

# Essence

This is about Seven Artists spreading the fragrance of their art on the same platform. Essence covers all aspects of Indian Music and Dance. Instrumental music consists of different forms like Blowing, Bowing, Plucking and Strokes. Rupak kulkarni ( Bamboo Flute - Blowing), Akram Khan ( Tabla - Strokes), Murad Ali Khan ( Sarangi - Bowing ), Fateh Ali Khan ( Sitar - Plucking & Strokes ), Mahua Shankar ( Kathak - Dance ), Nupur Shankar ( Vocals & Parhant ), Shuheb Hasan ( Vocal & Harmonium )

## **RUPAK KULKARNI ( FLUTE )**

As a child with music blown into his breath by his father late Pt Malhar Rao Kulkarni, Rupak has blossomed under the finest tutelage of Flute Legend Padma Vibhushan Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia to become an outstanding exponent of Maihar Gharana. As a first Ganda Bandh Shagird of Pt. Chaurasia, since the tender age of 9, Rupak with arduous training and hard work has mastered Dhrupad, Khayal and Tantrakari styles equally well. His recital is always a rare treat combining Dhrupad and Khayal Gayaki, melodious Aalap and scintillating tatkari (Tonguing technique used in Jhala ) innovative improvisation with mesmerising Layakari, Superb breath control and dexterous finger work. No wonder his concerts are loved and lauded not only by common music lovers but even by connoisseurs and music Maestros such as Pt. Ravi Shankar and Pt. Bhimsen Joshi. He is an empanelled artist of ICCR, New Delhi and Top Grade artist of All India Radio. Rupak's first solo flute performance was at the age of 11 at Darbar Hall, Baroda where he spellbound around 1500 music lovers. Since then he has performed in almost all prestigious Music Conferences in all over India and Abroad. He is also very sought after musician in World Music and is one of the most popular among young generation. Rupak has released his albums through all top ranking music companies like Times Music, HMV, Navras ,Plus Music, Rhythm House, Ninad, ABCL's Big B, Sense World ( London), World Wide Record etc. His Flute recitals are regularly aired on All India Radio, World Space Radio and various TV channels.

[www.rupakkulkarni.in](http://www.rupakkulkarni.in)

## **AKRAM KHAN ( TABLA )**

Akram Khan received his initial training in music from Late Ustad Niazu Khan who was famous for his technical style and guidance. He is also fortunate to have learnt from his great grand father Ustad Mohd. Shafi Khan and continues his training under the guidance of his father Ustad Hashmat Ali Khan. Formally trained at the Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad and passed Sangeet Praveen ( Master of Music ) from there as well as Sangeet Visharad from Chandigarh. Akram Khan has a Bachelor's degree of Commerce. He is also a Top Grade artist from All India Radio, New Delhi and an empanelled artist of ICCR, New Delhi. Akram Khan began by performing at Music Conference at a very young age. Since then he has been participating in prestigious festivals across the globe. In 1987 he performed with Ustad Vilayat Khan in Japan, and in 1992 accompanied the Maestro to the US. He has performed before enthralled audiences at the Kennedy Centre and The Lincoln Center in USA. He was a part of the celebration for India's 50th Independence Anniversary in India and Abroad.

[www.akramkhan tabla.in](http://www.akramkhan tabla.in)

## **MURAD ALI KHAN ( SARANGI )**

Murad Ali is the sixth generation Sarangi player from the musical Moradabad tradition. His ancestors were all renowned Sarangi players, musicologists and gurus of the Moradabad Gharana. The intensive training he had under his grand father Ustad Siddique Ahmad Khan and father Ustad Ghulam Sabir Khan. Presently Murad is regarded as one of the leading young Sarangi players. He started his performing career at the age of ten. Murad Ali won 1st prize from All India Radio National Music competition in 1992. An A Grade artist of All India Radio he is a frequent performer of several festivals held in India and Abroad. Murad has on several occasions participated in cross cultural and experimental music endeavours. He had the honor and privilege of playing Sarangi with Bharat Ratna Pt. Ravi Shankar and getting his blessings. He has composed music for his own band Soul Samvaad. He has recorded music for both Hollywood and Bollywood films. He is a recipient of "Sarangi Ratna" Award, "Ustad Bismillah Khan" Award by Sangeet Natak Academy and "Sanskriti" Award By Former President of India Dr. Abul Kalam Azad... Murad is an empanelled artist of ICCR, New Delhi.

