattanji is kindly offering vocal workshops during this visit. These classes are being held at Fiji Canada Association Multicultural Centre, 13629 108th Avenue, Surrey, BC (108th and King George Blvd) on the following dates and times.

September 9, 10 & 12, 2024

September 16, 17 & 19, 2024

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Drop-in per class fee is \$25.00

Package fee for 6 classes is \$100

For information please contact:

Asha Lohia | 604-729-4497

Kamala Cherukupalli | 604-315-5934

Teresa Rehman | 604-813-9137 (also for workshop, directions, parking, etc.)



PANDIT RATTAN MOHAN SHARMA

The Divine voice of the Mewati Gharana, (style of classical singing originated in Mewat, Rajasthan), Rattanji, is an [Indian classical vocalist](#). He was born in Rajasthan on June 14, 1971 to Padma and Mohan Lal Sharma and into a family of vocalists such as Pandits Motiram, Maniram, Pratap Narayan, and Jasraj. He is the nephew and a disciple of classical vocalist, Pandit [Jasraj](#). His affinity for percussion instruments in his youth led him to practice [tabla](#) up to the age of 15. Over the years, he has trained under Pandit Jasraj in vocal classical music and under Pandit Pratap Narayan on tabla.

Rattaji performs classical music forms such as [Khayal](#) and [Tarana](#), and light classical forms: [Haveli Sangeet](#); [Tappa](#); [Bhajan](#) and [Rajasthani Folk](#). He is considered an "A" grade artist on [All India Radio](#). He has performed in many concerts and festivals in India and abroad: he is one of the highest selling recording artists in Spiritual and Devotional categories. As a playback singer he has performed in the mythological film Dashavatar (2009). His trendsetting albums such as "Gayatri Mantra" have sold over half a million copies world over. He has more than 300 best-selling albums to his credit. It is believed that listening to his blessed voice and chants brings in prosperity and peace in every household. He has received several awards, but the closest to his heart is the title of "Badshaah-e-Taraana," given to him by his fans for creating a breath-taking unique style of "Taraana" like never before. He is an excellent composer, singer, and performer. His melodious rendition of "Haveli Sangeet" and "Rajasthani Folk" has always left audiences worldwide spellbound and overwhelmed in his live concerts. More than 5000 of his performances worldwide have been in temples, colleges, theatres and prestigious music festivals.

He is the founder of both, The Pandit Jasraj School of Music Foundation in Mumbai, and The Pandit Jasraj School of Music Foundation in Tampa, Florida. Pt. Rattan has performed in Metro Vancouver many times

and taught vocal music lessons to students of PJSOM. The Foundation had booked Pandit Jasraj for a concert in 2016, but he fell ill and could not come to Canada. Pt. Rattan compensated the Foundation by coming from India in 2017 to give a concert for the community, and lessons to our students in Burnaby, without any cost to the Foundation. Pt. Rattan has a good fan base in Metro Vancouver: our patrons and students truly enjoy his good nature, friendliness and, above all, the versatility of his music.



SWAR SHARMA is the son of Pandit Rattan Mohan and Ekta Sharma and grandson of Pandit Jasraj. As a child, Swar was taught by his father and by Pandit Jasraj. Swar is 24 years of age and the second-generation torchbearer of the Hindustani classical Mewati Gharana style of singing. For the past 15 years or so, as a child and teenager, Swar has performed at concerts and on the radio and television throughout India and has received numerous awards.

This is Swar's first trip as a musician to North America. This link takes you to Swar Sharma offering a beautiful Musical Puja on Raaj Kedar to his beloved grandfather, Guru Pandit Jasraj.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYVZFopF4GY>



SUNNY MATHARU

Growing up in a musical family, Sunny Matharu began his training in tabla at a very young age. His training

started with Ustad Satwant Singh, who gave him a strong foundation in the art of tabla playing. To this day, he continues to learn under the guidance of tabla maestro Pandit Yogesh Samsi, one of the foremost tabla players of the Punjab Gharana. For the past 25 years, Sunny has accompanied numerous musicians from around the world, including well-known musicians from the Indian classical music tradition.

Apart from performing, Sunny has taught tabla at various international institutes. He is a dedicated teacher, inspiring young children and students of all ages to learn tabla, and explore it as an art form. Sunny has also completed Finance and Accounting degrees and has a business background. Sunny currently resides in Surrey, BC, and is much sought after as a solo performer, accompanist, teacher and recording artist. Sunny Matharu has assisted our Foundation for the past 20 years by playing tabla for world-renowned visiting artists and for our students at recitals and performances.

