

**Five
Years
of
Spreading
Joy
of
Music**



BAITIAK



Dear Reader,

As we share this annual report our hearts are flooded with a wide range of emotions. Baithak entered the 6th year of operation in June 2021 and we had many plans which had to be abandoned given the pandemic. The year revealed to us the uncertain and speculative nature of future.

We had a profound question knocking on our doors - do people really wish to engage with music in these challenging times? Though art fell into the category of non-essentials throughout the world, we know that this was the very thing that kept us alive, engaged and sane during the tough year. This year demonstrated the transformational power of music.

Schools were closed and we had to abandon our initiatives running at more than 30 schools and construction sites across three cities overnight.

At Baithak we decided to pause as 2020 evidently felt like an opportunity to introspect, re-evaluate and engage with the emerging questions. Though the medium of music exchange changed very quickly forcing everyone into a digital transformation, we did not immediately recreate our initiatives for the digital world.

We decided to critically appreciate the strengths of the ICM and the limitations of the digital medium to create a solution that honestly serves the art.

Going digital was also practically very challenging for our partner organisations as only a small percentage of students had access to digital devices and decent internet bandwidth.

At Baithak we opened ourselves to new possibilities and a global audience by forging new collaborations and developing new initiatives for the digital world. You will see a conscious shift of focus from creation to curation in this context.

That being said, we are immensely saddened by the losses suffered by the world of music. We lost many senior as well as young musicians to the pandemic. The year was very difficult for all with artists being no exception.

We are proud to have rolled out multiple initiatives to support young musicians in our own capacity.

Like always, we express our deep gratitude towards everyone who questioned us and who generously supported us. It is indeed true that without the critical and unconditional support we would have not been able to do any of this. Year 2020-21 was full experiments and and new learning experiences!

We sincerely thank you and count on your ongoing support!

Dakshayani | Mandar | Sourabh

The Bandish Bank Project

Immediately after the lockdown, we realised that a large number of young musicians who depended on concerts for financial stability were clueless about the future. Baithak launched The Bandish Bank Project - an initiative with an open call for musicians to submit minute long recordings of ICM compositions. In exchange for each composition a small remuneration was offered.

A section was created on our website to share these compositions freely with students and music lovers long with the lyrics, names of reference books and available full-length concert recording of maestros singing the same compositions.

We received more than 600 compositions form 20+ artists. These compositions are in the process of being uploaded on the website and you can [check them out here](#).

Google Analytics data tells that these compositions are played more than 30,000 times and our audience has spent almost 700 hours listening to them. This is a huge success of this project considering the global average duration people spend on any site.

Visitors from **80** countries

Viewers from **1086** cities

Time spent **2-30** min

Users went up by **79%**

Page views up by **76%**

Raga Base & Artist Base

Pandemic put a full stop to live concerts. While a lot of music is available online, most of it is untagged, uncategorised and poorly curated.

We created [Raga Base](#), a curated playlist which has 100+ Ragas listed alphabetically. We handpicked recordings of several Ragas rendered by maestros.

We also created the [Artist Base](#), a playlist which showcases music of more than 100+ maestros alphabetically. We have selected millstone recordings of maestros some of which are extremely rare and unheard.

Know Your Music

We all love surprises. Won't we love them even more if they are musical? Know Your Music was a fun initiative where we recorded short videos in which artists briefly described their instrument/art form and gave a short performance.

We generated a unique QR code for each video which was converted into a sticker. These stickers were handed over to partners like grocery stores and cafes who pasted them on parcels they shipped during the pandemic.

The backend stats showed us that most people watched the full video!



Behind the scenes of Know Your Music videos

Baithak Musium



Some archival photographs from the exhibitions.

Our very own 'Musium' - a collection of online exhibits of music and anecdotes had some interesting additions this year. We collaborated with artists and scholars to curate exhibits with music and stories of maestros.

Here are some of the featured exhibitions that received encouraging response:

[Pt. Mallikarjun Mansur](#) : An exhibition by Prof. Urmila Bhiridkar that presents a scholarly review of the time and life of Pt. Mansur.

