

# Pandit Nirmalya Dey

## Dhrupad vocalist



Pandit Nirmalya Dey established his position as performer and teacher of *Dhrupad* in India and abroad. Inspired by his mother, he started initial Dhrupad training with Prof. Nimaichand Boral, who was a disciple of Ustad Nasir Moinuddin Khan Dagar. From 1988 he has taken advanced training from Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar, a celebrated master of *Dagar* tradition. Nirmalya Dey continued to actively learn from Ustad till he passed away in 2013.

Being one of the distinguished performers of the *Dagar* tradition, he has taken part in many prestigious festivals and concerts in India and abroad. At the beginning of his musical carrier, Pandit Nirmalya Dey was awarded the first prize at the national music competition organized by All India Radio, in 1979. As recognition in the field of *dhrupad* and for the excellence of achievement in this field, he was awarded with the senior fellowship by the ministry of Human Resource Department, Government of India.

Pandit Nirmalya Dey is a world renowned teacher and master of Dhrupad, who has taught in University of Delhi and Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra (Delhi) as a visiting lecturer. Over the past decades, Nirmalya Dey has participated in numerous Dhrupad festivals and conducted workshops all over the world including European countries and North America. As a long standing master of dhrupad, Pandit Nirmalya Dey has a large number of serious students. When he is not performing he generously devotes himself to teaching at the Dhrupad Gurukul in New Delhi, India.

In audio recording of “Krishna seva” (Haveli Sangeet) and “Tansen” discs in collaboration with “Music Today” and renown artists, Pandit Nirmalya Dey was both, an author of compositions and a performer.

## TRAINING AND DIPLOMA

- Initial training in Dhrupad received from the late Professor Nema Chand Boral (Disciple of Ustad Nasir Moinuddin Dagar) from 1975 to 1987.
- Advanced training in Dhrupad received from Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar since 1988.
- Diploma and Bachelor Degree Sangit Prabhakar (6th year diploma in vocal music) from Prayag Sangit Samiti, Allahabad in 1980.
- MA in vocal music from Indira Kala Sangit Vishvavidhyalay, Khairagarh in 1991.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Top grade** artist of the All India Radio and the national television channel (Doodarshan).
- Senior fellowship from the Ministry of Human Resources Department, Government of India, to learn Dhrupad, from August 1996 to July 1998.
- Received *Navdeep* award from Navdeep Pratishthan, Ahmedabad as recognition of potential young Dhrupad singer (1993).
- Recipient of *Surmani* title from Surshringer Samsad, Mumbai, for excellence of Dhrupad singing (1991).
- First prize in the All India Radio Competition (1979).

## LECTURE DEMONSTRATION AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Dhrupad workshops and lectures-demonstrations in the **USA** (October-November 2012): Vox Mundi Institute, San Francisco; Seattle Indian Music Academy; University of California Los Angeles.
- Lecture-demonstration for the research fellows and faculty members in the Faculty of Music and Fine Arts, University of Delhi (November 2012)
- Workshop organised by the Indian High Commission, Chittagong (Bangladesh) in November 2008.
- Dhrupad workshops and lectures-demonstrations in **Europe**: University of Amsterdam (November 2007), Rotterdam Conservatory of World Music (October 2003, October 2005, November 2007), *Casa de la India* in Valladolid, Spain (November 2007), Cultural Centre of Chatillon/Chalaronne organised by the association Anaaghaat (October 2003 and July 2005), etc.
- Taught Khayal in Shriram Bharatya Kala Kendra, a pioneer institution of performing arts in Delhi (1998-1999).
- Taught Dhrupad as a visiting lecturer in the Faculty of Music and Fine Arts, University of Delhi (1998-1999).

## MAJOR PERFORMANCES

### **USA performances:**

- At Washington University organized by Seattle Indian Music Academy (October 2012)
- Concerts organized by SPIC MACAY –*Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth*– in the Universities of Berkeley, Irvin (LA), and Kansas (October-November 2012).

### **European performances:**

- Dhrupad Festival Netherland, Utrech, organised by Rasa (February 2013).
- Dhrupad concert in Casa de la India in Valladolid, Spain (November 2007).
- Concert tour in Spain and Poland, organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (July 2007).
- Dhrupad concerts in Paris organised by the association *Musiques d'Asie* at: *Maison des Cultures du Monde, Théâtre Dejazet, Salle Adyar* (October 2005) ; *Eglise Américaine* (June 2006).
- Rietberg Museum in Zurich, Switzerland (May 2001, November 2005).
- Gasteig* (Cultural Centre in Munich), Carlorf hall, Munich, Germany, organised by the *Baierischen Rundfunk* (Bavarian radio and television) and Raza Musik (June 2002, October 2005).
- Theaterpädagogisches Zentrum*, Innsbruck, Austria (June 2002, November 2005).
- India music, Cultureli Vereniging Artishock, Soist, Netherland (23 October 2005).
- Mandapa, Paris (June 1999, June 2004).
- Maison de l'Inde* (House of India), Paris (June 2003).
- Guimet Museum (Museum of oriental art), Paris (October 2003).
- Nehru Centre, London, organised by the Association Sargam (June 2002).

### **Bangladesh concert tour (November 2008):**

- Alliance Française of Dhaka
- Shilpa Kala Academy in Sylhet
- Alliance Française of Chittagong

### **Performances in India:**

Gave recitals for All India Radio and for the National Television Channel (Doordarshan), and performed in many festivals and solo concerts, including the following events:

- Tansen Festival, Gwalior (1994, 2001, 2012).
- Dhrupad Festival organized by National Television Channel, Kolkata (March 2012).
- Saptak Festival, Ahmedabad (February 2010).
- Dhrupad Festival organised by the National Academy for Music and Dance, Vrindavan (October 2009).
- Festival organised by the Sangit Natak Academy, State of Gujarat, Jamnagar (2001), Surat (2008).
- Dhrupad Festival organised by Ramakrishna Mission, Gwallior (March 2007).
- Bhakti Utsav Festival, organised by Seher, New Delhi (March 2007).
- Harvallabh Music Festival, Jallandhar (1995, 1998, 2007).
- 16th Drupad Samaroh, organised by the Dhrupad Society, Delhi (1998).
- Baba Behram Khan Samaroh, organised by the Dhrupad Society, Jaipur (1996); etc.

## **AUDIO PUBLICATIONS**

- *Krishna Sewa - Haveli Sangeet* (Pushtimargi devotional songs), published by Music Today (Living Media India Ltd, Delhi), 2002: music composer and performer.
- *Tansen's compositions*, published by Music Today (Living Media India Ltd, Delhi), 2003: music composer, arranger and performer.
- Dhrupad solo, published by India Archives, US.

## **OTHER AUDIO & VIDEO RESOURCES**

- Videos of Pandit Nirmalya Dey performances:

Rag Puriya – alap: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOmTBoCg-ng>

Rag Puriya – composition- chautal: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2iY8a5yXSg>

Rag Desh: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FkAQhu4sm4>

Rag Shruti Vardhini : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQ6PUBMCJm4>

- Videos with Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar:

Raag Bhoopali (February 2013) <http://youtu.be/gQPID3wZbil>

Raag Shuddha Sarang <http://youtu.be/Yudeg18x4Uo>

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