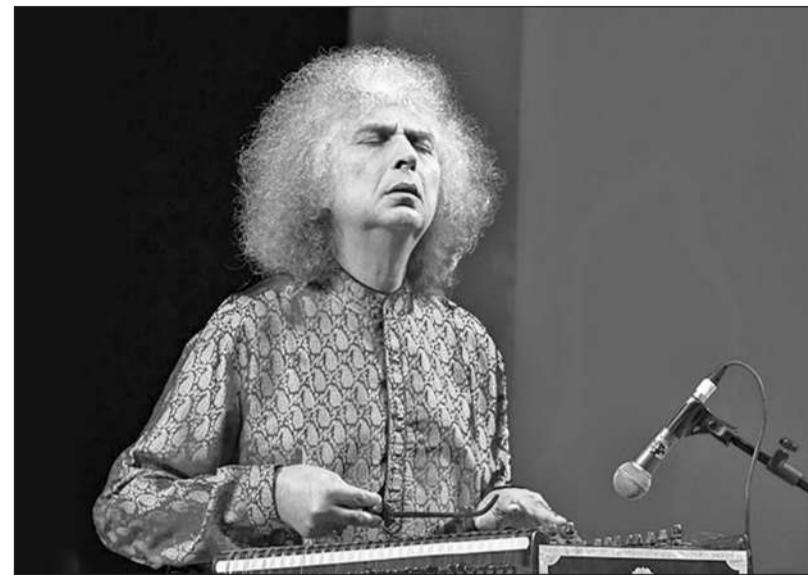


Shiv Kumar Sharma: The maestro who straddled classical and popular music

Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma was born to an exceedingly musical family in the divine valley of Jammu and Kashmir. Trained under the rigorous tutelage of his talented father, Pt. Umadutt Sharma, Shiv Kumar naturally was inclined towards the details of musical instruments. However, during his boyhood, he was more passionate about the tabla and was ardent to pursue with it. But, with the insistence of his father, he was back in line on the unusual folk instrument, santon. More than any one in the present times, it is Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, who has given form, substance and passion to Kinnara sangeet. No one has been able to distil the pristine beauty of a land and its people into a musical instrument as Shiv Kumar Sharma has done with santon.

Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma was born on 13th January, 1938, in Jammu, into a Dogra Brahmin family. His father Pt. Umadutt Sharma was a renowned singer and tabla player who had received his training under Pt. Bade Ramdas of Benares gharana. His job as the Chief Producer of Music with Jammu AIR gave him wide exposure to different varieties of music. Umadutt Sharma personally trained his son from the age of five in both vocal music and tabla. Shiv Kumar, however, was keener on the tabla in his boyhood and early youth than the santon. Being deeply interested in both popular and rare musical instruments, Pt. Umadutt Sharma was drawn to santon, swayed as he was by its lovely tone and musical possibilities. He wanted Shiv Kumar to take interest in the instrument and popularize it in whatever way he could. He also encouraged his son to distinguish himself academically alongside his practice in music. Shiv Kumar took degrees in English Literature and Economics, in order to widen his intellectual horizons. By now, he had become a proficient tabla player and accompanied many reputed singers and instrumentalists of his time.

Pt. Shiv Kumar is credited with making santon a popular classical instrument. After his first break in Shantanu's movie, he recorded his first solo album in 1960. In 1967, he teamed up with Hariprasad Chaurasia and guitarist Brij Bhushan Kabra to produce an album, 'Call of the Valley'. It became one of Indian classical music's greatest hits. He has also composed music for many Hindi films in collaboration with Hariprasad Chaurasia starting with Silsila in 1980. Some of the movies the Shiv-Hari duo composed music for, were big hits, such as Faasle (1985), Chandni (1989), Lamhe (1991), and Darr (1993). Shiv Kumar's deep knowledge of vocal and instrumental genres helped him absorb the attractive features of



Dhrupad-ang and Sitar-baj. The alaap-jod-jhala pattern followed by sarod and sitar players was incorporated into his modified instrument. Those who had severe doubts about whether a folk instrument could take on the complexities required of the classical gharana, were flabbergasted when they heard Shiv Kumar deploy its characteristic features effortlessly. His mode of playing excellent melody, rhythm and rhythmic play, felicity and great skill is simply incomparable. In fact, he is one of the acknowledged contemporary masters of laya-kari.

Albums by Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma

Pt. Shiv Kumar has innumerable albums and most has been made by teaming up with Hariprasad Chaurasia, or with Ustad Zakir Hussain. Some of his famous music albums are as follows: SANTOOR & GUITAR, with Brij Bhushan (1964); Shivkumar

Sharma (1967) - (re-released 2005 as "First LP Record of Pandit Shivkumar Sharma"); Call of the Valley (1967); When Time Stood Still, with Zakir Hussain (1982); Rag Madhuvanti & Rag Misra Tilang, with Zakir Hussain (1987); Ananda Bliss, with Zakir Hussain (2002); The Flow of Time, with Zakir Hussain (2002); Sympatico (Charukeshi - Santoor) (2004); The Inner Path (Kirvani - Santoor) (2004); Essential Evening Chants, with Hariprasad Chaurasia (2007)

Awards received by Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma

Pt. Shiv Kumar has received national and international awards, including an honorary citizenship of the city of Baltimore, USA, in 1985. He is the recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986. He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1991 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001. He has also received the Platinum Disc for the 'Call of the Valley', Platinum Disc for music of 'Silsila' and also for 'Chandni', Gold Disc for the movie 'Faasle', and the Pandit Chatur Lal Excellence Award – 2015.

