

Profile
Ustad Mohammad Akram Khan
AJRADA GHARANA
TABLA

Personal details

Full name Mohammad Akram Khan

Fathers name Late Hashmat Ali khan

Date of Birth Jan 1, 1965

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Language spoken/ written Hindi Urdu English

Education Bachelor in Commerce 1987 Meerut UP.

Learned Tabla from Gurushishya Parampara.

Sangeet Visharad Chandigarh 1984

Sangeet Praveen Allahabad 1988

Brief Introduction

Ustad Mohammad Akram Khan is the son of legendary tabla maestro Ustad Hashmat Ali Khan who hails from the famous Gharana of Tabla called **AJRADA GHARANA**. Ustad Akram Khan is **the 7th Generation exponent of the Gharana considered to be one of the six main traditional schools of tabla in India**. During his childhood he has been fortunate to get training under the guidance of his great grandfather **Ustad Mohammad Shafi Khan**. He is also fortunate to learn from Ustad Niazu Khan who is considered as one of the greatest exponents tabla from **AJRADA GHARANA**.

Ustad Akram Khan has been instrumental in **retention and reaffirmation** of the Art of Tabla of the **Ajrada Gharana**. He has preserved the legacy of the Ajrada Gharana and the traditional values of tabla through his dedication towards this Art. He has successfully retained more than fifteen kaydas that has been conceptualized by the Ajrada Gharana.

Ustad Akram Khan has been playing tabla for past 43 years. He started learning at the age of eleven and since then he has followed his passion in tabla. He has been attracted to this form of music since early years due to his proximity to tabla maestros from Ajrada Gharana and since then he has dedicated his life in carrying ahead the legacy of the Ajrada Gharana and is now passing on this legacy to younger generation of tabla lovers. His first performance was in Lucknow at the age of 17 years and his first International performance was in Norway in 1987 when he was just 22 years old. Since then he has performed in more than 11000 concerts across the world. His fans are spread across the globe. His concerts are widely appreciated, and he figures in the top-grade artiste list of ICCR representing India at major concerts and exchange programs across the world. He has performed on All India Radio more than 800 times and more than 150 performances on various television channels. He has performed in several charitable functions for social causes and also joined hands with NGO SPIC MACEY for the spread of music in young generation.

TABLA ACADEMY OF AJRADA GHARANA was established by Akram Khan and his father Ustad Hashmat Ali Khan with the aim of sharing their experiences and explaining the finest quality of the art of TABLA for new generation under GURUSHISHYA PARAMPARA. The academy every year attracts tabla lovers from India and all over the world. The Academy has more than 1000 students who have learned from them over the years.

Ustad Akram Khan has dedicated his entire life to this art form and he has extensively been invited to perform at prestigious events and occasions in India and the world for preserving Indian traditional values and cultural exchanges. During the concerts, he received several accolades from various organizations and countries. He has visited many countries like USA, Canada, Egypt, Iran, UAE, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, Australia, France, UK , Denmark, Germany, Norway, Finland, Netherlands, Sharjah, South Africa, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and many more.

He is one of the most sought out artists in tabla who has performed along with several Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan awardees and several Internationally acclaimed maestros in Indian and Western Music. His Solo Performances are in high demand across the world and he has performed at all the famous platforms of music across the world throughout his career of 43 years of tabla.

Ustad Akram Khan has to his credit **four performances in the prestigious Parliament House** of India and one performance **at Hyderabad house** in New Delhi. His performances have been witnessed by His Excellency President of India Shri R Venkatraman ji, His Excellency President of India Shri Abdul Kalam ji, Her Excellency President of India Smt Pratibha Patil ji, His Excellency Vice President of India Shri Hamid Ansari ji, Shri Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Manmohan Singh ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji (twice), Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, several Chief Ministers of India , many Parliamentarians, several foreign dignitaries including Her Excellency Chancellor of Germany Ms. Angela Merkel.

His work is covered by various newspapers and television channels. His You tube videos and Social Media Videos are watched by many music lovers. His recordings are available in Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi for scholars.

Key Recognition

Four Performances inside the Parliament of India.

“UP SANGEET NATAK ACADEMY” Award in 2013

“JNANPITH AWARD” By Bharatiya Jnanpith in 2015

Recipient of TOP GRADE category from PRASAR BHARTI, All India Radio.

Recipient of OUTSTANDING category tabla player from Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Appointed as a visiting professor in Ethnomusicology, Dept. of Music, University of Washington, Seattle, USA.

Honored to give lecture demonstrations in the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, Oslo in Norway.

