



INTACH

DARBHANGA GHARANA



RAM CHATUR MALLIK



ABHAY NARAYAN MALLIK

ORIGIN AND HISTORY

The Darbhanga Gharana is a style of singing that follows the Dhrupad tradition of Hindustani music. It originated in Darbhanga, Bihar, India in 17th-century. The Gharana flourished under the Darbhanga Raj. The kings of Darbhanga Raj were great patrons of music, art, and culture and several famous musicians were associated with Darbhanga Raj. **Pt.**

Radhakrishna and Pt. Kartaram had established this tradition of the Hindustani classical music Dhrupad, who learned dhrupad from **Bhupat Khan**, Grandson of Tansen. They started off as musicians in the court of Nawab of Darbhanga. The versatile style of their differentiated them from other schools of Dhrupad.

The Darbhanga Gharana is one of the four Dhrupad Gharanas in India and one among the two Dhrupad Gharanas present in Bihar.

Myth associated with its origin...

Legend states that when they visited Darbhanga, the region had suffered a period of famine and severe drought. The brothers offered help and sang *Raga Megh* (the magical raga of rain), which produced a heavy downpour instantly. Gratefully the Maharaja Madhao Singh granted them several villages and the surrounding land where their family resides until today. The Mallik Family is the leading representative of the court music tradition of Darbhanga. The gharana is continued in the two lineages formed by their descendants.



After the abolition of the Royal Courts following the Indian independence in 1947, the Malliks embarked on public concerts career which made them known all over India and abroad.

THE PERFORMANCE BY MALLIK FAMILY OF DHARBHANGA GHARANA

The tradition was prominent at the start of the twentieth century, but started to decline after India gained its independence. Pandit Siyaram Tiwari's music is considered by many musicians of Darbhanga gharana to have embodied its essence.

In 2019 a centenary concert was held in the memory of Pandit Siyaram Tiwari in August 2019 as part of an attempt to revitalise the dying tradition.

CHARACTERISTICS

- ✓ The Darbhanga Gharana was much famous for its uniqueness in the identical balance in *alap* and *bandish*. The performance of the Darbhanga Gharana of dhrupad singers can be distinguished mainly by the way compositions are sung after the alap. A major emphasis is placed on the rhythmic aspect of the singing. Not only how the song is sung but also the vocal delivery and the zestful performance is what this Gharana is notable for.
- ✓ Originally, this gharana maintained branches of veena and pakhawaj playing too.
- ✓ The distinctive feature of the gharana is powerful and expressive vocal delivery, combined with a lively style of performance.
- ✓ There are four prevalent Vanis in Dhrupad singing.
- ❖ The Darbhanga Gharana masters the **Khandar Vani** and the **Gauhar Vani**.



- ❖ There is a drag of notes in the **Gauhar Vani** with a strict adherence to the notes. This Vani is closely related to the family of Tansen. This Vani involves frequent use of meand technique of Indian Classical Music.
- ❖ However, the **Khandar Vani** involves the use of pieces of words into the Gamaka. The proponents of Darbhanga gharana mix the two styles invariably in their singing.

PROMINENT SINGERS OF DARBHANGA GHARANA

The famous musicians of Darbhanga gharana in the Past were- Pt. Dharmalal Mallick, Pt. Bhim Mallick (Pakhawaj), Pt. Kchitpal Mallick, Pt. Nehal Mallick (Veena), Pt. Rajitram Mallick, Pt. Vishnudev Pathak, Pt. Sukhdev Mallick, Padmashree Pt. Ramchatur Mallick, Pt. Mahavir & Yaduvir Mallick, Padmashree Pt. Siyaram Tiwari & the Dhrupad maestro Pt. Vidur Mallick.

At present Pt. Abhay Narayan Mallick, Dr. Pt. Prem Kumar Mallick and Pt. Ram Kumar Mallick are the prominent Singers.

Whereas Pt. Ramashish Pathak, Sri Ramesh Mallick and Sri Anand Kumar Mallick are the Pakhawaj players of Darbhanga Tradition.

The 13th generation of young musicians have already started giving their performances and are the rising star of future Classical Music, namely Sri Prashant Kumar Mallick, Sri Samit Kumar Mallick, Ms. Priyanka Mallick (Hindustani Classical Music) Sri Nishant Kumar Mallick, Shri Vibhu Shankar Mishra (Hindustani Classical Music) and Sri Kaushik Mallick (Pakhawaj).



DOYEN OF DARBHANGA GHARANA: PADMASHRI SIYARA TIWARI

ACTIVITY TO DO...

1. Can you name some other traditional gharanas of Dhrupad

2. Recreate the mythical story associated with the origin of Darbhanga Gharana in the box below.

4. The culture of traditional singing is dying a slow death in the era of rap and pop culture. Can you write few significant steps that could be taken to revive the centuries old traditions?

REFERNCES:

<http://dhrupadmusic.org/darbhanga.html>

<https://www.itcsra.org/Gharana-Details.aspx?GharanaId=37&Type=B>

<https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/music/darbhanga-gharana-of-dhrupad/article28904893.ece>