[Pt. Dinkar Kaikini](#) : An interesting compilation of anecdotes, archival recordings and eye catching photographs penned by musician and author Priya Purushottaman.

[Two Bhairavs](#) : A lucid write-up about two fantastically rendered versions of Bhairav by musician and scientist, Nishad Matange.

Baithak Blog

From providing in-depth information about Tanpura and how it is tuned to sharing our insights from school and community engagements - we added a lot of new and useful content to our blog which has now gained considerable traction.

Baithak has created and nurtured audience willing to deepen their understanding of Indian Classical Music (ICM).

These articles are an effective means to positively impact the ICM ecosystem. For instance, after a series of blogs which highlighted how hosts can improve the experience of home concerts, Baithak team was invited to curate some.

Another article that we wrote about teaching ICM to kids was read more than 500 times with average reading time of 5 minutes. We received several inquiries from parents seeking guidance about initiating their kids into the world of ICM.

The screenshot shows a blog post interface. At the top, there are navigation links: "← How to make chamber concerts worthwhile?" and "Why should artists be paid fairly? →". Below this is a section titled "10 replies on 'A Comprehensive Guide to Tanpura : It's Construction, Significance and Relevance in Indian Classical Music'", with sub-links for "APPRECIATING INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC", "BAITHAK IMPACT", "CHAMBER CONCERTS", "FEATURED", and "SMALL BAITHAKS". The main title of the post is "How to make chamber concerts worthwhile?". The text of the post begins with "The purposes may be diverse but one cannot forget that house concerts/chamber concerts are a wonderful opportunity. Opportunity for whom and of what kind? Here are some guidelines to ensure that we all are making the best use of the opportunity available." Below the text, it says "By adminin", "March 20, 2020", and "5 Comments". There is a link "The Reality of House Concerts" and a tag "Chamber Concerts, House Concerts, Indian Classical Music". At the bottom, there are more navigation links: "← Illustrated Books" and "The reality of house concerts →". A section at the very bottom says "3 replies on 'Why attend house concerts?'".

Unlock Yourself : The Kabir Way

The pandemic lead us to do things we had never done. Running online courses was one such initiative for us. We partnered with Protecterra Ecological Foundation to create the Unlock Course.

Based on the wisdom of Sant Kabir, Unlock Your Self is a 6 weeks long online course. Packed with singing practice, reflections, sustainable practices and sharing with 18 Dohas of Kabir as curriculum.

We have always focussed on introducing music as a practicing art form. Our focus has also been to look at life holistically. This course helped us fulfil both these objectives.

We ran three editions of this course throughout the year and had 46 participants from around the globe. The course introduced the participants to not only wisdom of Sant Kabir but also to music as a tool for personal wellbeing.



When I started the course, I didn't know that my issues were so deep. I knew something was off. I just didn't know where to look. This course took me inside of me. The things that came up during this time (and are still coming up), gave me an entirely new perspective about life. It's a long journey.

Testimonial by course participant Aarohi Rane

Soundfullness : An Introductory Course on Naad Yoga



Bringing natural flow and rhythm in singing by establishing connection with breathing! After this course Singing is equal to Pranayam for me.

From the post course anonymous feedback

Soundfullness was our second online course which aimed at introducing the basics of Naad Yoga practice to individuals. The course had its curriculum based on old texts and traditional music practices with a touch of neurology and physics.

We conducted 2 editions of Soundfullness at its full batch size. The participants are given recorded practice tracks so that they continue a daily sound practise.

The positive response to the course has lead to the creation of a community of practitioners that actively sing everyday.

Programs in association with Sri Aurobindo Society

Baithak team was approached by Sri. Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry to conduct workshops and retreats based on sound practises. During the year, we conducted 1 online course with two full batches, 2 residential weekend programs and 1 weeklong program for the Society.

Naad Aradhana

Naad Aradhana was a month long online program to introduce Naad Yoga practice to the participants. The objective of this course was introducing the healing and rejuvenating benefits of sound practice.