USTAD BALJIT SINGH started learning Dilruba from Professor Avtar Singh; later, he learned from Ustad Piara Singh Padam. Baljit has performed with many renowned artists, both internationally and locally, receiving numerous accolades for his outstanding musical talent. He is one of the few exponents of the dilruba in Canada and is committed to sharing this unique art form with others. Baljit performs frequently at festivals and concerts, treating audiences to music in this sublime instrument. Currently, he is teaching and performing at the Naads Arts Centre in Surrey. Together with Amarjeet Singh, Baljit is a member of the five-member fusion ensemble, Indian Standard Time.

30th ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITIONS

SHUSHMA DATT served on the first Board of Directors of the Foundation in 1994. For the past 30 years, Shushmaji has been committed to the Foundation, giving our concerts free publicity on her various radio and TV programs in Hindi and Punjabi: Radio Rhim Jhim; RJ 1200 later becoming Spice Radio; Omni Radio; Shaw TV.

Shushma has always been a pillar we could lean on; over the years, she has given us her time, good guidance, and encouragement to fulfill our mandate in the various ways we promote Indian Classical Music

Shushma is considered a pioneer of ethnic broadcasting in British Columbia. She received the [Order of British Columbia](#) in 1992, and is also a recipient of the [Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal](#). Recently, Shushma, received the

King Charles Medal of Honour for her commitment to the community. Congratulations!



At our first 30th anniversary celebratory concert on April 7, 2024, an Evening of Khayal, Thumri and Bhajans, featuring Indrani Mukherjee, the Foundation presented Shushma Datt with a plaque as a special tribute of appreciation for her unequivocal commitment. Thank you very much, Shushmaji!

SULEKHA SRIVASTAVA

Bless those who gave her the name 'Sulekha' which means, 'a good handwriting.' They must have had an uncanny premonition that she would live up to her name! For the past 30 years, Sulekha has written, in her beautiful handwriting, all the lyrics and notation in the workbooks for vocal music instruction for the Foundation. In the early years, our school Principal, Asha Lohia, worked with her to write notations of lessons given by Guruji and his foremost disciples. This meant hours and hours of listening to cassette tapes, rewinding, fast forwarding, etc. While she does not take part in the notations anymore, to this day, we still see her attractive handwriting in our music workbooks, 44 in total and still counting! Sulekha is a woman of multiple talents: she is an excellent seamstress; she learned to play harmonium in her early forties when she took up classical lessons. She was so successful in her pursuit of classical music that she taught classes for the Foundation in her home. Now, she helps students prepare for student recitals. Always, generous with her time; always gracious, kind, patient, pleasant and good-natured; always wonderful to be with. Pandit Jasraj School of Music Foundation is proud to present a plaque to Sulekha Srivastava to acknowledge and recognize her for years of continued dedication. Thank you very much, Sulekhaji!

73 CONCERTS TO DATE (1995 – 2024)

Shortly after its inception in September 1994, the Foundation immediately started planning concerts and programs in its commitment to promote Indian Classical Music in Metro Vancouver. At that time, our Foundation was one of a few with this obligation. Now, and as recently as 10 years, there are many such organizations promoting Indian classical vocal, instrumental and dance programs.

It is very reassuring to learn that there are others in our community with whom we share common goals, and who are assisting us with our responsibility. We wish them the very best in their endeavors.

Our impressive list of concerts can be found on the PJSOM website
<https://pjsomvancouver.org/>

RECENT PAST EVENTS

May 21, 2022 | SHREE KEDAR KELKAR

During the pandemic restrictions, we found an innovative way to host a program: an on-line vocal concert by Shree Kedar Kelkar which premiered on May 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. You may watch this on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht1Xkwi jKYk>

May 28, 2023 | SANGAM: CONFLUENCE OF CARNATIC FLUTE & HINDUSTANI SHEHNAI, featuring Pt. Ramdas Palsule on tabla; J. A. Jayant on flute; Ashwani Shankar on Shehnai; and Vid Sai Giridhar on Mridangam. In a word, this concert was **RIVETING!** Those who attended considered themselves very lucky!

September 24, 2023 | ANKITA JOSHI | A talented young classical singer, Ankita starting training under Pandit Jasraj ji as a teenager for over 10 years. The audience truly appreciated this amazing and enjoyable

performance by someone so young and so amiable.

April 7, 2024 | INDRANI MUKHERJEE An Evening of Khayal, Thumri & Bhajans, was an evening of pure enjoyment. Accompanied by Mohan Bhide on harmonium and Sunny Matharu on tabla, Indraniji thrilled the audience, rendering the above compositions in her almost perfect and melodious voice.

April 21, 2024 | PJSOM Student Recital Sponsored and hosted by Fiji Canada Association (FCA), at the Fiji Canada Multicultural Centre, 13629 108th Avenue in Surrey, this student recital featured PJSOM students of all ages and levels. Accompanied by Gurnoor Gabba on tabla, and Avi Mukerji on harmonium, the students gave an astounding performance for over 130 people in attendance.

