



# PANDIT SHAILESH BHAGWAT



*Shehnai Virtuoso Par Excellence*

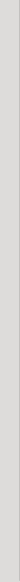


# THE MAESTRO..

Pandit Shailesh Bhagwat is a venerated shehnai maestro and the most esteemed disciple of the legendary **Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan Saheb**. Born on 2nd June 1958 in Thane, Maharashtra, his musical odyssey began at the sacred Kopineshwar Mandir under the able guidance of Pandit Aurangabadkar. He further refined his art under the tutelage of the distinguished sitarist Pandit Maruti Patil.

For **more than FIVE decades**, Pandit ji has meticulously honed the shehnai, imbuing it with the rich cultural and musical “**sanskaar**” bestowed by his revered Guru, Ustad Bismillah Khan Saheb, who honored him as his **cultural heir** and **torchbearer**. His performances are celebrated for their soulful expression and nuanced interpretation, achieved through the “**gayaki ang**” **technique**— a style that emulates the subtle inflections of the human voice.

His **exceptional breath control** and **mastery over intricate ragas** such as *Shivamat-Bhairav*, *Shahana-Bahar*, *Hans-Narayan*, *Kirwani*, *Hanskinkini*, and *Meghranjani* have earned him accolades from connoisseurs of Indian classical music. Moreover, his **versatility** shines through in his renditions of light classical forms including *Natya Sangeet*, *Abhang*, *Bhajan* buing it with the rich cultural and musical “**sanskaar**” bestowed by his revered Guru, Ustad, *Ghazals*, and *classical film tunes*.





# THE MAESTRO..

A humble and widely travelled artiste with simple habits, Pandit Shailesh Bhagwat is steadfast in his commitment to **preserving both the spiritual essence and scientific integrity** of classical music. Whether captivating audiences with **enchanted recitals** at prestigious venues across India or engaging in **insightful lecture-demonstrations**, his lifelong dedication continues to inspire a deep appreciation for the divine art of the shehnai.

Further attesting to his multifaceted expertise, he was awarded a **fellowship by the Government of India** to elucidate the physics of musical wind instruments—his pioneering thesis now resides in the **Delhi Public Library Archives (Department of Culture)**. Additionally, he has been an empaneled artiste of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) since 2004.





## Accolades

- Awarded "Senior Fellowship" for the for the Field of Hindustani Music : Shehnai by Government of India for his thesis on 'Physics of Musical wind blowing instruments
- Empanelled Artiste of Indian council for cultural relations ( ICCR ) - New Delhi
- Pitambari Thane nagar ratna puraskaar award - 2013
- The pillars of Hindustani society award - 2017, TACCI Mumbai

# THE MUSIC..

## Exquisite Recitals on the National Stage

- Shree Baba HariVallabh Sangeet MahaSabha - JALANDHAR - (130<sup>th</sup> Yr, 142<sup>nd</sup> Yr, 150<sup>th</sup> Yr)
- 101<sup>st</sup> Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh (Dec 2025)
- Udayswar at Prithvi Theatre (Organized by Panchamnishaad April 2024)
- Bhubaneshwar Music Circle - BHUBANESHWAR - (3 Times)
- All India Festival of Musical Wind Blowing Instruments at Bharat Bhavan - BHOPAL
- APNA-UTSAV (Organised by The Central Government of India) - MUMBAI
- Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Sangeet Rajani organised by Shivaji University - KOLHAPUR
- HAMPI-Utsava, KARAVALI-Utsava, KADAMBA-Utsava of KARNATAKA Government
- The Most Prestigious SAWAI GANDHARVA Sangeet Mahotsav - PUNE
- Maharana Kumbha GuruPurnima Utsav - UDAIPUR
- Chowmahalla Palace Sangeet Mahotsava - HYDERABAD
- Dhristi Foundation - BIJAPUR
- Karnataka State Cinema Awards - BANGALORE
- Centre for Excellence & Micro-Sign - BHAVNAGAR
- Pipavav Shipyard - PIPAVAV
- Dr.PRABHA ATRE Foundation - PUNE
- Shruti Mandal - JAIPUR
- ALAAP Sangeethotsav 2012 - TELLICHERRY
- Sur-Sagar Organization - BANGALORE
- Tumkur University - TUMKUR
- Dr. Hendre-Parandekar Gayatri Swaroop Hospital & Sakaal Newspaper - (2 Times) KOLHAPUR
- Sangeeth Sabha - UDUPI
- Festival of Vishwa Dharohar Saptah - BHOPAL
- Padmavibhushan Dr. Gangubai Hangal Music Foundation : HUBLI
- Bhubaneswar Club - BHUBANESHWAR



