

SHUBHENDRA AND SASKIA RAO PRESENT

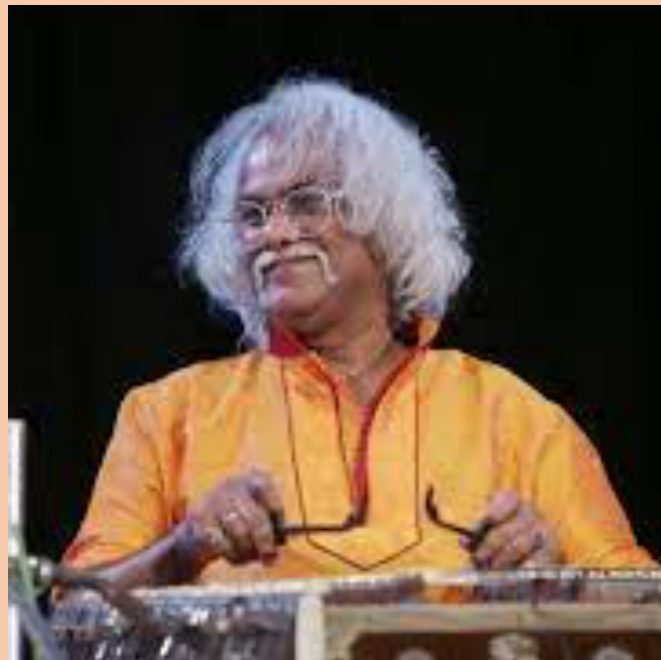
An e-Baithak Series *With Live & Virtual Audience*



Season 2

DEDICATED TO  
the artists we lost

Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya



Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 9.00 PM IST



Tarun Bhattacharya is one India's most pre-eminent santoor players and an influential artist in the world of music for the last many decades.



Tarun Bhattacharya was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1957, in Howrah (the twin city of Calcutta). His mother was a sitar player and his father, Robi Bhattacharya was a sitar and santoor player. He describes his childhood as living in a home filled with music and art. His father engaged in Indian classical music and he started learning music from a very young age. He learnt the tabla and took up the santoor at the age of 8. Tarun was an accountancy student and decided to take up a career related to business profession. But a year later he quit and started pursuing the santoor in depth. He learnt a lot about the music's technicality from his Guru Pandit Dulal Roy and his father, Robi. He studied under Pandit Shivkumar Sharma for 13 years.

Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya has changed the way of santoor playing and santoor instruction in multiple ways. The 100 string instrument is bigger and the sounds and the sonority is deeper than its other counterparts. He put a string in the lower octave to make the 'meend', Indian glissando, between one note to another possible. He also created special fine tuners, Mankas. This is in service to santoor players everywhere, because, having 100 strings, tuning the strings can be a time-consuming effort. Inspired by Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, Tarun ji loves to play a wide range of ragas on the santoor. He has multiple award-winning albums to his name. The album "Kirvani" is one of his works where he collaborates with tabla player Bickram Ghosh to create a true sense of romance and mystery through finely textured performances. "Sargam" is an album that stands apart from the majority of classical recordings because of the unusual instrumentation. The album is a blend of ragas and folk-inspired songs played on the tabla, santoor and shenai. Tarun has also created new ragas, including a raga called Ganga. With this raga, he hopes to raise awareness about the condition of the river Ganga.

