

# YOGESH SAMSI

yogeshsamsi@gmail.com

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## MUSICAL BACKGROUND

Yogesh Samsi is recognized in the world today as a leading tabla artiste, exhibiting consummate artistry both as a soloist and accompanist. The son of the renowned vocalist Late Pandit Dinkar Kaikini, Yogesh was initiated into tabla by his father at the tender age of four, and later received guidance under Pandit H.Taranath Rao. However it was under the gifted tutelage of the legendary Ustad Allah Rakha that Yogesh received intense training for twenty three years, maturing into one of the most sought after tabla artistes in India today. His style is marked by an unmatched combination of power, sensitivity, knowledge of tradition, tonal clarity, and aesthetics.

Yogesh has played with many of the top ranking classical instrumentalists, vocalists and dancers of India, including Pt Shivkumar Sharma, Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt Bhimsen Joshi, Ustad Vilayat Khan, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Pt Dinkar Kaikini, and Pt Birju Maharaj. He has also had the privilege of accompanying Ustad Allah Rakha and his son the great maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain in their solo performances, and has performed duets with Ustad Zakir Hussain. Apart from accompaniment, Yogesh has performed numerous memorable solo performances in India and abroad. He has been featured in many of the world's most prestigious venues, including: Carnegie Hall, New York; Kennedy Center, Washington DC; Theatre de la Ville, Paris; Opera House, Sydney; Barbican Centre, London; Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow; Esplanade Theatre, Singapore, to name a few.

Outside of the authentic tradition that he carries forward, Yogesh also embraces collaboration with artists for sounds that fuse music from various world music traditions. In this spirit, he has performed with artists including Taufiq Qureshi, Ranjit Barot, Louis Banks, Shujaat Khan, Karsh Kale, Kayhan Kalhor, and many more.

Besides performing, Yogesh is very committed to educating students and listeners about his art and the rich legacy of his style of tabla playing, the Punjab Gharana. In more recent times, to further the exploration and study of the Punjab Gharana, Yogesh has continued efforts to revive old compositions of the Punjab tradition as well as the compositions of Pandit Sushil Kumar Jain.

As a pedagogue, he has been very actively conducting workshops and lecture-demonstrations in music institutions in India, USA, UK, South Africa and Japan. He is also a highly respected teacher, having a large body of students worldwide. Understanding the need for a traditional art to move with the times, he has created a syllabus for learning tabla designed specifically for teachers in the West.

Yogesh is a member of the advisory board for the music department at Pune University, the Saaz School of Music London, and is a chief advisor for educational activities and promotion of Indian Classical music for the reputed music organisation, Darbar, in London.

Yogesh has currently been appointed as a Guru along with other Gurus like Pt Ulhas Kashalkar, Pt Suresh Talwalkar, Smt N.Rajam and Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia at the Indian Classical Music Gurukul run by the M.I.T group of Institutes In Pune(Loni) which aims at developing professional musicians in the future.

Yogesh has been awarded the central Sangeet Natak Acedemy award for his contribution to the art of Tabla.

## **CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS**

2012	Opera House, Sydney
2010	Australian Institute of Music
2010	International Festival of Music, Kuwait
2002-2012	Harvallabh Sangeet Sammelan, Jalandhar (Regularly featured artiste)
2000-2012	Sawai Gandharv Festival, Pune (Featured at least 10 times)
2006-2012	Darbar Festival, UK (Multiple performances)
2005	Taansen Samaroh, Gwalior
2003-2012	Dover Lane Music Festival Calcutta (Multiple performances)
2000-2012	Sapthak Festival, Ahmedabad (Regularly featured artiste)
1992-2012	St Xavier's College IMG Festival (Regularly featured artiste)
2008-2012	Shankar Lal Festival, Delhi (Multiple Performances)
2000-2012	Sursagar, Bangalore (Multiple performances)
2011	Svanubhava, Chennai and Delhi
2007	Carnegie Hall, New York
2007	Kennedy Center, Washington DC
2007	Concert for the World Bank, Washington DC
2007	Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow
2006	Barbican Centre, London
2005	Theatre de la Ville, Paris
2003	Cologne Radio Festival
1997	Theatre de la Ville, Paris

## **TELEVISION & RADIO PERFORMANCES**

### **Featured on:**

BBC, UK  
South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC)  
Doordarshan, India  
Star TV, Star Plus, India

ZeeTV, Idea Jalsa, India  
Insync channel  
All India Radio (A Grade Artiste)  
Indian Radio Networks, USA

## **DISCOGRAPHY**

*Rehenuma: A Tribute to my Father*, with Ustad Shahid Parvez  
Ninaad Music  
*Vistar*, with Ustad Vilayat Khan  
Navrat Records, UK

*Classical Instrumental Selection: Flute*, with Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia  
Sagarika

*Yogesh Samsi, The Tabla Series*  
Eastern Harmony Records, UK

*A Tribute to a Living Legend, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi*, with Ustad Rashid Khan  
Hindustan Records

*Rare Raagas*, with Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar  
Times Music

*Selection, Kafi Khayal*, with Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty  
Sagarika

*Raga Renaissance: Indian Classical Music Renditions on Santoor*, with Pandit Shivkumar Sharma  
Hundred Strings

## **PRESS QUOTES**

“Samsi performed a virtuosic 70-minute piece that illustrated the various schools, techniques, and features, of tabla music... Impeccably structured yet freely expansive, the performance was as intricate as a Bach fugue and as ecstatic as a rave-club crescendo.” *Washington Post*

“And after Zakir Hussain, who? The next in line is deemed to be another student of the late Allah Rakha, Yogesh Samsi.” *Times of India*

“His padhants were as lucid as the following bols through his fingers, and he won repeated applause from the appreciative audience.” *Times of India*

“Yogesh has emerged as a brilliant and most promising tabla artist. He has already made a mark in the highly competitive music world of Bombay.” *The Hindu*

“Yogesh has the unique talent of enhancing the concert. His brilliance merges with the style of the instrumentalist.” *Express Newslite*

“...a man who must be close to being the best tabalchi of our age, Yogesh Samsi.” *Ramachandra Guba, The Hindu*

## **Short Bio**

A unique tabla artist who has simultaneously scaled unprecedented heights of achievement in solo performance, accompaniment, and pedagogy.

As a soloist, Yogesh balances both tradition and innovation in the Punjab Gharana. His performances showcase mastery over a vast range of traditional content, more recently unearthing and sharing rare repertoire that was lost during partition. At the same time, he brings fresh perspective to the canon by presenting new ideas that capture the philosophy and rhythmic thought processes of his Guru, Ustad Allah Rakha.

As an accompanist, Yogesh has provided sensitive and thoughtful tabla accompaniment for many leading vocalists and instrumentalists. His approach has been instilled by the close grooming under his father and stalwart vocalist, Pandit Dinkar Kaikini.

Yogesh's commitment to the future of tabla and his inherited tradition is most evident in his extensive efforts as a Guru to a new generation of accomplished tabla professionals. His pedagogical approach aims to nurture creative independent thinkers who will propagate and evolve the Gharana.