# THE MUSIC..

## National Stage recitals contd..

- Pt.Kumar Gandharva Samaroh - DEWAAS
- Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) - KOTTAYAM
- Indian Council for Cultural Relations - ICCR (Horizon Series) MUMBAI and BICHOLIM (Goa)
- Bhimsen Sangeet Utsav - GADAG
- Sri Shanmukhananda Fine Arts & Sangeetha Sabha - MUMBAI
- SIMHASTHA MahaKumbh 2016 Kala Utsav - UJJAIN
- Unity Groups India Abhyang Sangeet Mahotsav - SATARA
- SHEHNAI SAMAROH - 2016 @ Anhad BHARAT BHAWAN - BHOPAL
- Maharashtra Lalit Kala Nidhi - Pandit C.R.VYAS Sangeet Mahotsav 2017 - VADODARA
- Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi - PALGHAT (Palakkad)
- SPIC MACAY at Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER) - PUNE
- MAHARAJA SAYAJIRAO UNIVERSITY of Baroda - VADODARA
- Pandit BHATKHANDE - Pandit PALUSKAR Sangeet Samaroh - INDORE
- PRAATAH::SWAR Organised by PANCHAM NISHAAD - in MUMBAI
- SANGEET NATAK ACADEMY - (Delhi) program "Sangeet-Sangam" 2021 @ GUWAHATI
- 9th Chowdhury House Music Conference, KOLKATA (Feb 2024)
- Swaralaya Samanvayam Music Festival, Palaghat-Kerala (Dec 2025)
- PUNE Ganesh Festival, 2025
- ARKAY Convention Center, Mylapore, Chennai

## Global Classical Concerts

- U.S.A: Performed for East Indian Music Academy Inc (New York)
- U.S.A: Performed for North America Shirdi Sai Temple of Atlanta
- DUBAI - (U.A.E) : Performed for Organizations Malhaar Choir & Sur-Hindol
- United States of AMERICA Performed at : Parsippany, Boonton, Plainsboro, Livingston, San Jose, Bridgewater, Boston, New Jersey, New York, Manhattan, Los Angeles, Encinitas, Philadelphia and Atlanta.
- SRI LANKA : Performed for Ministry of Education - Kandy



## Other Notable Performances

- A frequent performer from All India Radio (AIR) MUMBAI
- Attached to the Film Industry of Mumbai As a Shehnai Accompanist for Orchestrations.
- Was an Occasional Shehnai-Accompanist with USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN SAHEB in his concert team
- Maharashtra Rajya Yuwa "Sangeet Mahotsav" - PUNE
- Bhartiya Vidhya Bhawan - MUMBAI - 2 Times
- Bundelkhand Mahotsav - JHANSI
- Swar - Sangam Music Circle - SURAT - 2 Times
- Nehru Centre - MUMBAI
- Vividh Kala Mahotsav of Govt of Maharashtra - 17 Times
- Acharya Allaaddin Khan Sangeet Academy - BHOPAL
- Ram-Navmi Evam Nav-Durga Mahotsav RAWATPURA Sarkar - GWALIOR
- 'Anhad'- Bharat Bhavan - BHOPAL
- National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) MUMBAI
- Swar - Sadhana - PANDHARPUR
- Belgaum Arts Circle, BELGAUM - 4 Times
- Maharashtra Mandal - SURAT
- Khalwaayan Music Organization - RATNAGIRI
- Shree. Ambabai Mandir Navratotsav - MIRAJ - 3 Times
- Shri. Samarth Ramdas Foundation - THANE - & - MATHERAAN
- Krishna-Mai Centre of Medical Sciences - KARAAD
- Suburban Musc Circle MUMBAI
- Pt. Kamalakar Paralakar 75th Birthday Celebrations – PARBHANI
- Bramhan Sabha Karveer - KOLHAPUR
- Ustad Abdul Karim Khan Punyatithi Samaroh - MIRAJ – every Year for past 32 Yrs
- Megh-Sagar Utsav BoB Primaan School - CHANDKHED
- Sangeet Sabha - SANGLI
- Vasantrao Acharekar Sanskrutik Pratishthan - KANKAVLI
- Sandipani Ashram - PORBANDAR
- Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki Smruti Sangeet Sammelan – KANKAVLI