Classical Ragas by Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma

Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma's music possesses immense fluency and tuneful flicker. His alaaps are evocative, while his jods and jhalas are stimulating. His santon indeed evokes unforgettable visual impressions associated with mountains, forests and rivers. When he plays Kalavati, one is barged with visions of a meandering river. When he plays the alaap of the Rageshri, one envisions the sun-kissed snow peaks glow. His Ahir Bhairav conjures the image of gleaming raindrops gently sliding off lotus petals. The sweet-sad mood of this early dawn raaga is hauntingly captured in his HMV recording. Shiv Kumar's celebrated Kirwani stirs up feelings of humid melancholy. His live recording of Kaushi Kanada is a truly inspired piece. None can render Pahadi, with as much feeling and finish as Shiv Kumar Sharma.

Pt. Shiv Kumar's wife is Manorama. They have two sons. His son, Rahul Sharma, is also a santon player and they have been performing together since 1996.

Today, if the santon vibes with other time-honoured Indian instruments, on and off the national and international concert platforms, Shiv Kumar Sharma alone is the reason for it. His place in the galaxy of contemporary Indian instrumentalists is the same as that enjoyed by Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia and Zakir Hussain. Wherever he goes, Shiv Kumar Sharma evokes the refreshing scenic splendour of the valleys on his beloved santon. He remains unequalled in his power to do so.

THE FACT CORNER

SWEAT is odorless, it only smells when combined with **BACTERIA** found on your skin

Positive emotions **ENHANCES** the brain's ability to make good **DECISIONS**

Always **EXHALE** when your left foot hits the ground to **AVOID** cramps while running

The **TONGUE** is the only muscle only attached to **ONE** extremity

BRAIN TEASERS

1 Q. Replace the ? by the correct Mathematics symbol to make the expression true
18 ? 12 ? 4 ? 5 = 59

2 Q. Solve this logic number sequence puzzle by the correct digit
8080 = 6
1357 = 0
2022 = 1
1999 = 3
6666 = ?

3 Q. I know a three positive numbers that will results the same when multiplied together or added together.

4 Q. By using numbers 7,3,7,3 and with any maths signs can you make number as 24

5 Q. If $1 + 9 + 11 = 1$, Then what is the value of $12 + 11 + 9 = ?$

6 Q. Let us say that a table tennis tournament was going on with knock out terms which means the one who loses the match is out of the tournament. 100 players took part in that tournament.
How many matches were played?

7 Q. If $77x = 189x = 345x$.
What is the value of x?

English Proverbs and Meanings

* Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.

It's better to be the leader of a small group than a subordinate in a bigger one.

* Better flatter a fool than fight him.

It's better to avoid disputes with stupid people.

* Better lose the saddle than the horse.

It's better to stop and accept a small loss, rather than continue and risk losing everything.

* Better untaught than ill-taught.

It's better not to be taught at all than to be taught badly.

* Blood will out.

A person's background or education will eventually show.

* He who plays with fire gets burnt.

If you behave in a risky way, you are likely to have problems.

* One today is worth two tomorrow.

What you have today is better than what is promised for.

Strawberry Jam Shortbread Biscuit



Ingredients:

1/2 Cup Sugar
1 Cup Butter
2 Cup Flour
1 Egg
Heart shape moulds
200 Gram Strawberries
50 Gram Sugar
5 Gram Gelatine

How to Proceed:

First make short bread by slowly mixing together sugar, butter and flour. Also add an egg once it all come together to make a dough, dust some more flour and roll it flat like a chapatti. Cut it with a heart shape ring mould then take another bigger cutter to make a layer of shortbread to form boundaries. Bake it for 180 degree for about 9 minutes.

To prepare strawberry jam:

Blend strawberries and sugar together and add gelatine. Boil it until thick. Chill the jam down and fill between heart moulds along with some generous icing of sugar on it before serving.

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Omelette in a Mug



Ingredients:

1 egg
2 egg whites
2 tbsp of shredded cheddar cheese
1 tbsp of diced green bell pepper
Salt and ground black pepper (to taste)
Chopped ham or bacon (optional)
Cooking spray

Method:

Combine egg, egg whites, cheddar cheese, bell pepper, salt, ground pepper in a microwave-safe mug coated with non-stick spray. Mix all ingredients well. Microwave on high for 1 minute and give the contents a stir. Return to the microwave and cook until the eggs are completely set, 1 to 1 1/2 minutes longer.

(Note: Time differs from one microwave to the next). Sprinkle cheddar cheese on top if desired and dig in!