

TESTIMONIAL 1

Guidance by Prof. DR. Ravi Sharma

Chief Editor Naad Nartan Journal of Dance and Music.

Date: 5/5/17

Time: 400 pm to 4.30 pm

Place: University guest house.

Topic: Desired Features In Sitar For Its Utility In Contemporary Music



Fig.T.1 Researcher taking Guidance from Prof. Ravi Sharma

I had a very interesting talk with DR. Ravi Sharma on the above mentioned topic. He had actually came to Baroda for conducting the examination of M.P.A. students of the Faculty of performing arts. He had to reach the college at about 5.00 pm. Even though his busy schedule he agreed to talk to us and guided us on the said subject.

The summary of the discussion is as under:

1. The major change which is required for improving the performance of Sitar is in the amplified sound Tonal quality. He believes that there is a strong need to improve amplified sound tonal quality of the Sitar. He gave the example of a vocalist and said that nobody would listen to the singer if the tonal quality is not good. He also agreed on the idea of constructing the Sitar using the guts instead of string and try it.
2. He said that some mechanism should be developed for Jawari to improve the performance.
3. He also talked on the topic of 'pitch'. And said that if there is a facility of changing the pitch is provided then it will be a great feature for the Sitarist playing specially in the light music program.
4. He said that there should be small push buttons system in the side ways of the Sitar finger board to adjust the fine tuning of the Sitar if required to tune the Sitar during playing.
5. He also insisted to have some small feedback speaker on the Dand of the speaker to ensure a good quality tuned sound during the playing.
6. Good quality elastic strings also he desired to have in Sitar .This feature already he had described in his book 'Sitar as I know'.
7. He said that if a good quality of sound with proper amplification is attain then one should try Sitar without taraf strings, i.e. like in olden days.
8. He also favoured the facility of recording in the Sitar.
9. He also suggested to have some standardisation in making process of the Sitar.
10. In favour of nature and ecological system he proposed to have the Sitar made of some fibre, saving the nature, making Sitar unbreakable, provided tonal

quality is not changed. He also advise me to visit son of Mr. R.K. Mohan who is into such activity.

He appreciated the subject of research and said that more research should be carried away in this direction.

TESTIMONIAL 2

Guidance by Ut. Siraj Khan

Date: 17/5/17

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Place: Mewati Gurukul, Varsova, Mumbai.

Topic: Desired features in Sitar for its utility in contemporary music.



**Fig.T.2 Researcher Taking Opinion of Ut. Sirajkhan at Mewati Gurukul,
Mumbai**

Researcher was very fortunate to have the discussion and suggestion from Ut. Sirajkhan, Guru of Mewati Gharana in Sitar tradition. He suggested some amendments required for making Sitar more effective to play with other instruments in contemporary music. They were as following.

- He said that one should not mind taking the help of electronic device to tune Sitar precisely. He also advised to tune Sitar on 432 Hz. Instead of 440. Then the Sitar will be sounding on the note something higher than C# and lower than D. Sitar sounds best on this tuning.
- Combination of gauge is also important. If first string is of the gauge 2, Ga and Pa should be of the gauge 2, chikari of 0 and taraf of 00 gauge. Make of the string is also important. A string should be with a good elasticity to play Mindh. A software should be developed to check the resonance of string with different gauge.
- He also insisted to check the gauge and metal of the Mizrab too. It should not be made of the metal which is very smooth. A metal which gets corrosion can produce a good stroke.
- He also said that apart from gauge of string, gauge of fret is also important. Sitar is known for its sharps, spiky sound. So fret thickness should not be more. It should be thin and preferably of the gauge 6.
- If player wants to play fast the fret should be flat
- Since 25 -30 years length of Sitar is reduced which is not good. It gives very small gap between frets of Tarsaptak (high octave).
- He said he has observed that tuning of taraf strings is not an easy task for everyone. And even after tuning one has to adjust it continuously while playing. In the season of monsoon to adjust the peg on particular position is very difficult. While adjusting it moves slightly more or less because of dampness present in atmosphere affecting wood of Sitar. A metal male female

socket thread combination should be introduced for the pegs of Taraf for easy fine tuning.

- He also said that along with playing a good Sitar it is essential to use a good technology especially when you are going to play in front of the big mass. Otherwise any good quality and well played Sitar will not reach in the right form to the audience.

A player should have a good knowledge of the technical aspects related with its playing.

TESTIMONIAL 3

Guidance by Mohan Sharmaji

Date: 28/5/17

Place: Music N sports, 73 Chaura Rasta Jaipur 3.

Manufacturer and exporter of all Indian Musical instruments

Time 2.30 Pm

Topic: Desired Features in Sitar for Its Utility in Contemporary Music



Fig.T.3 Conversation of the Researcher with Mohan Sharmaji, at Jaipur

I went to the shop of Mr. Sharma at Jaipur who is dealing with musical instruments since 50 years. His opinion regarding above subject matter was as below.

- For tuning the instrument for its usage in live concerts or orchestra the tuner which is used for guitar, should be used for the Sitar.
- Sitar should be made solid to make it compact and have to close its hollow acoustics. And then Pickup should be attached for an amplification purpose.
- For amplification a stick sort of pick up should be inserted into the tumba for picking up the sound.
- Two pickup should be used, one for main strings and the other for the sympathetic strings.
- The placement of the pickup is also important. So before fixing it into the tumba it should be tested first.



Fig. T.4 Technical Discussion with One of the Best Sitar Maker of India Mr. Barun Roy (Son of Hiren Roy) at Kolkata



Fig. T.5 Researcher with Sarangi Maestro Ut. Sultankhan