

Join us for a mystical evening showcasing the best of Indian Classical Music with the world renowned Sitar Maestro Ustad Nishat Khan at the Royal Opera House, Mumbai

OR

Royal Opera House, Mumbai presents a magical evening showcasing the best of Indian Classical Music with world renowned Sitarist Ustad Nishat Khan

For Immediate Release

Royal Opera House, Mumbai proudly presents **Moon on the Water: Ustad Nishat Khan in Concert**. A celebration of the musical journey of the critically acclaimed Sitar maestro, who brings his unique blend of instrumental textures and virtuosic techniques to Mumbai and our stage with an upcoming solo performance.

The description of the performance is as below:

This concert is centered around Khan's fascination with the moon and each note promises to be imbued with its poetic and celestial beauty while promising to capture the mystique of the moon on the waters of the Arabian Sea that surround our city. In fact, Khan had, in 2013, conceptualised, composed and performed an innovative Sitar Concerto, *The Gate of the Moon*, commissioned by the BBC as a part of the BBC Proms Programme at The Royal Albert Hall, London, alongside the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and recently reprised the show with the Seattle Symphony in 2018. Hailed for its successful marrying of Indian classical music with the instrumentation and symphonic structure of western music, the concert was praised as a visionary integration of sitar with western orchestral sound. Khan's playing has been applauded by critics as being "virtuosic" and "an interesting hybrid of styles and influences", embellished with motifs and "filigree sounds".

On the theme for this concert, Ustadji says, "I am obsessed by the moon, its ever endearing, constant beauty and its appearance on the water of the sea. I feel it holds a special magic and is a metaphorical reminder of the music I play. The way I would perform the *Raags* would be reminiscent of the reflective light of the moon on water through compositions that try to capture a kind of liquid luminescence. Performing this concert at a classic Bombay institution such as the Opera House, I thought, would be a perfect tribute to this beautiful city by the water and its sensitive and wonderful classical music enthusiasts.

Asad Lalljee, SVP, Essar Group, CEO of Avid Learning and Curator, Royal Opera House Mumbai, says, "At the Opera House, we have made a conscious effort to present and promote Indian classical music and its fascinating subculture on our stage by showcasing a variety of styles, instruments and gharanas. We feel it especially important for younger audiences to engage with our rich musical heritage to build sustained interest and encourage patronage for future generations. We have hosted some of the finest maestros, like Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ayaan and Amaan Ali Bangash and Hidayat Khan, and now are honoured to host Nishat Khan."

Belonging to one of the oldest and most prestigious musical families of Sitar and Surbahar that extends back for seven generations and has shaped the music of India, Khan's achievements in the Indian Classical Music sphere are unparalleled. He was the youngest artist to have performed solo on the All India Radio National Program at the age of 16 and is the only Indian artist to have performed four solo concerts at the iconic Royal Albert Hall in London. He has also performed at other notable venues and events across the globe, including the opening ceremony for the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Canada and more recently at the Theatre de la Ville, Paris in 2015. He has also performed for international dignitaries and world leaders at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and the House of Parliament in Japan. In 2016, Khan accompanied the Prime Minister for his special delegation to Tehran, Iran and performed a solo concert at Vahdat Hall.

Despite being an upholder of an age-old family musical tradition, Khan is nevertheless an extremely inquisitive explorer of other genres, which has led him to collaborate with some of the finest musicians from around the world. In 2004, he was invited to play alongside Eric Clapton, Carlos Santana, Jeff Beck, John McLaughlin and others at the Crossroads Guitar Festival in Dallas.

From having performed at Frankfurt Opera to Swiss Opera, from Zagreb to Italian Opera Houses, Khan now returns to perform in Mumbai after a hiatus of three years to share his love for and showcase the beauty of Indian Classical Music. Inspired by the royal legacy of the venue, audiences can look forward to experiencing a rare selection of ragas that were traditionally performed exclusively for royalty.

Do not miss one of the greatest living Sitar maestros to have transcended musical and cultural boundaries performing next on our stage!

Where: Royal Opera House, Mama Parmanand Marg, Mumbai - 400 004

When: Friday, 11th January 2019 | 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM – Registrations | 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Performance

Tickets: www.insider.in | Box Office: 022-23668888

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUMBAI **AVID LEARNING**
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MOON ON THE WATER
USTAD NISHAT KHAN
IN CONCERT

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About the Artist

Ustad Nishat Khan is one of India's finest musicians and a virtuoso sitar player, transcending musical barriers with his provocative expression and spellbinding technical mastery. Nishat stands at the threshold of the future of sitar and Indian music with his uniquely invigorating and contemporary approach. He is the son and disciple of Ustad Imrat Khan, the nephew of the late Ustad Vilayat Khan and a member of one of the oldest and most prestigious musical families and schools in India – the Imdadkani Ganara of Etawah. His trademark sitar playing is lyrical in quality, as is evident in all of his music. Nishat has mastered not only the North Indian classical idiom, but has also worked with music as diverse as Gregorian chant, Western classical music, jazz and flamenco. He has collaborated with some of the world's leading performers and composers such as Philip Glass, John McLaughlin, Paco Peña and Evelyn Glennie.

About the Royal Opera House, Mumbai

Royal Opera House, Mumbai is widely touted as Mumbai's Cultural Crown Jewel and India's only surviving Opera House. The original idea for the space was conceived of in 1908,

inaugurated in 1911 by King George V, and eventually completed in 1916. The design incorporated a blend of European and Indian detailing. The space became a cinema in later years before falling into disrepair and shutting by the 1990s. Fittingly, the space has been owned by the Royal Family of Gondal since 1952 and was eventually restored by conservation architect, Abha Narain Lambah under the leadership of His Highness, Maharaja Shri Jyotendrasinhji of Gondal. The Royal Opera House Mumbai, now one of the last remaining Baroque structures in the city, reopened after 23 years in October 2016. The building was included on the 2012 World Monuments Watch to raise awareness about its history and significance, and support preservation efforts. The building has since been recognized with an Award of Merit in the 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The restored facilities feature a 575-seater 3-level auditorium with an orchestra pit and state of the art technological upgradations, including acoustics, stagecraft, lighting and air-conditioning, alongside retaining the old world charm of the proscenium stage, the royal boxes and the magnificent regal chandeliers. Some more enhancements to the venue include a motorized screen, co-axial ceiling speaker system, Four-zone volume control and all round wifi access. Today, it stands as a key performance and creative hub in the city's cultural landscape, while being a premier heritage landmark. *Facebook:* MumbaiOpera *Twitter:* @MumbaiOpera *Instagram:* @mumbaiopera