

Supreet Deshpande: a brief profile

"Supreet is one of those rare child prodigies who have done justice to his talent through hard work and his commitment to his legacy. No doubt, the future of Tabla is in safe hands."

- **Renowned music critic Dr. Mohan Nadkarni** in *The Times of India*, 1991



Supreet Deshpande is a third generation musician in the illustrious family of noted musicologist Late Pt. S.B. Deshpande. Initiated into world of Tabla at a young age of four by his grandfather, Supreet has since learnt for over 20 years from his father; Tabla virtuoso and noted Guru **Pt. Kiran Deshpande** - the foremost disciple and worthy successor of the legendary **Ustad Shaikh Dawood Khan of Hyderabad** - the doyen of Delhi - Farrukhabad gharanas'. He has also learnt the intricacies of Taal - kriya from **Taalyogi Pt. Suresh Talwalkar**.

Doing justice to the predictions by renowned critics and love showered by connoisseurs, Supreet is today acknowledged as one of the most accomplished Tabla players of his generation. He is one of those rare artists of his generation who are sought after soloists and also preferred accompanist to vocal, instrumental music and Kathak dance.

Supreet's performing style

Supreet's performing style is rooted in clarity of 'Bols' (syllables), perfect balance of sound (naad), flawless technique and crisp rendering of even the most complicated compositions of Tabla. **Supreet's wide repertoire includes compositions from various gharanas (schools) of Tabla namely - Delhi, Ajrada, Lucknow, Benaras, Punjab and Farrukhabad.** Supreet is especially known for delectable on-the-spot improvisations and rapid teental in accompaniment to maestros of instrumental music and Kathak. Grounded in good 'Taaleem' (learning), rigorous 'Riyaz' (practice) and strong conviction for the freedom of expression; Supreet has been able to bring shades of the great maestros into his art, making him a performer of rare caliber. Supreet consciously

includes rare traditional bandishes (compositions) in his solo recitals as his contribution towards their preservation. His solo concerts are often attended by fellow tabla players given the unique perspective he brings to traditional compositions.

Supreet's performing career

In a public performance career of over three decades, Supreet has performed in almost all major festivals in India including Tansen Samaroh - Gwalior, Shankarlal Festival - New Delhi, Ustad Amir Khan Festival - Indore, Pune Festival - Pune, Ustad Allauddin Khan Samaroh - Maihar, Bharat Bhawan - Bhopal, Nehru Center - Mumbai, NCPA - Mumbai, Surya Festival - Trivendrum, ICCR Horizon Series concert - Pune, Aundh Festival, Satara - Aundh etc.



He was especially honored when invited to play solo at Tabla Mahotsav at University of Pune organized with help of Sir Ratan Tata Trust and Jugalbandi with his Guru and father Pt. Kiran Deshpande Tabla Gharana Mahotsav - Kolhapur organized by Sangeet Natak Academy to name a few.

Supreet has performed solo and in accompaniment in several countries, some of which are **USA, Germany, France, Switzerland, UK, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Romania, Egypt, Tunisia, Middle eastern countries** etc.

As an empanelled artist of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (I.C.C.R.), Supreet is regularly invited to participate in Government of India's cultural delegations to promote Indian classical music through lecture-demonstrations and teaching workshops focused on Indian rhythm science for the initiated and uninitiated audiences around the world.

The Instrument - Tabla

Tabla is the most preferred accompanying rhythm instrument played with Hindusthani style of classical music be it vocal, instrumental or Kathak dance. This instrument having a rich history of over 500 years comprises of two drums - the left is called 'Bayā' and the right is called the 'tabla'. Tabla is made from the calf skin and has center black tuning circle made of complex mixture imparting specific pitch to the instrument and played with fingers.