

Infatuation with Indian Classical Music – In Service for Decades

Passing on the Flame of Indian Classical Music to the Next Generation

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EINPresswire.com/ -- The phenomenon of emergence of artists attached to various lines with unusual talent and creative skill is explained variously. Aptitude for art comes down in inheritance engrained in one's temperament. Some others attribute it to hard work, devotion and ratification to art while others believe it is sheer good luck to have an opportunity of being initiated into the fabrication of art and getting guidance and training at the feet of a hallowed guru in nutshell inbuilt capability coupled with constant process of cultivation through experience, practice and creativity go a long way to achieve artistic perfection.



Passing On the Responsibility to The Next Generation

The Charisma

Since artists are blessed to owe their recognition to a combination of all these prerequisites. This is how I could understand Prof. Baldev Singh Bali's elevation to one of the most charismatic and impressive vocal singers in the state with a flair for classical Indian music. He has served the Institute of Music and Fine Arts Jammu as the Dean of the College and Head of the Music Faculty. It is his devotion to music and mastery over its intricacies and nuances that reveals his real identity.

Family Tradition

Music came to him as part of a tradition in the ancestral lineage. His grandfather, Sardar Kartar Singh Bali, who had served the Dogra rulers of his time as the military secretary as well as

foreign affairs aid, was known to possess a craze for music concerts at his home and invite noted musicians even from outside of the State to participate in them.

Prof. Baldev Singh Bali's father, Sardar Surinder Singh Bali, picked up the thread and stuck to the family's tradition to patronize music. He had been the chairman of the "Sangeet Mahavidyalaya", a prestigious private music institution of Jammu, for almost two decades.

Revered teachers

Prof. Baldev Singh Bali also referred as Prof. B.S.Bali also benefitted from two other essential ingredients that contributed in tempering the artist and bringing out the best him, pupillage and practice. Ram Prashad Razdan was the first guru from whom he, starting from as early as 1957, learnt classical music for about ten years. He also got opportunity to learn from other maestros. In 1958, the legendary classical singer Pt. Bhimsen Joshi came to Jammu for a Radio engagement. Prof. Baldev Singh Bali met him and got his blessings, as the young musician was determined not to miss any chance to gain from the Legendary Singer. After that incident Prof. Bali has been a disciple of Pt. Bhimsen Joshi Ji and learnt from him the Kirana Gharana Gayaki. He has been a part of several music conferences and performances with Pt. Bhimsen Joshi ji and it was only after his Guruji's ashirwaad and permission that he started performing and showing his talent to the world.

Prof. Baldev Singh Bali have been participating in the All-India music conferences with the eminent artist of the country since 1960, in and outside the state. He has been awarded with

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LET'S KNOW JAMMU

No dearth of talent in Jammu Music soothes and comforts ailing human mind: Prof Bali



Music is said for the human soul that having a meditative and soothing effect on human beings, believes Prof Baldev Singh Bali, state award winner and popularly known as 'Bali Sahib' within the sphere of people related to the

music besides his disciples.

Prof Bali who needed music under the guidance of two outstanding talents of classical Hindustani music - namely Sangeet Maha Maho Vidyalaya Pandit Durg Choudhary and Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, states that quality music soothes not only an ailing human mind but the reputation that accrued to him to take up challenges with new vigour and strength in one's life. Full of optimism he says that there is no dearth of talent in Jammu.

Prof Bali is a trustee of non-profit

namely his experiences of the past and recalls that his formal training with both his distinguished gurus lasted about fifteen years after which he has been "training" amateurs. Happily bowing to great guru Pandit Bhimsen Joshi and Prof. Durg Choudhary Vaid, the veteran musician recalls that when it comes to form he has not had one thing in common and stressed that Guru Ji (Bhimsen Joshi) was Guru Ji (Guru Ji) Maheshwar meaning the Guru (teacher) is always and he found with the passage of time that these words have a gravity and depth as well in everybody's life.

"I made my first public appearance in Ranjitha at Jammu in the year 1952 and fortunately the great Indian actor Ona Parkash was very much impressed with my performance and appreciated me by awarding a cash prize of Rs 100. Prof Bali with a smile believes that this prize was the 'beginning' of his life.

According to his parents, father Sardar Surinder Singh Bali and mother Sharda Bai who inspired him and encouraged him a lot for his music passion, studying has been started right from beginning. Prof Bali candidly says that with the blessings of his parents, I started to learn singing first at Central Basic School under the guidance of School Music Teacher Pt. Bal Lal Sharma.

Prof Bali who studied under the guidance of Pandit Dil Lal Sharma and Pandit Ram Prasad Razdan and

with a faith and determination to learn to sing up.

Prof Bali who retired in 1989 as Principal of Institute of Music and Fine Arts, university, is the founder director of Swa Kishu Sangeet, a private and exclusive centre for classical Hindustani music in Jammu which he established in 1970 with the avowed aim of imparting music education in the domestic days.

Currently, Prof. Bali spends most his time in teaching and conducting occasional courses in various parts of north India. He is a multi-pronged artiste in aspects of classical



Hindustani music by established musicians, performers, and music administrative professionals.

