



INTACH

## MUSIC GHARANAS OF INDIA

### PATIALA GHARANA

#### WHAT IS A GHARANA?

The word Gharana comes from the word 'ghar' which means house or family, and refers to a family tradition of music. In Hindustani classical music, there are different families that pass on a certain discipline and style of performing music to the next generations. Gharanas basically link musicians by lineages. There are several gharanas in India, a land of such rich and diverse heritage. These include the Agra Gharana, the Mewati Gharana, the Gwalior Gharana, Jaipur Gharana and many more. The Patiala Gharana is one such very famous Gharana.

The **Patiala Gharana** is one of the most prominent Gharanas of India. It is said to have been derived from the Delhi and Gwalior Gharanas. Even though the art of singing the Patiala Gharana is over 500 years old, the style was popularized only about 200 years ago. The Gharana was patronized by the Maharaja of Patiala and is usually sung in 5 (pentatonic) ragas. The use of taans is also a characteristic feature of this Gharana. Moreover, unlike other styles of singing, the Patiala Gharana is sung from the chest and not the throat which makes it a more difficult art to master in comparison to other music forms.



#### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF THE PATIALA GHARANA

The main features of the Patiala Gharana are as follows:

- The Patiala gayaki features the use of taals such as Ektaal and Teental.
- The 'sargams' and the 'taans' are performed in a rapid pace.
- The 'swar' combination is very complicated.
- Rhythm play by 'Layakari'
- Abundant use of bol-taans
- Emphasis on Khayal, Ghazal and Thumri singing
- Overuse of ornamentation, often ignoring the mood of the raaga.
- Prominent use of raaga Ram Saakh
- High scale of singing

## USTAD BADE FATEH ALI KHAN

UstadBade Fateh Ali Khan is credited for founding the Patiala Gharana. He was born in Patiala in 1935 and learned music from his father, Akhtar Hussain. He soon became a respected singer in the court of the Maharaja of Patiala. He was considered was the 'Patriarch' of the Patiala Gharana for about 50 years and his contribution to Hindustani music has been beyond praiseworthy. The legend passed away on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017, but his music remains immortal.



## USTAD BADE GHULAM ALI KHAN

When talking about exponents of the Patiala Gharana, the name of Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan is also at the top of the list. He was the son of Ustad Ali Baksh who is said to have been Ustad Bade Fateh Ali Khan's partner. Both Ustad Ghulam Ali Khan and his father sang in the khayal style. He passed away in 1968, but like the others, he also left behind a wealth of music from the Patiala Gharana.

## OTHER FAMOUS ARTISTS OF THE PATIALA GHARANA ARE:

- Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty
- Pandit Shiv Dayal Batish
- Kaushiki Chakraborty
- Naina Devi
- Begum Akhtar
- Raza Ali Khan
- Parveen Sultana
- Johar Ali Khan
- Barkat Ali Khan
- AsadAmanat Ali Khan
- Samrat Pandit
- Rahul Deshpande
- Nirmala Devi

## DID YOU KNOW?

During the making of the famous movie, Mughal-e-Azam, Ustad Bade Ghulam Khan was asked to compose some songs for it. However, he declined the offer saying he would not like to work with movies. The makers of the movie were so adamant that they gave him a blank cheque and asked him to write whatever amount he wanted. Ustad wrote 25,000 Rupees per song thinking nobody would give in to such a huge sum, but the makers agreed and Ustad Ghulam Ali Khan actually composed two songs for that movie! Can you find out which two songs these are?

### ACTIVITY

The Patiala Gharana is only one of the many Gharanas in India. Read about the other Gharanas and compare them to the Patiala Gharana. Which is your favourite? Why?

### ACTIVITY

Listen to one song each by all the singers of the Patiala Gharana mentioned above. Whose music do you like the most? Have you heard this kind of music before?

### ACTIVITY

Some words related to music have been used above. Find out the meaning of all the words given below.

- Gayaki
- Taal
- Boltaan
- Taan
- Sargam
- Swar
- Raaga
- Ustad
- Khayal
- Ghazal
- Thumri

### ACTIVITY

Ask your grandparents about the music they used to listen to in their times. Was it classical music? Do they know about the Patiala Gharana? Listen to some of their favourite songs and enjoy a musical evening with them.

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