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Many a times in life we meet people who don't walk with us for a lifetime. Though they guide us in every way and we need to follow the guidelines given by them. This means 'Guru' is one who doesn't remain with us for the lifetime, though through his vast experience, ideas and suggestions guides us towards a successful journey. Just saying 'Thank You' to such a 'Guru' will be just a formality. I will not just say thanks to such a person who has inspired me so much but will be grateful to him for lifetime. He has guided me throughout my research work. I owe him a lot and I am obliged to him for my entire life.

I took training in Tabla from Ajaraada Gharana. Under the guidance of the renowned Tabla player and my Guru, Late Professor Shri Sudhir Kumar Saxena, I learned Tabla for fifteen years.

I am extremely thankful to my guide Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Ashtaputre who encouraged me for my Ph. D. He wholeheartedly led me throughout my research-work. Due to his efforts my registration for 'Ph. D.' was possible in Faculty of Performing Arts of Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.

I had just begun my training under the guidance of renowned artist of Punjab Gharana Pandit Shri Yogesh Samasi. Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Ashtaputre suggested me to do research on the topic The Playing Style of Punjab Gharana, and on my behalf he took permission from Pandit Shri Yogesh Samsi and got my name registered for doing the research under the title "Systematic Tabla Playing Tradition of Punjab Gharana".

In my research work along with Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Ashtaputre, Pandit Shri Yogesh Samsi also contributed enthusiastically. He shared each and every piece of information with me that was related to Punjab Gharana. He described every minute specialty about the supreme Tabla



player, composer and a teacher Ustad Alla Rakha Sahab. Likewise he shared some of the memorable instances about Ustad Zakir Hussain. I gathered almost all important information about the traditional compositions of Punjab Gharana.

Due to Pandit Yogesh Samasi, I was able to meet Pandit Sushil Kumar Jain of Chandigarh, one of the greatest artists of Punjab Gharana. He shared in-depth information about the playing style and compositions of Punjab Gharana. He also provided detailed information about the History of Tabla of Punjab Gharana. Both of them provided me 'Bandish' those are traditional as well as composed by the many Ustad of Punjab Gharana. In this thesis I have scripted all these compositions in this thesis. I owe a lot to Pandit Shri Yogesh Samasi and Pandit Sushil Kumar Jain. It is very difficult for me to describe their support in words. I am able to complete my thesis only due to their support and blessings.

Incidentally, there are many Tabla players in Punjab Gharana. However Pandit Yogesh Samasi, who were associated with Ustad Allah Rakha Sahab for twenty two years. He belonged to Punjab Gharana and was also a disciple of Ustad Allah Rakha Sahab. He maintained his topmost position in Punjab Gharana. It is difficult to describe in words and I consider myself very fortunate to acquire in-depth knowledge from a 'Guru' of his caliber.

During my research work I have interviewed many Tabla players. During this process of interviews I met some of the disciples Shri Praful Athaley and Shri Hitendra Dikshit who are the disciples of Ustad Allah Rakha Sahab. According to their knowledge they very dotingly contributed a lot of important information related to the topic. I also interviewed renowned Tabla player who possess an excellent command over Tabla playing styles of all the Gharana. Shri Swapnil Bhise who helped me for notation of the Bandish. He also shared most significance information of some of the specialties about Punjab and traditional 'Bandish' of Punjab Gharana. I have stated most of those facts in my thesis.

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Pt. Shri Ravi Nikte who is a great tabla player and “A” grade tabla artist of AIR. He also given me some information and guidance about the tradition of Punjab Gharana.

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