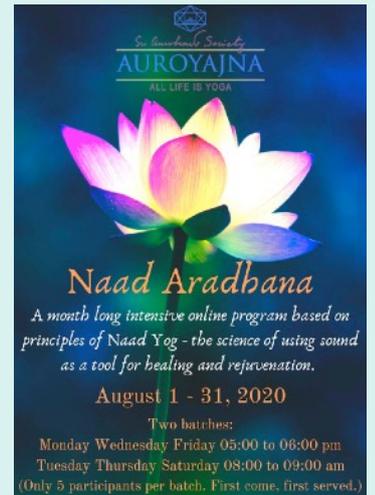
Antargaman

Antargaman was a 2 days residential intensive program based on the Naad Yoga practices. This program was conducted at a residential facility - Sharanam near Pondicherry amidst nature. We conducted 2 batches of this program which was attended by participants from Pondicherry, Chennai and Bangalore.

Naad Aradhana Intensive

This was a week long program conducted at Sri Aurobindo Society Pondicherry, primarily for the participants who had participated in the Naad Aradhana online program.

All these three programs introduced music and music practice as a simple tool for one's own healing and well being.



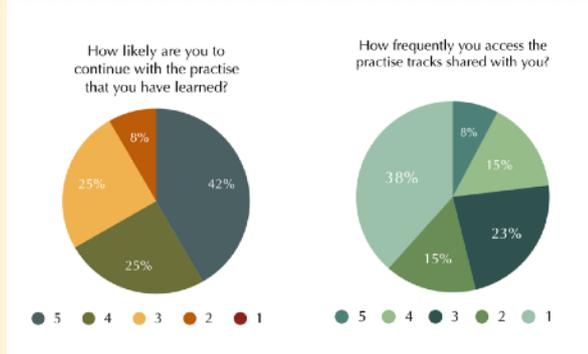
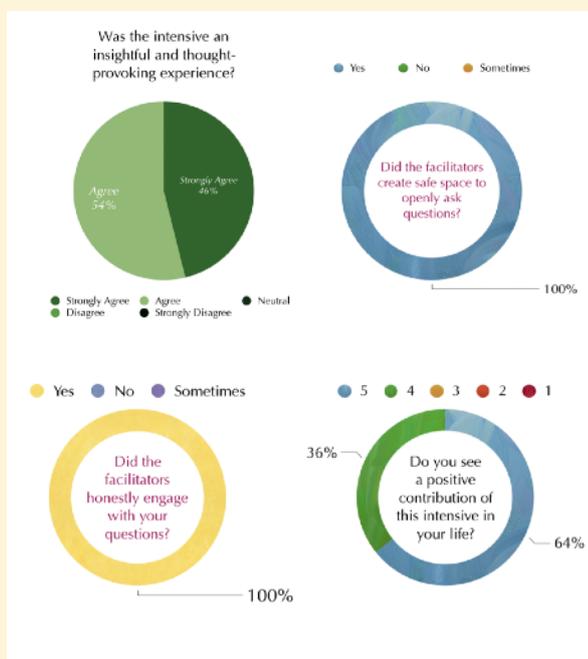
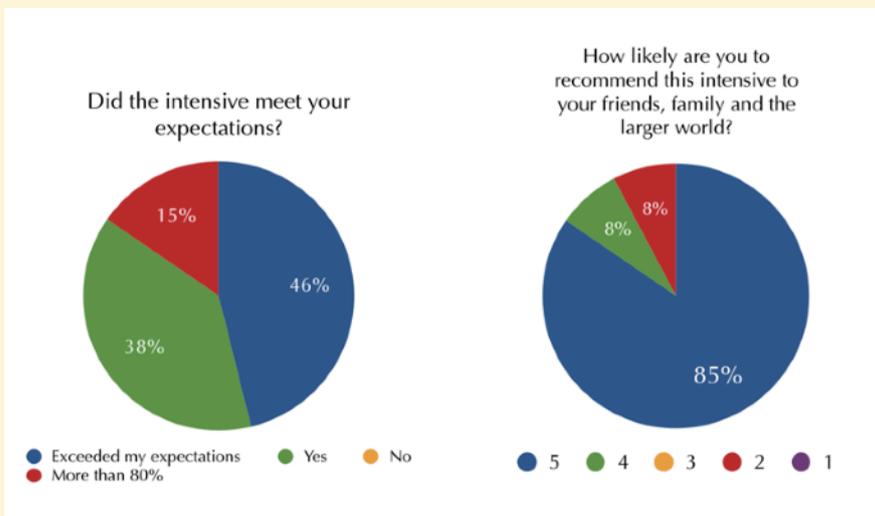
Baithak @ Auroville

