

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have retained a keen interest in Indian Classical fine arts since childhood. I am just as interested in the folk arts as well.

Among the fine arts, I have been greatly interested in vocal music and the pakhawaj among percussion instruments, and among the folk arts I am especially keen on the Kirtan (Kirtan Bhakti). I received traditional training in the art of Kirtan (Haridasi) right since childhood from my father. As my father was a mahant in a temple, I was blessed with a spiritual background, along with the opportunity to pursue and learn all the three arts at home.

My father left for his heavenly abode when I was 12, and the next education in Music was initiated with a Diploma at the M.S. University of Baroda. After passing the old SSC examination, I earned a B.Mus. degree and a Diploma in Tabla from the M.S. University. I later completed my studies for the M.Mus. (Vocal) degree as well. I received some training under Guru Parampara from my mentor in Mumbai, Sangeetbhushan Ram Marathe ji. However, on account of indisposition, I had to return to Baroda. On account of having a temple of my own, I was again engaged in Kirtan and singing. I was also doing parts in Marathi Sangeet Natak on the other hand, which gave me immense pleasure.

I followed on the path shown by my father and kept up my dedication to Music (Classical Vocal). I had the opportunity to serve at the Faculty of Performing Arts, M.S. University, Baroda, for 27 years. Coincidentally, I had the opportunity to study for the Ph.D. degree while in service at the university. The late Shri Shrikant Chaturvedi, a reader in the Vocal department, was my first guide.

As fate would have it, his untimely demise required the kind attention of my second guide, Dr. Ashwin Singh, who created a most conducive environment and provided excellent guidance through his high, scholarly merit. His wife also provided quality assistance. His endearing son, Shivam, also provided genuine help in his own little ways.

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