[www.sarangisitar.com](http://www.sarangisitar.com)

## **FATEH ALI KHAN ( SITAR )**

Fateh Ali belongs to the sixth generation of a family of Sarangi Players of Moradabad Gharana. Fateh was initiated into Vocal music from an early age of seven by his grand father Late Ustad Siddique Ahmed Khan Sahab, who was the undisputed Sarangi maestro of the Moradabad Gharana for a short spell of the tender age he found his joy "SITAR" which he was initiated into by the Great Sitar maestro Shri Satish Kumar ji who belongs to Dharwar... He then took Sitar training under the Late Ustad Shamshuddin Faridi Desai who was The Great maestro and eminent Performer of SITAR & BEEN. Fateh Ali is advancing his art form and skill in "SITAR" under the personal guidance and training of his father Ustad Ghulam Sabir Khan again a well known name in India for Sarangi. Fateh has an uncanny knack of striking an instant rapport with audience. He has sincerely attempted to infuse interest and respect for all music and Indian classical music in the younger generation. Charismatic performer that he is, he can easily mesmerize the audience with his innovative skills and dexterity. His first Sitar Solo album TASIR SITAR has been released by UNDERSCORE RECORDS [www.underscorerecords.com](http://www.underscorerecords.com) Fateh has been doing various Contemporary and Indian Classical music albums with international musicians, as Jazz Album with "The Indian Core" from Norway, By: Mystica Music. World Music album CONVERGENCE By: Mystica Music and recently his new Indian Classical Music Album "Classical Rendezvous" already in store by: Mystica Music, Fateh has performed in Major Music Festivals in India & Abroad. He is an impaneled artist of ICCR, New Delhi.

[www.sarangisitar.com](http://www.sarangisitar.com)

## **MAHUA SHANKAR ( KATHAK )**

Disciple of Kathak Maestro Padma Vibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj, Mahua was enticed by the beauty of Kathak at the age of 5. Her first gurus were her parents her father Shri Pradeep Shankar and mother Shrimati Rekha Shankar. She pursued her further learning from great Kathak exponents Smt. Reva Vidarthi and then Smt. Vaswati Mishra. Later she became the youngest disciple of Pt. Birju Maharaj at the age of 14. She was his favourite and has been associated with him - first learning, then teaching as well as performing by his side and his group. Since 2009 she has been presenting her art as a freelance soloist and her style has impressed audience both in India and Abroad. She is an extraordinary young dancer, adding subtle innovations to the Kathak repertoire while preserving the tenets of the classical style. She has her enchanting stage presence earned acclaim for her intense, sensitive and graceful Kathak presentations. Mahua is an empanelled artist of ICCR, New Delhi. She is a recipient of Shringar Mani from Sur Shringar Samsad, Mumbai. She had the honor to perform at Rashtrapati Bhavan, before the then President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Mahua has performed with Pt. Birju Maharaj in his major productions in many prestigious Festivals in India and Abroad.

[www.mahuashankar.com](http://www.mahuashankar.com)

## **NUPUR SHANKAR ( VOCAL AND PARHANT )**

Nupur hails from a family of reputed performing artists. Both her parents Shri Pradeep Shankar and Shrimati Rekha Shankar were disciples of Kathak Maestro Padma Vibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj. Nupur had her initial training from Late Shrimati Padma Devi Mudgal from Gandharva Maha Vidyalaya and is trained in thumri from Padma Vibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj. She has shared stage with Maharajji in vocal duet for his ballet 'Kathak Yatra'. She has accompanied Mamta Maharaj and Mahua Shankar on vocal support and parhant (Reciting the rhythmic patterns of footworks ) in India and Abroad. Along with her vocal Nupur has also done professional acting (Dramatics ) under eminent theatre personalities including Shri Robin Das, Shri Lokendra Trivedi, Shri Surendra Sharma and many more. She has acted in an Indo Canadian film Sidhartha.

## **SHUHEB HASAN ( VOCAL & HARMONIUM )**

Shuheb Hasan belongs to the musical Moradabad Gharana. His grand father Ustad Ali Hasan Khan was a well known cellist in All India Radio, Delhi. He began his vocal training from Sarangi and Vocal legend Ustad Siddique Ahmad Khan and at present is learning from Sarangi Maestro Ustad Ghulam Sabir Khan. Shuheb has been a performing artist since childhood and at present is accompanying eminent artists of India. He has performed at major Festivals in India to name it a few: Jahan-e- Khusro, International Sufi Music Festival by Muzaffar Ali, Tajjali by Muzaffar Ali, Basant Bahar Festival at Sirifort by Doordarshan, New Delhi, Saurang Festival at Kamani Auditorium, Khajrahu festival etc. Shuheb has also had the privilege to teach music for Pt Shambhu Maharaj Kathak academy and Nrtiya Kailash Kathak Institute, Bhatkhande. He has also had the honor to perform with renowned Kathak exponents Mrs. Shovana Narayan, Mrs Rani Khanam, Shri Rajendra Gangani, Smt. Geetanjali Lal, Shri Ram Mohan Maharaj, Ms. Mahua Shankar and many more Kathak stalwarts.