## Notable Performances contd..

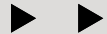
- Swar Sadhna Samiti - Mumbai - 3 Times
- Kumar Gandharv Sangeet Sammelan – BELGAUM
- Smt.Kamaladevi Saklecha Gyan Mandir - BHAWANI-MANDIR
- Maharashtra Samaj & Maharashtra Bramhan Sabha - GWALIOR
- Ustad Shahid Parvez Sangeet Gurukul - NASIK
- Pt.VN.Bhatkhande Smruti Sangeet Samaroh - MANDSAUR (Madhya Pradesh)
- Kshitij Events / Sangeet Mitra Mandal - SAWANTWADI
- The Nagarkar Library - HUBLI
- Miraj Vidyarthi Sangh, Khare Mandir - 100th Year Program - MIRAJ
- Sitar-Nawaz Ustad Bale Khan Foundation - DHARWAD
- Shehnai Concert - Private for famous bollywood actor Amir Khan at his daughter's wedding reception
- Pt. Kamalakar Paralikar Amrut Mahotsav – PARBHANI
- Deval-Club of KOLHAPUR
- Sangeet-Bhushan Pt. Ram Marathe Smruti Samaroh - THANE 2 Times
- Omkar Sur Mandal of HYDERABAD
- Ambernath Sangeet Sabha - AMBERNATH - 2 Times
- PranGanga Swarotsav : Bhavan's Cultural Centre - MUMBAI
- "Sangeet-Sankalp" : RAJKOT, AHMEDABAD, PRATAPGADH, PORBANDAR, ALLAHABAD, RAIPUR.
- SPIC-MACAY has also arranged Concerts & Lec-Dems - MUMBAI.
- Shashtriya Sangeet Sabha – KARKALA
- Swami Haridas Sangeet Sammelan - MUMBAI
- Konkan Sanskrutik Academy – CHIPLUN
- Udayan Cultural Organization - MUMBAI - 5 Times
- Paryaya Swagatha Committee – UDUPI
- Kusumagraj Smarak Pratishthan – NASHIK
- Sanskrita Foundation – MUMBAI
- BaalGandharva Sangeet Mahotsav – JALGAON
- Ustad Alladiya Khan Sangeet Samaroh – MUMBAI
- Das Naik Memorial Trust - CALCUT
- Megh-Malhaar- 2004 of Nehru Centre – MUMBAI
- Samrat Sangeet Academy - PHONDA (GOA) - 2 Times
- Antarang Foundation - MUMBAI

## Performances on Television

- Performed for Programme "Swaranjali" : ATN
- 4 Times : Govt DOORDARSHAN MUMBAI – TV
- Performed for the Programme "Ninaad" : STAR – PLUS
- Performed for the Programme "Alaap" : ZEE MUSIC
- Performed for the Programme "Usha" : SAHARA – TV
- Performed for the Programme "Alaap" : (Zee - TV) Marathi, Bangla, Gujarati & Punjabi
- Judge for "Santoor Sare Sare Gaooya" : DD - 1 & DD – 10
- Judge for "Marathi Sa Re Ga Ma" : (Zee - TV) Marathi: 3 Episodes
- Close-Up M2G2 interviewed by actress Varsha Usgaonkar for channel : DD-SAHYADRI
- Interview on SAAM-tv in their programme : "Madhura"
- Interview for the Channels : IBN-Lokmat (Marathi) and CNN-IBN - (National News Channel)
- Interview in programme : HELLO SAKHI of Mumbai Doordarshan
- Interview in programme "MAITRA HE TAAL SURAANCHE" of DD-SAHYADRI Mumbai
- Interview for Govt Doordarshan MALAYALAM channel of Thiruvananthapuram Kerala

## Published Works ( CD's & Cassette's )

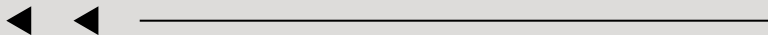
- Swaranand Cassette Company Shehnai – NatyaSangeet
- Kavi Music Cassettes - Sur Sanaait Naadaavlaa & Phir Goonj Uthi Shehnai.
- Audio Vision - Wedding film songs on Shehnai
- HMV/RPG - Mangal Baa'jo Re - Available on the internet & also used for Ringtones
- Ninaad Music - "Khushiyaan" (Folk Music & Dhuns) & Classical Albums
- NA - Musicals 2 CDs
- T Series "Ceremonies" Shehnai - Violin Jugalbandi with Pt. NANDU HONAP - Available on the internet