Honored by the mayor of Thunder Bay, Canada, Mr. Ken Boschcoff as “He is the real ambassador of Indian Classical Music”.

In 1993-94 he was appointed as visiting lecturer to UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SEATTLE USA.

His recordings are available in Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi for scholars.

Contribution to the field of music

- Preserving the Traditional form of Indian Music Tabla and attracting a global audience for this form of art.
- Popularizing the traditional Ajrada Gharana Style and carrying the legacy of this Gharana.
- Bringing ahead new Kayadas and reaffirming the old kayadas
- Focusing more on the Kinar Baaj style of tabla by inventing new techniques & composing new compositions which are being played by him and his disciples.
- His major contribution has been to promote tabla at a global level by collaborating with different genres of music as well as various instruments too.
- Nurturing young generation of tabla enthusiasts.

Memorable Performances

Ustad Akram Khan performed with Pt. BHAJAN SOPORI, Santoor Maestro in AUSTRALIA during the celebrations of 50 years of INDEPENDENCE of INDIA.

Ustad Akram Khan performed in Parliament of India along with Padma Bhushan Pt. Debu Chaudhari, Sitar Maestro in the presence of His Excellency President of India Sri R Venkataraman ji and other dignitaries.

Ustad Akram Khan performed in Parliament of India along with Padma Vibhushan Pt. Jasraj in the presence of His Excellency President of India Sri Abdul Kalam ji and other dignitaries.

Ustad Akram Khan performed in Parliament of India along with Padma Bhushan Pt. Debu Chaudhari ji, Sitar Maestro in the presence of Her Excellency President of India Smt Pratibha Patil ji and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh ji other dignitaries during the 60 years of Parliament House celebrations.

Ustad Akram Khan performed in Parliament of India along with Pt. Rajan Mishra and Sajan Mishra in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji and other dignitaries.

Ustad Akram Khan performed in Hyderabad House, India Gate in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji, Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel and other dignitaries.

Ustad Akram Khan performed in Gwalior in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Bajpayee ji, in remembrance of Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan.

In 1991 Ustad Akram Khan performed in US at Kennedy center and the Lincoln Center.

In 1992 Ustad Akram Khan performed in Germany – Festival of India

Solo Performance in the Memory of Ustad Allah Rakha Shanmukhananda Hall, Mumbai.

Performance with Ustad Zakir Hussain at NCPA, Mumbai.

Solo Performance in the Memory of Ustad Allah Rakha 100 years, Balgandharva Pune

Solo Performance at Swachh Ganga Mahotsav Banaras

Solo Performance at Virasat Foundation, Surrey Vancouver Canada

Shilpi Kala Performance at Dhaka Bangladesh

Raag Mala, Toronto

Darbar Music Society, London, UK

Performance at Egypt and Iran

Solo Performances

Ustad Akram Khan has given Solo Performances at several occasions which is a rare feat in Tabla as Tabla is mostly considered to be an accompaniment. A few of the solo performances are at Sahitya Kala Academy, Raag Giri Music Society, Delhi Music Circle, Indo Occidental Symbiosis, Harballab Jalandhar, North Zone Cultural Center Patiala, Pracheen Kala Kendra Chandigarh, Punjab Kala Bhavan, Saptak Music Festival Ahmedabad, Gujarat Sangeet Natak Academy, Sangeet Natak Academy Kolhapur, Sangeet Natak Academy Agartala, Sankat Mochan Banaras, Sangeet Research Academy Bareilly, Ustad Ghulam Rasul Khan Barsi at Pune and many more .

Performances as an Accompanist

Ustad Akram Khan is honored to have performed with stalwarts of music. Most of these Artists are themselves Padma Vibhushan or Padma Bhushan or Padma Shri Awardees.

