

North Indian Vocal Music:

Performances and Instruction by Rita Sahai

... acclaimed composer, performer and dedicated teacher of Hindustani Classical Indian vocal music. For booking information, please call 510-847-2020 or email Rita at osmjmusic@earthlink.net

Born in Allahabad India, Rita Sahai was a disciple of renowned vocalist, Pandit Rama Shankar Mishra who groomed her in the romantic Benares Gharana style. After coming to the United States, Rita continued her studies under the world famous *sarod* maestro Ustad Ali Akbar Khan where she trained in the Seni Allaudin Gharana style known for its creativity and purity of ragas.



In addition to teaching private and group classes all over the bay area, Rita is a faculty member at UC Davis, Dept. of Ethnomusicology, and has also taught Hindustani Vocal workshops at San Jose State, Mills College and in the *World Music Series* at UC Berkeley.

Some recent performance highlights:

- June 2007: Benefit performances with students at Badarikashram, San Leandro, California
- May 2007: Performed original compositions for the North Carolina Dance Company.
- November 2006: Composed and performed music for Alonzo King's Lines Ballet at the Yerba Buena Center in San Francisco. For a press release and interview, see: www.ritasahai.com/Rita_Sahai_press_release.pdf
- September 2006: Composed and performed music for Alonzo King's Lines Ballet in San Diego
- April 2006: Performance at Mills College, Center for Contemporary Music, Oakland California
- Participated on 3 different occasions in "*Praises for the World: A Community Ritual in Devotion to the Earth and all Peoples*":
 - March 2006 in Oakland, California
 - April 2005 in Atlanta, Georgia
 - November 2004 in Oakland, California

- November 2005: Participated with one of her senior students in “Beyond Borders” A Benefit for the Survivors of the South Asian Earthquake at UC Berkeley
- April 2005: Performed on National TV in India
- 2005: Performed original compositions for the North Carolina Dance Company
- January 2005: Live vocal performance in conjunction with the *Ragamala* Painting exhibit at the UC Berkeley Art Museum
- August 2004: Womyn's Music Festival, Walhalla Michigan
- February 2004: Hindustani vocal concert at the Mondavi Center, Davis California

Rita is the recipient of several awards, including:

- Given title: “*Gayan Alankar*” ~ *the Jewel of Music* ~ by Ali Akbar Khan College of Music
- Recipient of several California Arts Council Awards
- Isadora Duncan Award for excellence in sound and music
- Woman of Achievement Award by City of Berkeley, CA
- Outstanding Contribution to Arts and Humanity Award by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce

In addition to recording her own CDs, Rita also enjoys collaborating with other musicians on diverse musical projects:

She has recorded with Grammy Award winning blue grass artist Bella Fleck and performs on Alonzo King's *Sacred Texts*, a CD of international music that recently won the Isadora Duncan award for music excellence.



Meera

In seven memorable and touching original compositions, Rita Sahai's latest CD brings melodious rejuvenation to the eloquent message and heartfelt devotion of the legendary Indian saint Meera.



Rangmallika

Colorful melodies of Hori Festival, Thumri style composed by Rita Sahai and featuring Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri on tabla. This CD was considered for a Grammy nomination in 2003.



Saawan Ayo

Classical and semiclassical songs composed by Rita Sahai, inspired by the monsoons in India.



Khayals and Bhajans

Featuring original compositions by Ustad Ali Akbar Khan.

Press Kit is available upon request.



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