

Ustad Wajahat Khan is an outstanding sarod maestro of India. Son of the legendary sitar & surbahar maestro late Ustad Imrat Khan, he belongs to the 8th generation of one of the world's oldest and most renowned musical dynasties, going back 400 years to the Mughal courts of 16th century India. Based in London and Kolkata, he has performed to great acclaim in over 40 countries worldwide, at prestigious venues & festivals including Smithsonian (Washington DC), Symphony Hall (Berlin), Suntori Hall (Tokyo), The Kremlin (Moscow) and the Royal Albert Hall (for BBC Proms, London).

Wajahat Khan started his training under his father from the age of three studying singing, sitar and surbahar in his family's tradition, and later the sarod. In 1977, he started his international career as a child prodigy vocalist, but soon went on to become the first sarod player of his distinguished musical dynasty. The many lasting contributions over successive generations of Wajahat's family dynasty, known as the *Imdadkhani Etawah Gharana*, has profoundly influenced and shaped the course of North Indian instrumental music up to the present day. The family is also responsible for the evolution of the sitar, creation of the surbahar (bass sitar), and introduction of the gayeki-ang (vocal manner of playing instruments). Wajahat Khan is now established as one of the leading and exceptional world-ranking Indian musician of his generation.

Wajahat Khan is also a distinguished composer and has accomplished numerous acclaimed collaborations with Western classical, jazz, flamenco, rock and opera. He has written/performed pioneering and unique *sarod-concertos* for symphony/chamber orchestras and award-winning *sarod-quintets* for string quartets, working with leading international artists, ensembles and orchestras, such as the London Sinfonietta, Royal Northern Sinfonia, and The Halle Symphony (UK), Cape Philharmonic and KwaZulu Natal Philharmonic (South Africa), Kassell Philharmonic (Germany), Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Ciurlionis Quartet (Lithuania), Medici, Allegri and Carducci String Quartets (UK), to name but a few. He has toured internationally with his own Wajahat Khan World Music Ensemble, which includes the renowned flamenco/jazz guitarist Eduardo Niebla. His collaborations also include the Brit Award winning rock band Kula Shaker, legendary Shakuhachi maestro Yoshikazu Iwamoto and the celebrated Indian Shehnai maestro Ustad Ali Ahmad.

On the occasion of the 50th year of Indian Independence Wajahat Khan created for the first time in history a unique ensemble of soloists, comprising solely of all the traditional instruments and percussion that are at the forefront of North Indian classical music scene today – the Wajahat Khan Indian Chamber Orchestra. This was premiered to great acclaim at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London and subsequent performances include the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK). He premiered his 3rd *sarod-concerto* to a standing ovation with The Halle Symphony Orchestra for the 150th year celebration of The Halle (Bridgewater Hall in Manchester); and has also composed, performed and toured with the Scottish Opera.

Wajahat Khan teaches and lectures internationally to audiences of all ages and levels, and likes to include educational projects along with his concerts. He has given concerts and workshop courses at eminent institutions such as the Universities of Florida, Maryland, Utica, Amherst, Washington-St Louis and Augustana College in the USA; the University of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur; the Birmingham Conservatoire, Manchester and Brighton Universities, Yehudi Menuhin School of Music, Trinity College of Music, Morley College, Harrow College and Middlesex University in the UK, to name a few. In London, he is the Founder Director of his own Academy of World Music and has been an Artist in Residence at the SOAS, University of London. He performs and gives lecture demonstrations regularly at various educational institutions of Spicmacay throughout India. He has also given illustrated talks on television and radio introducing Indian music to an even wider audience, most notably a highly acclaimed programme series for the BBC World Service.

Ustad Wajahat Khan has energised the sarod performance repertoire with the intricate, fluid musical styles evolved by generations of his family and has acquired a worldwide following. Whilst preserving the ancient traditions, he brings his own visionary innovations to the styles and techniques of the sarod, including his pioneering adaptation of the four-string technique of the surbahar to the sarod, thereby adding new dimensions to this beautiful instrument. With the addition of an additional bass string, he uniquely uses seven pegs on the head of his instrument instead of the conventional six or eight pegs used by other contemporary masters. With great contributions to the styles and repertoire of the sarod, his distinctive style and virtuoso technique interweaves a wide spectrum of *dhrupad*, *khayal* and *thumri* (vocal) forms with authentic sarod *baaj* (repertoire), spanning a full range of feeling and expression. www.wajahatkhan.com

Tabla accompaniment in the Indian classical piece 'Raag Pilu' is provided by **Pandit Sanju Sahai** (also known as Vishnu Sahai). Sanju is currently one of the most sought after tabla players belonging to the 6th generation of the renowned Benaras tabla tradition. Son of the distinguished tabla maestro Pandit Sharda Sahai, he has performed internationally both as a soloist and as an accompanist with many of India's legendary musicians.

Ustad Wajahat Khan is accompanied on the tanpura by his student **Dr Richard Williams**.

David Murphy British conductor David Murphy holds an unparalleled position in today's international music scene. Crossing and combining genres effortlessly, he creates new and vibrant performances that are crafted afresh each time he comes to the podium. Murphy was born in Pembrokeshire, Wales. He trained as a violinist at the Purcell School and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and went on to perform as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Britain and Europe. After two years spent in teaching and research at Wichita State University he trained as a conductor with Jay Decker, Gustav Meier, Seiji Ozawa, and Léon Barzin. On returning to the UK, he began his long association with Indian music through working with Wajahat Khan's *Sarod Concerto No.2*, the inspirational start of a journey that included world premieres, international tours and projects and resulted in collaborations with many other legendary maestros of Indian music. He is a regular guest conductor of international orchestras including London Philharmonic Orchestra (engagements including the world premiere of Ravi Shankar's Symphony, recorded for LPO Live), Scottish Chamber Orchestra (including the world premiere of Amjad Ali Khan's sarod concerto *Samaagam*, recorded for Harmonic Mundi), Residentie Orkest (including the European premiere of Holst's *Indra* and the Polish premiere of Elgar/Payne's Symphony no.3), London Sinfonietta (including Holst's *Savitri*), Philharmonia Orchestra (including the London premiere of *Indra*), Seoul National Symphony Orchestra (Beethoven 9 broadcast simultaneously on Korean and Japanese Television) Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Britten Sinfonia. Murphy has been Musical Director of Sinfonia Verdi since 1990. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. www.davidmurphyconducts.org