Bharat Ratna Pt Ravi Shankar Sitar
Padma Vibhushan Ustad Amjad Ali Khan Sarod
Padma Vibhushan Pt. Jasraj Vocal
Padma Vibhushan Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma Santoor
Padma Vibhushan Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia Flute
Padma Vibhushan Pt. Debu Chowdhari Sitar
Ustad Vilayat Khan Sitar
Padma Vibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj Kathak
Padma Vibhushan Pt Ram Narayan Sarangi
Padma Vibhushan Smt Girija Devi Vocal
Padma Bhushan Ustad Sultan Khan Sarangi
Padma Bhushan Ustad Sabari Khan Sarangi
Padma Bhushan Pt. Rajan and Sajan Mishra Vocal
Padma Bhushan Pt N Rajam Violin
Padma Bhushan Dr. L. Subramaniam Violin
Padma Bhushan Pt V G Jog Violin
Padma Bhushan Pt Arvind Parikh Sitar
Padma Bhushan Pt C R Vyas Vocal
Padma Bhushan Smt Saran Rani Sarod
Padma Bhushan Kum Uma Sharma Kathak
Padma Bhushan Smt Shobha Gurtu Vocal
Padma Bhushan Ustad Zakir Hussain Tabla
Padma Bhushan Pt Channulal Mishra Vocal
Padma Bhushan Dr. M. S Gopalkrishnan. Violin
Padma Bhushan Pt Buddhadeb Dasgupta Sarod
Padma Bhushan Begum Parveen Sultana Vocal
Padma Bhushan Gokul Utsav Maharaj Vocal
Padma Bhushan Pt Vishwa Mohan Bhatt Mohan Veena
Padma Bhushan Pt Buddhaditya Mukherjee Sitar
Padma Shri Pt Ajoy Chokroborty Vocal
Padma Shri Ustad Moinuddin Khan Sarangi
Padma Shri Smt Malini Awasthi Vocal

Padma Shri Pt Venkatesh Kumar Vocal
Padma Shri Smt Shubha Mudgal Vocal
Padma Shri Ustad Abdul Latiff Khan Sarangi
Padma Shri Pt. Bhajan Sopori Santoor
Padma Shri Smt Kavita Krishnamurthy Vocal
Padma Shri Smt Aruna Sairam Vocal
Dr. L. Subramaniam Violin
Ustad Sultan Khan Sarangi
Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma Santoor
Pt. Tejindra Majumdar sarod
Shri. Shubhendra Rao Sitar
Pt. Rajinder Gangani Kathak
Padma Shri Ustad Rashid Khan Vocal
Padma Shri Ustad Shahid Parvez Sitar
Padma Shri Dr Satish Vyas Santoor
Padma Shri Ustad Mehmood Dholpuri Harmonium
Ustad Shujaat Khan Sitar
Shri Manna Dey Playback Singer

He has also provided tabla accompaniment for Miss. Ariane Gray Hubert from France, a wonderful pianist and Mr. Gil Sholat from Israel who is also a renowned pianist player.

Social contributions

He has to his credit more than 2000 performances of tabla for Charitable and Fund-Raising activities.

Voluntary classes are conducted by him since last 3 decades for under privileged students in the field of music/tabla.

Online lecture demonstrations, webinars, classes and workshops for school students across the country to create awareness about the essence of table amongst the upcoming generations through SPIC MACEY.

Encouraging upcoming talents in the society and providing them platforms at different levels for Indian art and culture.

Performed voluntarily for the prisoners of Tihar Jail, New Delhi, to influence them in being a better human, personality and a change in the thought process with the help of music.

Performance for Pulwama Victims at Chinmaya Mission

Fund Raising for Victims of Flood and Storm in various parts of India.

Awards

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| 2006 | Delhi Ratan Awards By Art and cultural Trust of India |
| 2006 | Tabla Bhushan Awards. |
| 2013 | Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Academy award |
| 2015 | Taal Samrat Awards By Pracheen kala Kendra Chandigarh |
| 2015 | Jnanpith Award By Bharatiya Jnanpith |
| 2015 | Taal Samrat By Ustad Ashique Ali Charitable Trust |
| 2022 | Receiving Hanumanth Life time achievement award, from Param puja adarniye Shri Murari Babu ji at chitrakut dham,mahua gujrat I blessed and honoured Date 16/04/2022. |

COMMERCIAL RELEASE

USTAD VLAYAT KHAN SITAR INDIA ARCHIVES MUSIC

PT. RAJAN AND SAJAN MISHRAVOCAL

SHRI SHUBENDRA RAO AND SASKIA RAO SITAR CELLO RHYME RECORDS

USA TABLA

SOLO ANCESTOR USA

TABLA SOLO SENSE WORLD MUSIC UK

PT. BHAJAN SOPORI And PT. BHUDHADITYA MUKHURJEE MUSIC TODAY

USTAD RASHID KHAN MUSIC TODAY

SMT KALA RAMNATH MUSIC TODAY

USTAD SHUJAAT KHAN SENSE WORLD

USTAD SHAHID PARVEZ And DR. RAJAN JI SENSE WORLD

SHRI SHUBENDRA RAO And SHRI PARTHO SARTHI SENSE WORLD

SHRI ABHISHEK LAHRI BHIHAAN MUSIC KOLKOTA