In a query how to regard Swara Sangeet Pt. Bhanu Singh, Prof. Bali, looking for best words says, "I am a man whose efforts change the face of music, whose conviction drives destiny to receive itself, whose genius has an impact across the society for centuries and such was Pt. Bhanu Ji."

Prof. Bali is the only artist who writes lyrics in Dogri Language and composes the same in different ragas according to their mood. Composing

By PS Jaisalwal

Prof. Baldev Singh Bali Views - Music Soothes and Comforts Minds

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Disciple's tribute to Pt Bhimsen Joshi




BS BALI

Passing away of Pt Bhimsen Joshi, a great vocalist of India honoured with Bharat Ratna by President of India just two years back and recipient of so many prestigious awards, is a great loss to the music fraternity. For me he was my great guru and what I am today is only because of my great Guru. It will not be an exaggeration to say that I have always taken my guru as my life.

Since 1957-58 respected Guru Maharaj visited Jammu in connection with his vocal performance organised by Radio Kashmir Jammu. I came into his contact and requested him to visit my residence which he accepted. He came to my house and his wife, my Guru Mas Smt. Vandita with his wife, my Guru Mas Smt. Vandita who herself was a renowned vocalist having passed away a few years back and his son Jayant.

Guru Ji accepted me as his disciple and he advised me that whenever I wanted to learn music under his guidance, I was welcome. Whenever Guruji visited Jammu, Punjab and J&K in connection with his programmes, he used to inform me. He used to teach me even during midnight.

During the Governor's Rule of

Jagmohan in J&K, I was deputed by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board to contact him in connection with the recording of the Suktas and Stuti of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi at Pune. I contacted a number of artists but I could not get good response, may be due to their rockering performance charges but Guruji agreed to record all the Suktas and Stuti of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi by just taking a token amount from the Shrine Board.

My guru Dilip Chander Vaid once said that the music of Pt. Bhimsen Joshi is like a bouquet comprising essence of different flowers. Pandit Ji belonged to Abdul Qareem Saheb Qadri and was the disciple of great guru Pt. Ram Bhusa Khandalkar. With the passage of time Pandit Ji was himself a Ghazana. Pandit Ji's music was full of expressions, emotions, imaginations and depth besides a medium to achieve the inter-philic ecstasies of spiritualism. To sum up his music was un-paralleled and he was an institution in himself.

I along with my family pray to the almighty God to bestow peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

(BS Bali is Former Principal IMFA)

Prof. Baldev Singh Bali Tribute to His Guru Ji

several felicitations in his life time. Some of his prestigious honours are – he was bestowed with State Award on my contribution in the field of Music in the year 1996 by Governor, J & K State, Gen. K. V. Krishna Rao. He was also felicitated by the Chief Secretary of J&K State, Mr. Ashok Kumar in the Music Concert held in R. R. Auditorium, Jammu, in 1996. Felicitated and awarded the title “SANGEET SHREE” by Pracheen Kala Kendra, Chandigarh on the occasion of 30 All India Pandit Bhaskar Rao Conference of Music and Dance. Felicitated by Bharat Vikas Parishad, Jammu, on the occasion of its Annual Function for my contribution in the field of Music.

He was Awarded “UPADHI PATRA” (Sangeet Varidhi) by the then Lt. Governor of Delhi, Dr. A. N. Jha in 1972. He was also felicitated by Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Jammu in 1995, Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Jammu in 1995, Folk Stage Society in year 1991 and has also been presented with a Silver Medal on my performance by the then Prime Minister of the J & K Sh. Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah in. 1952.

Prof. Baldev Singh Bali is also an ex-member on advisory panel of AIR, Jammu, interview Board member of the institute of Music and Fine Arts constituted by the J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, member of Local Audition Board of Radio Kashmir.

Pt. Bhimsen Joshi Sangeet Academy and Swar Kala Sangam

Prof. Baldev Singh Bali along with her daughter Ms. Mukta Mehta is still continuing to pass on the flame of Indian classical Music to students. He is instrumental in forming Pt. Bhimsen Joshi Sangeet Academy along with his daughter and disciple Ms. Mukta Mehta. which ensures classical knowledge is spread and there are no geographical barriers for the same. Mukta is also following her fathers’ steps and in continuation has Launched two Major aspects – Short term Courses in Indian Classical Music with certification from Pt. Bhimsen Joshi Sangeet Academy and Online Courses by Swar Kala Sangam - a portal for [online music classes \(www.swarkalasangam.com\)](http://www.swarkalasangam.com). The online portal of Swar Kala Sangam will mainly focus on taking the Indian classical Music and Dance Courses online while Pt. Bhimsen Joshi Sangeet Academy will be instrumental in maintaining the Quality standards of the courses and provide certifications.

Mukta Mehta also believes that the Indian classical music education is a must and one should defiantly possess a classical art form and be connected to the Heritage. The children and even their parents are so much influenced by the western culture that they are somehow losing the rich cultural values in their children which needs to be imbibed in and ensure that the cultural heritage is taken forward by the generations to come.

Is it possible to [learn music online?](#)

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