Baithak team was invited by Samskritam Auroville, a group working to deepen the study of Indian Culture. Our team was stationed in Auroville for three and a half months and we worked with 2 schools and more than 50 adults.

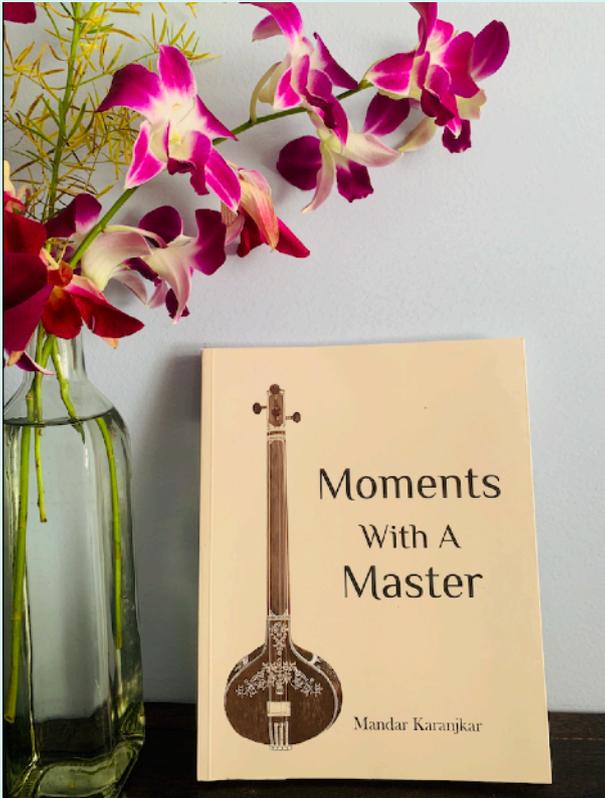
We conducted four times a week singing sessions for adults and twice a week sessions at the schools.

We also restored a few old instruments available in Auroville and brought them back to the life!

We also composed a few Sanskrit songs and jingles and taught them in Auroville schools.



Moments With a Master



In October 2019, just before the pandemic hit, one of the leading masters of Indian Classical Music and our Guru, Pt. Vijay Sardeshmukh passed away battling prolonged illness.

Fondly known as Vijay Dada, he was a highly regarded authority on Tanpuras as well as gayaki of Pt. Kumar Gandharva having learnt from him for more than 2 decades.

