



**Mohi Baha'ud-din Dagar**  
मोही बाहाउद्दिन डागर

## Life & Training

Born into the illustrious Dagar family of Dhrupad musicians in 1970, Mohi Baha'ud-din first began his foray into Indian Classical Music at the early age of seven, training on the Sitar under the expert tutelage of his mother, Smt. Pramila Dagar.

Once he'd finished three years of initial training, he received brief instruction on the Surbahar and was later introduced to the Rudra Veena by his father, Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar; a legendary Rudra Veena maestro and his uncle, Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar; a renowned Indian classical vocalist from whom he later also learnt vocal music.

In 1990, Mohi Baha'ud-din received the Lakhanpal Foundation Fellowship for two years. He also received a two-year Fellowship in 1993 from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, India. At the early age of twenty, Mohi Baha'ud-din formally stepped onto the stage and made his mark in the industry as a classical performer.

Mohi Baha'ud-din is a unique artist who has played for diverse and varied audiences in India and across the world. A cross-platform performer, he has made regular appearances on television and radio networks. His music has been recorded by Music Today (India), Makars (France), Ragini Sutra (India), Sense World (London), and India Music Archives (USA).

Mohi Baha'ud-din has also been invited to serve under Nana Shirgaokar Research Professorship at the University Of Goa for three years from 2013 to 2015.

Mohi Baha'ud-din continues to receive able guidance from the esteemed Pandit Pushpraj Koshti, a senior disciple of Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar and Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar.

## **'Dhrupad', The Zakiruddin Kha'n and Ziauddin Kha'n School of Music**

In taking the Dhrupad tradition to future generations, Mohi Baha'ud-din teaches both vocal and instrumental forms of music to students at 'Dhrupad'; a Guru-Shishya Parampara styled Gurukul established by his father in 1982 at Palaspe, near Panvel. He firmly believes that teaching is integral to his own learning and growth as a musician. For him this search is limitless. A particular tradition forges ahead only with deep understanding between what is and what it will become. In this matter commitment, discipline and clarity are some of the key components. Like a tree being attached to the roots as well as growing newer branches, is the freedom one finds in such arts. A Guru - Shishya Parampara nurtures such ideas and retains traditional art forms.

### **Musical Style & Contributions**

Over the years Mohi Baha'ud-din's music continuously searches for newer ways of expressing the medium without breaking the traditional format. His vocal training with his uncle, Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar, his mentor helped him a great deal. The culmination of rudraveena and voice, brings in a distinctive and precise sense of timing in the cutting of the phrases whilst presenting the aalap, jor and jhala; which is a salient feature of the Saadharani school of Dhrupad that was reintroduced by his great-grandfather, Ustad Zakiruddin Kha'n, and his grandfather, Ustad Ziauddin Kha'n.

Baha'ud-din believes that Art is leisure and a medium of endless expression. Even though a format of systematic approach is recommended in a classical form, there is so much more to understand from expanding, bending, and

reintroducing elements which enhance the medium of expression and beautify such art. This philosophy has been the basis of a rich Indian cultural heritage like Dhrupad along with other Indian Arts such as Indian miniature painting.

### **Awards & Recognition**

The Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, 2012-2013 New Delhi

The Raza Award 2007, The Raza Foundation New Delhi

The Yuvak Sadhak Award 2007, Sangeetendu Lal Mani Mishra Foundation, Bhopal

Sanskriti Award 2006 ,Sanskriti Foundation, New Delhi

Rashtriya Kumar Gandharva Samman, 2014, Madhya Pradesh

Baiju Bawra Samman, 2015,Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh

### **Other Involvements**

Designed Ras veena an improvisation on the Saraswati veena to make changes in the tonal quality to adapt to Dhrupad. Worked with DARBAR FEST and the V&A in restoring the sitar been and playing that instrument in a concert at the V&A museum hall

Presently working on bring back and reintroducing the Sursingar, back into the Dhrupad Genre. This is another age old classical traditional instrument which is extremely rare in India.

## **Contact**

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