

## Review of Darshanam Sitar workshop from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> April in 2012

Due to the blessings of my guru, this workshop took place to take the legend forward of Pandit Dr. Chandrakant Sardeshmukh, a world renowned sitar maestro. He was a child prodigy and received many awards in a young age. He had completed 50 years as a performer and had promoted Indian music around the world more than 20 years especially in Japan and Australia through concerts, workshops, music therapy and teaching.



First, this workshop would not have taken place without supports of many people.

Dr. Pooja Sardeshmukh, Panditji's wife and representative of Darshanam organized this workshop for students who lost a guru. She planned elaborately 3 months before from Tokyo. Consequently this workshop finished successfully. The venue was, home of Dr. Chandrakant and his wife Dr. Pooja. And

learners from all part of the world attended the workshop.

Dr. Sudha Aklujkar, an elder sister of Panditji and ayurvedic doctor arranged many things in India. Without her help, we could not do anything there.

Mrs. Neelima Karkare, a mother of Dr. Pooja prepared all food for us and sent to venue. We could eat home made delicious healthy food every day. We enjoyed the food at venue comfortably with students and teachers, and could maintain our health conditions. We could concentrate on learning sitar from teachers.

Dr. Ragini Trivedi, a god gifted musician, close associate and soul sister of Panditji, and Dr. Rajiv Trivedi introduced Dr. Santosh Pathak, a disciple of Dr. Ragini. He came to Pune for this workshop. Dr. Pathak taught us very kindly sometimes saying jokes with a smile face. We enjoyed learning from him. And we improved so much in short term.

Ms. Vidya Mudholkar, a friend of Dr. Pooja brought some foods for us. So we could enjoy dinner together. Ms. Swapnali, a friend of Dr. Pooja came to Mumbai airport to send us off to Pune on 31<sup>st</sup> March. So we could catch taxi without any problem and could come to Pune safely.

Mr. Sajid Mirajkar and brothers, Mr. Zakir and Mr. Martin as a family of late Mr. Yusuf Mirajkar, close associate of Panditji and famous music instrument maker in India, prepared sitars for the workshop.

Mr. Prashant, a close friend of Panditji came to see basic course on 1<sup>st</sup> April. As he had

advertised this workshop on a newspaper, 2 local students attended this basic course because they watched the article.

Mr. Shashikant Sardeshmukh from Pune, an elder brother of Panditji came to see us. He told us how Panditji played what raga when I showed Panditji youtube clip.

Mr. Rajan from Norway, a friend of a student came to see us, so she could attend this workshop safely. Parents of Madhoor Deoolkar from Pune came to see us. As Madhoor was a client of Panditji music therapy and his health condition was not so good, he could enjoy learning sitar. He told me that he really likes the sound of sitar and that Panditji was a really loyal person.

Ms. Shubi and her friends from Pune, a student of Dr. Pathak came to see Dr. Pathak. I understood how he established a good relationship with a student that she visited to see him.



1th April 10:00 opened basic course

Before we start workshop, we did pooja in front of Panditji's photo.

And I, Dr. Pathak, a mother of student, and Dr. Sudha made a short speech to start workshop.

I felt so happy, that Dr. Pathak came from Jaipur to Pune only for this workshop.

He taught us according to syllabus which Dr.

Ragini sent us beforehand for 4 days. And he taught us other 5 alankars and composed tans in Yaman to teach us. He also introduced raga mishra piloo dhun.

We were satisfied with the workshop very much. We were very happy to learn from a teacher, Dr. Santosh Pathak.

Lesson was a little bit fast for beginners, but as we had a syllabus and we wrote it down what he taught us, we can review it afterward and practice to remember them in due course..

After the basic course for 3 days, advanced course started on 6<sup>th</sup> April. This day friends of Panditji came from Bangalore to see us. When we start this course, Dr. Ragini Trivedi opened a case of the special sitar of Panditji, which was made in Calcutta given to him from his guru Annapurnadeviji. She told this was third historical instruments, which was walking to her from great musicians. First one is Radha Krishna Sharmaji's

Vichitra Veena from her brother, Dr. Gopal Mishra. Second one is Vichitra Veena from her father Pandit Lalmani Mishra. She told this instrument is like a temple, a God itself and she feels Panditji all the time.



First she showed us how to tune sitar. We showed some alankars which we learnt at beginners course, she corrected us and gave us suggestions to practice them. Then she taught us pancham 8 notes practice. After lunch she taught us Raga Yaman's slow composition, Sthai and Majha. It was composed by Ustad Mashit Khan more than 400 years ago. It is so melodious and beautiful

melody. We immediately like it. And Dr. Rajiv Trivedi told us the importance to preserve Indian classic music for the future. I felt that it is our responsible to convey it to the next generation. Dr. Ragini Trivedi told us about Indian music theory, Shruti, Gram, Muruchana and Several myths. We amazed at the deepness of Indian music.



Second day she taught the Yaman slow composition, Antara and some Tans. And media persons came to see this sitar workshop. And the article was put on a locale newspaper in Marathi on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

And Dr. Ragini's student came to see her. The student looked so happy to see her Dr. Ragini taught her and the student

immediately picked up the melody and played very well. I could see how an Indian student learns from a teacher.

Last day she taught us a slow composition of Raga Bhairavi. And one famous singer and A.I.R director Ms. Suhasani came to see Dr. Ragini. She received Surmani award at the same year as Panditji received it. She sung for us. So we enjoyed them.

Lastly Dr. Ragini gave us 3 beautiful articles from Jaipur as a gift for putting oil to put string of sitar. We were so happy to have it.

Dr. Ragini and Dr. Rajiv were so kind, friendly and happy people. They taught us very gently. Our skype lesson will continue in a better way as we could meet them physically this time.

This is an email from a student in Holland.

Dear Pooja

I am very happy and grateful for the course, it was such a gift.

I was sad to leave and wish I could have stayed longer.

My sitar playing is improving as I practice daily (even if I sometimes only manage little bit).

I send you lots of love

Muskan

Next workshop, we want to gather more students.

Report of this sitar workshop by Madhukali

<http://madhukali.org/blog/reports/voicing-tri-tantri-veena-darshanam-workshop-puna/>

Youtube clip of this sitar workshop by Omenadnet

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05pcZJ-fbMo>