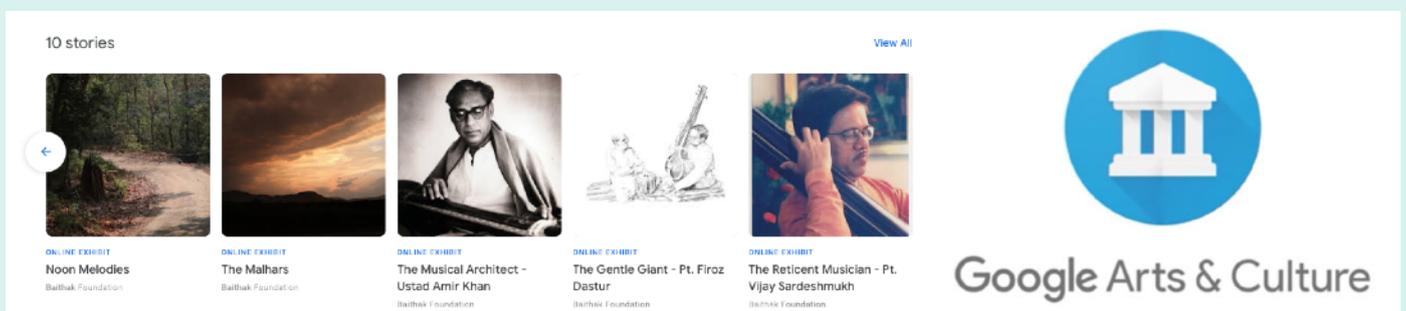
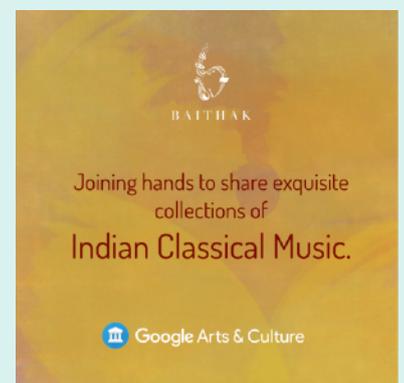
As a tribute to this maestro, Baithak published a book - Moments With a Master. The book compiles our interactions with Vijay dada and it comes with QR codes which take the reader to the recordings where Guruji is either teaching or performing.

This book is edited by renowned author and editor, Gouri Dange. If not already, you can [order your copy here](#).

New Partnership : Google Arts & Culture

In January 2021, Baithak was approached by Google Arts & Culture, a CSR initiative of Google for a partnership to create and publish online musical exhibits.

As a result of this collaboration, Baithak Foundation is now an official contributor to the Arts & Culture platform. Baithak team has already put together some interesting musical exhibits. You can [check them out here](#).



Other Highlights

Baithak Scholarship

Baithak has awarded scholarship to 2 students from a small village in Konkan, the western part of the state of Maharashtra. This scholarship covers tuition fees for two young candidates - one learning Tabla and the other learning Harmonium.

Awakin Talks

Baithak founders were invited for an interview in the Awakin Talks series run by ServiceSpace volunteers. In this interview our founders touched upon multiple topics - access to music to role of music in creating a harmonious society.

Art Management Overview

With pandemic, concerts started happening online and most of the musicians were clueless about laws regarding their creative rights, writing grants and managing an arts practise. In association with dancer Meghna Rao and Art Manager Masoom Parmar, Baithak organised a 2 day workshop on Art Management which was attended by 30 artists including musicians and dancers.

Precision Samvedana

Baithak Foundation's supporter - Precision Foundation had invited Baithak team for an interview in the series titled Precision Samvedana. In this session, Baithak team shared their experiences, learnings and outcomes from the Solapur chapter of Baithak @Classes initiative, supported by the Precision Foundation.

Archiving Rare Music

Like every year, we have continued our efforts in digitising rare musical material from spools and cassettes. In the year 20-21, we digitised about 600 hours of archival music from 150 cassettes and 130 spools for Saptak Archives, Ahmedabad.

Kumar Smruti

Baithak supported the restoration and digitation of personal notes of Pt. Vitthalrao Sardeshmukh a renowned musician and Sanskrit scholar. These notes titled Kumar Smruti were his reminisces about the days spend with Pt. Kumar Gandharva whom he regularly accompanied on the harmonium. You can [read them here](#).

A Jugalbandhi (Duet) with Life

DAKSHAYANI ATHALYE
& MANDAR KARANJKAR



CAN CLASSICAL MUSIC
SHAPE A CHILD'S GROWTH?
HOW TO ALIGN LABOUR OF
LOVE WITH RIGHT
LIVELIHOOD? DOES NAAD
(SOUND) LEAD US TO ANTAR
NAAD (INNER SILENCE)?