SPONSORSHIPS | CITY OF BURNABY



For more than 10 years, PJSOM has received grants for concerts from the City of Burnaby under the Festivals Burnaby Grant Program.

Burnaby is a convenient, central location for our patrons residing in Metro Vancouver, and we enjoy hosting concerts in this city. We thank the City of Burnaby for appreciating our music and for their continued support over many years.

SPONSORSHIP FROM OUR PATRONS

The Foundation is grateful to the following persons who gave generously to sponsor this program. Your contributions assist us greatly to continue with our work.

THANK-YOU VERY MUCH!

Veena Avinashi; Kamala & Sudhakar Cherukupalli; Rupa Gopinath; Arti Goyal; Ravi Gupta; Gautam Lohia; Indra Lohia; Anita & Rajesh Khare; Chitra Khare; Deepa & Arun Mathur; Shobha & Ravi Mathur; Devika & Sanjay Mehta; Pandita Tripti Mukherjee; Avinanda Mukhopadhyay; Beverley Nann; Prashant Pandit; Sita Prasad; AK Pillai; Noorjahan Rana; Val Shaikh; Rita Srivastava; Sulekha & Abhay Srivastava and Prashant Pandit. Our special thanks and appreciation go to Kamal Sharma for his very generous contribution.

We dearly miss our true-hearted and loyal sponsors who have passed away. **Hoshang Shroff and Anaar Kanji** (also a devoted student). Over the years, they lovingly encouraged us, guided us, supported us, donated generously and never left our side over the past 30 years. We miss them very much.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the pillars of all organizations. It is only because of their unselfish assistance that our Foundation has functioned successfully over 30 years. Volunteers are Board Members, but also include those who seek no recognition for themselves, but are willing to help out. They are very important to our Foundation and provide assistance happily and willingly with whatever task that is required: transportation; shopping; cooking meals for artists; hosting dinners; theatre assistance; stage set-up and take down, sound; photography; videography; publicity, etc.

For this program, we are grateful to:
Vijay Akhade; Ajit Arivarul; Abha Atal; Aarushi Harish; Chitra Khare; Anita and

Rajesh Khare; Shruti Krishnamurthy; Deepa Mathur; Shobha Mathur; AK Pillai; Sita Prasad; Nagraj Rao

Surva Studio and Production House

Surva Singh

Once again, Surya is kindly donating his time to take pictures of this program and to record it so that we can remember and enjoy this evening long afterwards. Thank you, Surya!

HOST FAMILY

Kalpana, Alakh, Priya & Deepali Prasad

Kalpana is more than happy to provide accommodation for her Guru Rattanji, whenever he visits Vancouver. PJSOM sincerely thanks Kalpana, Alakh, Priya and Deepali for hosting Pandit Rattanji and Swar for the 4 weeks they are here.

MEMBERS OF THE FIRST BOARD

The first Board Members include those who signed the Constitution and Bylaws on September 29, 1994: **Chandra Bhan; Dhiru Desai; Asha Lohia; Shushma Sardana; Satwant Singh; Yeshwant Upadhye.**

Asha Lohia and Shushma Datt remember, with fondness and gratitude, their fellow Board Members who have passed away.

BOARD MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS

We acknowledge and thank the following Board Members who served PJSOM faithfully over many years: Late Nirmala Hira; Krishna Teja Malladi; Noorjahan Rana; Late Zubeida Rattansi; and Viloo Shaikh.

Thank-you very much for your long years of service.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS 2024 – 2025



PJSOM BOARD MEMBERS: Asha Lohia (President); Teresa Rehman (Vice-President); Jyoti Malik (Secretary); Kamala Cherukupalli (Treasurer); Veena Avinashi; Hitesh Jain; Rohan Khadilkar; Avinanda Mukhopadhyay; Arvind Parmar (Directors). We have an amazing group of people in our Board, with multiple and varying God-given talents, leading the Foundation into the next era. Personally, I really enjoy working with my friends on this Board.

OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY GIFT TO YOU

In 1995, the following year after the Foundation was formed, we hosted our inaugural concert featuring Pandit Jasrajji (vocal); Ustad Zakir Hussain (tabla); Kala Ramnath (violin); and Shweta Jhaveri (vocal). In 1996, we hosted the first American concert featuring the three maestros: Pandit Jasrajji (vocal); Pandit Hariprasadji (flute); and Ustad Zakir Hussain (tabla). We also produced a set of two memorable CDs of this unforgettable concert which were marketed worldwide by Music India. These CDs are our 30th Anniversary gift to you, our faithful patrons.

May you all enjoy the coming Fall Season with good health and happiness,
Warm Regards and Best Wishes, Teresa Rehman, Vice-President, PJSOM