

# GUNDECHA BROTHERS

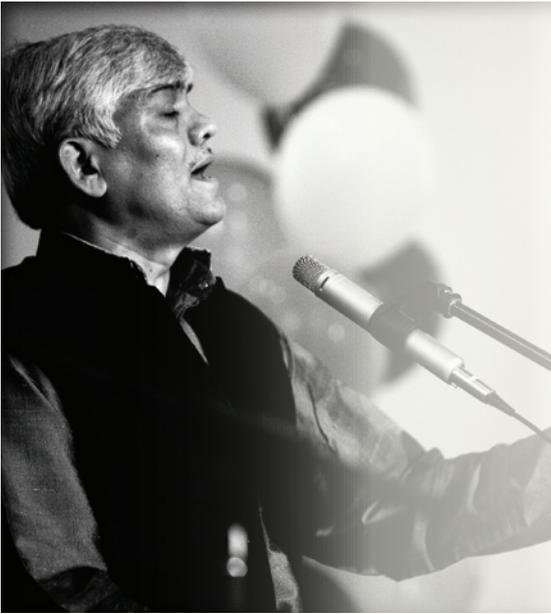
## DHRUPAD



*Photograph courtesy: Klaus Eisermann*

**T**HE IMPORTANCE OF THE GUNDECHA BROTHERS TO DHRUPAD/Hindustani classical music is not only that they have made Dhrupad accessible and popular throughout the world but that they exhibit a certain state-of-the-art quality in the style of their performance. This is firstly their vocalism which is strong, resonant and exquisitely shaped for time and tension, and their concert technique that brings their voices to merge with each other so perfectly that their combined presence on the stage is not of two singers but of one Raga and one song. This is a subtle evolution of the art in the Jugalbandi format, which the brothers have developed.





THE GUNDECHA BROTHERS are the most active performers of the ancient Indian musical vocal genre known as Dhrupad on the world musical scene today. They have made numerous international tours visiting more than 25 countries around the globe and have recorded more than three dozen CDs from various national and international music labels. In 2012, **Umakant** and **Ramakant**, both vocalists and the elder of the three brothers, received from the government of India the *Padma Shri*, the fourth highest civilian honor of India, for their contribution to Indian classical music.



Together with **Akhilesh**, the youngest brother and a performer on the barrel drum known as pakhawaj, they operate the Dhrupad Sansthan in Bhopal, India, a unique musical academy patterned on the ancient guru-shishya (teacher-disciple) tradition of education, with students from more than 20 countries, as well as from various parts of India, participating.



Photographs courtesy: Rupesh Kotecha

Born in Ujjain in central India, the brothers were initiated into music by their parents. All three received conventional university educations while also studying music. Umakant and Ramakant learned from the renowned Dhrupad vocalist **Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar**, and also with the late **Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar** (the distinguished performer of rudra veena) at the Dhrupad Kendra in Bhopal. Akhilesh, the youngest brother, studied the pakhawaj with the prominent percussionists **Pandit Shrikant Mishra** and **Raja Chhatrapati Singh JuDeo**, and in addition to his brothers, has accompanied almost all of the major Dhrupad vocalists and instrumentalists of India. All of the brothers appear regularly on local and national radio and television.



Among the signature achievements of the Gundecha Brothers has been their ability to conduct intensive workshops of Indian music abroad. In a brief period of ten days to two weeks, they prepare a small group of students—usually from ten to twenty, with no previous background in Indian music and often with little or no commonality of language—for a short performance of Dhrupad Vocal and Percussion (Pakhawaj).

They have also sung for many television channels in India and have been broadcasted on British, U.S., German and French, Japan and Australian Radio.



*Photograph courtesy: Rupesh Kotecha*

## AWARDS



NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP 1987–89

USTAD ALLAUDDIN KHAN FELLOWSHIP 1993

SANSKRITI AWARD 1994

KUMAR GANDHARVA AWARD BY GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH 1998

DAGAR GHARANA AWARD BY MEWAR FOUNDATION 2001

RAJAT KAMAL—NATIONAL FILM AWARD FOR BEST MUSIC DIRECTION 2006

PUTTARAJ GAWAI AWARD FROM PUTTARAJ GAWAI PRATISHTHAN, DHARWAD 2010

PADMA SHRI BY PRESIDENT OF INDIA 2012

## SELECT LIST OF CONCERTS ABROAD

- Festival of India in Germany 1992  
Indo Norwegian Society Festival 1992  
Asian Art Festival, Hongkong 1992  
India International Music Festival, Bombay 1993  
Spic-Macay National Convention, Norfolk, USA 1994  
Detroit Institute of Art, USA 1994  
Western Music Conservatory, Winterthur, Switzerland 1994  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., USA 1995  
The Walter Art Gallery, Baltimore, USA 1995  
House of World Culture, Berlin, Germany 1996  
Theater De La Ville, Paris, France 1996  
Navaras, London, U.K. 1996  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., USA 1998  
Flanders Festival, Belgium 1998  
Gandhar, Abu Dhabi, UAE 1998  
All Akbar College of Music, Basel, Switzerland 1998  
Bangladesh Tour 2000  
Art Festival, Singapore 2000  
Sacred Voices Millennium Music Village, UK 2000  
Cite de la music, Paris, France 2003  
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium 2003  
Tokyo summer festival, Japan 2003  
Workshop in University of Bologna, Italy 2003  
Rencontres Internationales de musique médiévale du thoronet, France 2003  
Republic Day Celebration in Seychelles 2004  
Australian Concert tour 2005  
USA concert tour 2006  
World Book Fair, Frankfurt 2006  
Festival of India in Belgium 2007  
Bode Museum, Berlin, Germany 2007  
Sommer Szene, Salzburg, Austria 2007  
Julidans Festival, Amsterdam, Holland 2007  
Rietberg Museum, Zurich, Switzerland 2009  
Cite De La Musique–A day Long Music Festival, Paris, France 2009  
Asian Music Center, Newyork, USA 2010  
Baroque Music Festival, Montreal 2010  
World Sacred Music Festival of FES, Morocco 2011  
Oriental Music Festival, France 2011  
Bozar, Brussels, Belgium 2011



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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*Schedule:* <http://dhrupad.org/gundecha-brothers/performance-calender/>



*Music available on:* [www.sundaramrecords.com](http://www.sundaramrecords.com)

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*Mobile:* 00 91 94250 06681 or 00 91 93008 30874

*USA Number:* 630 847 3408 (Landline)

*Email:* [gundechabrothers@gmail.com](mailto:gundechabrothers@gmail.com)



### **DHRUPAD SANSTHAN**

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