



Annual Report (2021-2022)

Due to the uncertainties caused by the pandemic, we were forced to conduct most of our activities online this year as well, but we didn't let that dampen our spirits! On 6th April 2021, we inaugurated an online interview series titled 'Swargange Che Saadhak', where musicians shared their musical journey with us in a candid conversation. We also utilised this time to make considerable progress in sorting and cataloguing the music files that have been donated to the archive over the past several years. Since Gurupoornima celebrations too were restricted due to the pandemic we presented an online tribute to Vidushi Dhondutai Kulkarni, whose birth anniversary was on the day of Gurupoornima this year.

As part of our efforts to document music we started an initiative called the 'Bandish Sangrahalaya' where intend to record compositions sung with the Jaipur Atrauli tradition and also bandishes composed by artists from the Jaipur Atrauli Gharana. This year we invited Smt. Madhuvanti Deo and Dr. Nishad Matange to record compositions by their Gurus.

Finally we ended the year with two live sessions! The first was a workshop by Shri. Sudheer Pote and the second was a session by Vid. Manjiri Alegaonkar. Do read on for more details on our activities.

~ Our Team ~

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Online Initiatives

1. Swargange Che Saadhak

Shri GN Joshi (grand uncle of Dr. Radhika Joshi) was a lawyer by profession, but a musician and musicologist by passion. As a recording executive at HMV, GN Joshi recorded several eminent musicians and is today credited for convincing artists in that era to allow their music to be recorded. In fact it is due to his efforts that we today are able to listen to many artists such as Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, Vidushi Kesarbai Kerkar and many others. As a tribute to his work, Jaipur Gunijankhana presented an online series titled 'Swargange Che Saadhak' where Radhika interviewed several different artists about various aspects of their musical journey. This 8 episode series was inaugurated on 6th April to mark GN Joshi's birth anniversary. The series is available for viewing on youtube on the following link <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIToOxkdOcI5aBqWlbiiAWtWQVhsO-xgm>.

Below is a list of musicians covered in the series and the topics they spoke on:

1. Vid. Alka Deo Marulkar – Hindustani classical vocalist. She has been trained in the Jaipur, Gwalior as well as Kirana Gharana. In this episode Alka Tai speaks about how she developed her own music as an amalgamation of the three different traditions.
2. Smt. Sunanda Sharma- A senior disciple of Padmavibhushan Girija Deviji, Sunanda Ji speaks about her taleem in the Benaras tradition and how that shaped not just her music but also her way of living.
3. Shri. Suyog Kundalkar- In this episode Suyogji speaks about his experiences as Kishoritai's harmonium accompanist and how that helps him prepare for a concert even today.
4. Shri. Warren Senders- Born and raised in the US, Warren shares his insights on what led him to pursue Hindustani music as a career.
5. Pt. Omkar Gulvady- Senior Tabla Maestro Omkar ji shares with us the do's and don't of a good sangatkaar while accompanying vocal music and how a good accompanist changes his theka based on the gaayaki of the singer.
6. Dr. Viraj Amar- A disciple of Pt. Rajan and Sajan Mishra, Viraj ji speaks of the challenges she faced whilst establishing a music department in Ahmedabad and the crossovers between pursuing music as a performing art and an academic subject.
7. Sarwar Hussien- Sarwar ji speaks about the challenges of playing the sarangi, why the instrument has gone out of vogue and the efforts one could take to keep the instrument alive.
8. Shri. Balasaheb Mirajkar- Senior Tanpura maker Balasaheb ji demonstrates the basics of tuning the tanpura, how to maintain it and the importance of using an acoustic tanpura as against its electronic alternatives.

2. Tribute to Gaanyogini Pta. Dhondutai Kulkarni:

This year's Guru Poornima also happened to be Dhondutai's birth anniversary (23rd July 2021). Vidushi Dhondutai Kulkarni, the only disciple of Surashree Kesarbai Kerkar was an exemplary musician who chose a life of intense saadhana and discipline. Even though she was not a prolific performer, Dhondutai was a committed Guru and trained many students. Rutuja Lad, Deepika Bhide – Bhagwat, Jashan Bhumkar, Aditya Khandwe, Manjiri Vaishampayne and Smita Bhagwat were kind enough to record their music and share their experiences of learning with Dhondutai in the online tribute. The series was weaved together with a wonderful narration by Pyoli, who also had the fortune of being Dhondutai's students. This online tribute is available on youtube on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yqw3iN37xcA>.

Archival recordings for Bandish Sangrahalaya

Bandishes or compositions are an integral part of the Hindustani music tradition. Yet many a times, compositions are lost because they were neither recorded nor notated for the next generation. In order to prevent such loss and to ensure that compositions are documented we started an initiative known as the Bandish Sangrahalaya where we intend to invite artists to record compositions. At present our focus is to record the following

- i) Compositions in traditional ragas that are characteristic to the Jaipur atrauli gharana
- ii) Compositions in ragas characteristic to the Jaipur Atrauli Gharana
- iii) Compositions composed by vocalists who belong to the Jaipur Atrauli Gharana

This year we recorded the following artists for this project

1. **Smt. Madhuvanti Deo** – Recorded compositions of Pt. Madhusudan Kanetkar, Vid. Kumudini Katdhare and Pt. Rajabhau Deo. She sang compositions in Raga Nat Kedar, Komal Rishabh Asavari, Kausi Kanada, Bahaduri Todi, Dev Gandhar and Nayaki Kanada
2. **Dr. Nishad Matange**- A disciple of Vid. Manik Bhide and Dr. Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande, Nishad also had the opportunity to learn from Pt. Rajshekhar Mansur. For this series, Nishad recorded compositions in Yamani (shuddha) Bilawal, Kafi Kanada, Khat and Sohini

Live Sessions

- **Workshop by Shri Sudheer Pote**



Shri. Sudheer Pote is a Kolhapur based vocalist and a disciple of Pt. Anandrao Limaye. He has a deep knowledge of many rare ragas presented in the Jaipur Atrauli tradition. In this workshop, Sudheerji taught two ragas, Husseini Todi and the other in Shuddha Madhyam ki Gauri. The way he taught and explained the ragas was so clear, systematic and yet uncompromising that it was very easy for students to learn.

He was accompanied by Pranav Gurav on the tabla. The participants consist of young artists, each having years of taleem making the whole gathering a very nice mix of very serious and committed musicians!



- **Maifili cha tantra: Vid. Manjiri Alegaonkar**

While students spend years perfecting their music, presenting it on stage is a different art altogether and not everyone has it! In this session vocalist Manjiri Alegaonkar spoke about few concerts that she had attended which she felt were unforgettable and factors that made them so. She also presented her music and spoke about her own experiences of choosing repertoire and basic do's and don'ts during a concert. Manjiri Tai was accompanied on the Tabla by Ajit Kimbahune and Harmonium by Saurav Dandekar.



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