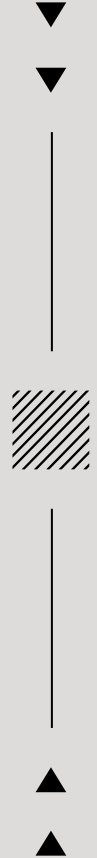
# *Julgabandi's*

## Duet Performances with Other Artistes

- Late Pt. NANDU HONAP - Violin
- SNEHAL MUZOOMDAR – Santoor
- RESHMA SHRIVASTAVA – Sitar
- Pandit MARUTI PATIL – Sitar
- Prof.Dr. SHIVANI MATANHELIA – Vocal
- Pandit RAMESH TAGADE – Violin
- APARNA DEODHAR – Sitar
- MILIND RAIKAR – Violin
- Ustad RAFAT KHAN NIYAZI – Sitar
- Pandit CHANDRASHEKHAR VAZE – Vocal
- PHIL SCARFF - Saxophone
- VINAYAK CHITTAR – Sitar
- GHULAM ALI ( of New Delhi ) - Sarangi
- ALOKE DASGUPTA - Sitar
- SHANKAR KABADI – Violin
- PRANAB BISWAS – Vocal
- PARTHOSARATHI CHATTERJEE – Sitar
- GAURI PATHARE - Vocal
- Ustad RAFIQUE KHAN – Sitar
- JASHAN BHUMKAR – Vocal
- Pt. Dr.SUDHANSHU KULKARNI - Harmonium
- Pt. B KRISHNA BHAT – Vocal
- RASIK HAZARE - Sitar
- G.G.JOSHI - Vocal
- NANDKUMAR DINGARE - Flute
- RAJAN MASHELKAR - Violin
- AZHARUDDIN SHAIKH - Flute
- Ustad CHHOTE RAHIMAT KHAN – Sitar
- Padmashree Pandit SATISH VYAS – Santoor
- Ustad HIDAYAT KHAN – Sitar



# Cherished Memories..



# Noteworthy recognitions..

VOICEOVER 7

Raag Taal Gharana

## The magic of shehnai

Pt. Shailesh Bhagwat on how his guru Ustad Bismillah Khan made the instrument his life's calling

CHITRA SWAMINATHAN

"He gave a purpose to my life by making the shehnai an inseparable part of it," says Pt. Shailesh Bhagwat talking about his celebrated guru Ustad Bismillah Khan. "For 40 long years, I followed him like a shadow. Learning was just one part, I loved doing all the sundry jobs while travelling with him for concerts such as carrying his bags, tidying his room and arranging his meals. I also stayed in his house, my gurukul, in Benaras. I just wanted to be with him and gain as much I could musically," says the Mumbai-based Bhagwat, who as a young boy played the flute before taking up the shehnai.

Fascinated by its sound, he initially trained under shehnai exponent Pt. Aurangabadkar and star artist Maruti Patil.

"I was more thrilled that I had chosen a rare instrument. But soon became so passionate about it that whenever Babajaan (Ustad Bismillah Khan) visited any part of Maharashtra for a performance I never missed meeting him and would fall at his feet, unperturbed by the reaction of the people standing around, to accept me as his shishya. Ustadji would reprimand me and send me away saying shehnai is not easy to learn," laughs the veteran shehnai exponent.

### Mastering the instrument

Referring to the challenges of mastering the instrument, he says the shehnai is the most difficult of wind instruments. And what made Ustad Bismillah Khan synonymous with it was his ability to integrate it seamlessly into the classical tradition. He produced raags in their purest form, an art he learnt from his father Paigambar Baksh Khan, grandfather Rasool Baksh Khan and uncle Ali Baksh Khan. He popularised the instrument globally. "He added to the technique in his own distinct way. He believed in the logical hafzur (progression) of a raag and improvised it in the *guzali ang*. He would explore the raag, showcase its full expanse before moving on to embellish it with taans. I follow this method," explains Bhagwat even while ruing about the mango-harpy losing its presence on the concert stage with few opportunities and fewer learners.



With few opportunities and fewer learners, the shehnai seems to be losing its position in the classical music world

"It is now heard only in some temples and during auspicious occasions. Babajaan would be pained to see from above how the instrument, whose fortune he changed, has lost its position in the music world."

Besides the technique, Bhagwat has inherited a vast repertoire of raags from his guru. At concerts, he often takes up rare ones, such as Shivranat Bihari, Shahana-Bahar, Hara-Narayan, Kirwani, Hansinkini and Megh-rangani. Like his guru, the tunes from Bhagwat's shehnai also have an emotional appeal. "Babajaan would say, 'dil se bajao to dil ko chuega' (if you play from the heart it will tug at the hearer's strings). He had a broad perspective of art and life. Though a devout Muslim, he had a deep

spiritual connect with the Ganga and Kashi Vishwanath temple. He refused to leave the Shiv-nagari Kashi for anything. *Jaati aur dharm se sangar ha to dena dena nahin hai* (music has nothing to do with caste or religion). No wonder his music could bind hearts and minds. He also had a generous approach to creativity and would tell his disciples to imitate the best from all gharanas. He never took any money for teaching me, instead would buy me clothes and delicious food. To take forward his musical vision, I have been wanting to teach interested youngsters, but there hardly are any takers.