Awakin Talks, India Webinar



MAR 7TH, 10:00 AM (IST)
LANGUAGE : ENGLISH
INFO AND RSVP: AWAKIN.ORG/TALKS



प्रिसिजन फाउंडेशन आणि
मिती एन्टरटेनमेंट प्रस्तुत

प्रिसिजन संवेदना

Impacting Lives...Uplifting Societies !

प्रिसिजन फाउंडेशनच्या सामाजिक वांधिलकीचा संवेदनशील प्रवास...!



सहभाग

डॉ. सुहासिनी शहा, बाळासाहेब वाघ, राजकिरण चव्हाण,
दाक्षायणी आठल्ये, मंदार करंजकर, अनघा जहागीरदार,
अंजली नानल, राजीव देसाई, माधव देशपांडे



शुक्रवार दि. १५ जानेवारी २०२१ रोजी सायंकाळी
६.२५ वा. मिती ग्रुपच्या फेसबुक पेजवर
facebook.com/mitigroup

The Baithak Community

We express our love and gratitude towards everyone who contributed to the cause!

Artists

Aalok Alsi
Abhijit Bartakke
Alhad Alsi
Ameya Bichhu
Ashlesha Shintre
Chinmayee Athale
Devashree Navghare-Bhargave
Gandhar Amin
Kaushik Kelkar
Koyali Sarkar
Kshitija Deshpande
Leeladhar Chakradeo
Madhavi Kelkar Chakradeo
Madhumita Bhaskar
Madhuvanti Jagdale
Madhuri Kolpe
Mandar Karanjkar
Masoom Parmar
Meghana Sardar
Meghna Rao
Ninad Daithankar
Nishad Matange
Parth Tarabadkar
Priya Purushothaman
Pushkar Mahajan
Rakhi Ramekar
Ravikunj Panchal
Reeshabh Purohit
Dr. Revati Kamat
Ruturaj Kolpe
Rutuja Lad
Sailusha Vadapalli
Sanjana Salunkhe
Saumitra Kshirsagar
Sheetal Pardeshi
Shruti Ranade
Shrutika Kaslikar
Smita Garud
Sugandha Laturkar
Swaroop Sardeshmukh
Tanavi Jagdale
Vijaya Godbole
Vinay Ramdasan
Vrushali Deshmukh
Yuji Nakagawa

Patrons

Ankesh Pratap
Ajay Zhaveri
Ambarish Thakkar
Anand Padhye
Aparna Bhagwat
Ashok and Kalpana Korwar
Bhakti Karajgaikar
Chetana Pawar
Deepa Patil
Dinesh Shanbhag
Gouri Dange
Kranti Kanade
Khushru Irani
Lolita Kewalramani
Madhusudhan Pulliyari
Maheshwar Katre
Mandar Gadgil
Neela Sapatnekar
Pankaj Kale
Raaghav Pandya
Rajan Pratap Singh
Sabyasachi Ghosh
Sagar Kulkarni
Sampada Khot
Saniya Shah
Sarita Satav
Shikha Kundra
Shrinivas Gadre
Shubhash Gubba
Sudhanshu Atre
Sudhir Nerurkar
Suvrat Apte
Tanveen Duggal
Urmila Bendre
Urmila Bhardikar
Vanaja Vaidyanathan
Varnita Bose
Vinda Sardeshmukh
Vijay Agarwal
Yogini Gandhi

Team Baithak

Dakshayani Athalye
Mandar Karanjkar
Mukul Ranbhor

Institutional Partners and Supporters

Akruti Print Solutions, Pune
Google Arts and Culture
Protecterra Ecological Foundation, Pune
Saptak Archives, Ahmedabad
Samskritam, Auroville
Shri Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry
Shri Rukmineesh Seva Trust, Mumbai
Pt. Firoz Dastur Memorial Foundation, Pune
Precision Foundation, Solapur

To help us take Indian Classical Music to all sections of society and to help us create a better world, we need your support!

Scan the code below through PhonePe, GPay or Paytm to make your contribution!



Baithak Foundation

To know more visit:
www.baithak.org

To get involved write to us at:
baithakcommunity@gmail.com