"Even today, when I go up on stage with the shehnai in my hand, I send silent prayers to Babajaan for making me a fine artiste and a better human being. He introduced me to the great blend of swar and sankar," says Bhagwat.

Shailesh Bhagwat will perform on October 20 (6.30 a.m.) at Pancham-Nishadi Prasthshwar concert at Ravindra Nagma Mandir, Prabhadevi, Mumbai.



Musical bond Pt. Shailesh Bhagwat (top) with his Guru Ustad Bismillah Khan ■ PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



अध्यक्ष, लोक सभा  
SPEAKER, LOK SABHA  
INDIA

2 June, 2021

Dear Pt. Shailesh Bhagwat ji,

I extend my warm wishes on your birthday. On this special day, I pray for your good health, prosperity and long life.

May God bless you with happiness and success in all your future endeavours.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

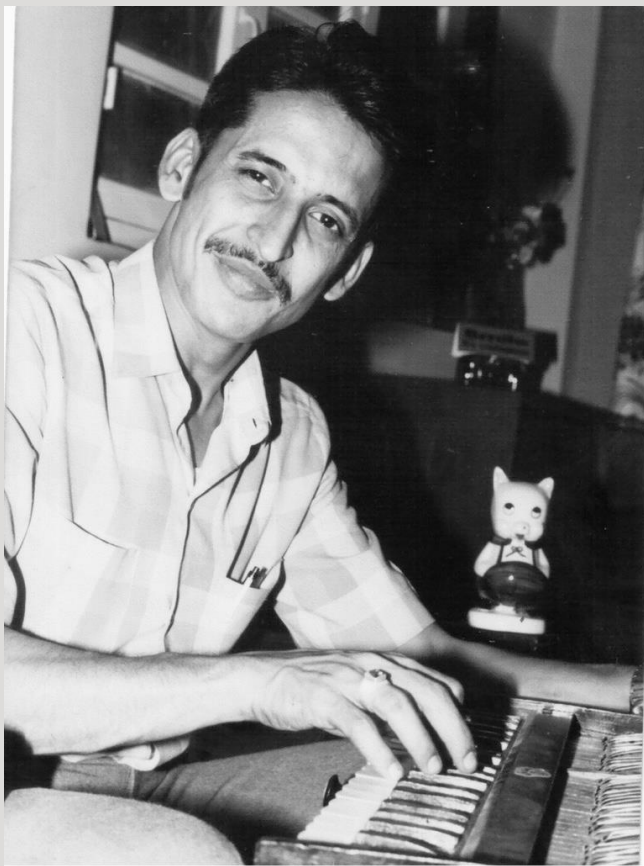
(Om Birla)

साताऱ्यात पहिल्यांदाच गुंजणार बिस्मिल्लांची मंगलसर्नई  
दिवाळीच्या संध्येला जगविख्यात सर्नईवादक पंडित शैलेश भागवत करणार सर्नईवादन



येत्या दिवाळीत सातारकरांना एका अविस्मरणीय घटनेचे साक्षीदार होण्याची दुर्मिळ संधी लाभणार आहे. भारतलून उस्ताद बिस्मिल्लाह खान साहेबांचे एकमेव आणि अत्यंत लाडके शिष्य जगविख्यात सर्नईवादक पंडित शैलेश भागवत येत्या 29 तारखेला साताऱ्यात 'अध्वंग संगीत साधना महोत्सवा'त सर्नईवादन सादर करणार आहेत. युनिटी मुम्बईच्या 'व्या वतीने विविध शहरात दरवर्षी संपन्न होणाऱ्या या लोकप्रिय मैफिलीचे यंदा चौथे वर्ष असून सातारा जिल्हा मध्यवर्ती सहकारी बँकेच्या 'शरावंतराव चव्हाण सभागृहा'त ही मैफिल सायंकाळी 6:00 वा. संपन्न होणार आहे.

पंडित शैलेश भागवत यांचे सर्नईवादन ऐकण्याचा प्रत्यक्ष अनुभव सातारकरांसाठी एक दुर्मिळ पर्वणी ठरणार आहे. रसिकांसाठी ही



# Thank You



## For bookings and enquiries:

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## Social:

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Website. : [www.shegnaai.com](http://www.shegnaai.com)

