

*Thank you  
for joining us this afternoon*



MANJARI SCHOOL OF  
PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS  
SILVER JUBILEE  
AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC AND DANCE**

SUNDAY AUGUST 13, 2017  
ANANDA MANDIR AUDITORIUM







# MANJARI SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

*Good wishes at the  
completion of 25 years  
From Kishnani Family*



You want to be a part of a diverse place so you can broaden your horizons. But you never want to forget where you came from, because sometimes if you forget to look back, you can become lost.

*“In a globalized world where you belong to everywhere and nowhere, I hold on to my roots to know who I am, what I want to say and where am I heading,”*

•Edgar Flores - Saner,

Our culture defines who we are in some shape or another. It forms how we look at life, almost like a magnifying glass. Our judgements are based on our cultural beliefs.



Pandita Girija Devi Ji

*Our Par Guru Ji*

गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णुः गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः ।  
गुरुः साक्षात् परं ब्रह्म तस्मै श्री गुरवे नमः ॥



COMPLIMENTS

TO

MANJARI SCHOOL  
OF PERFORMING  
ARTS

FROM  
DULAL & BABHRABI  
CHAKRABORTY





Heartiest congratulations  
to Manjari  
on their Silver Jubilee  
celebration

WE WISH THE VERY BEST ON THEIR  
ENDEAVOR  
AND CONTINUED SUCCESS IN  
FUTURE

- PARTHA SARATHI MUKHOPADHAYA  
& ANINDITA MUKHOPADHAYA  
(BHARATIYA KALA KENDRO)



Our Par Guru, Pandita Girija Devi - the Queen of Thumri is from *Seniya* and *Banaras* Gharanas. In 2016, the doyen of Hindustani classical music has been conferred with the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award of the Republic of India. She has been honored with many more awards— among them Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (2010), Padma Bhushan (1989), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1977), Padma Shri (1972).

Girija Devi ji—fondly known as Appa ji is considered to be the reigning Queen of Thumri. Born in a village near Banaras on May 8, 1929, music was a part of her life from her very early years. Her father, recognizing her extraordinary talent, encouraged her, as a little five-year-old, to start learning classical music from Pandit Sarju Prasad Misra. Appa ji later studied under Pandit Srichand Misra, whose shishya she remained until his passing in the 1960s.

Banaras flows in her music and in Banaras, it is the river that she cherishes the most as the source of her inspiration. So though she is a fine *khayal* singer, who always begins a performance with *vilmabit* and *drut khayals*, her forte is the lyrical, delicate forms that Banaras is known for—thumri and dadra, and the many lovely forms derived from the folk music of the region—*Kajri*, *Chiat*, *Hori*, *Barah Masa*. There are so many bandishes which one can only associate with her voice— the yearning distraught nayika of '*Deevana kiye Shyam*.' Or the extraordinary and unusual *Khambavati hori thumri*, '*Hori khelo mohse Nandlal*'.

Then there is Appa ji the woman, the guru, the mother-like figure. It never ceases to amaze one that such a great artist can be so gentle, loving and warm to the many people who seek her out. Her down to earth wisdom is sought by so many at the Sangeet Research Academy where she is one of the most respected resident Gurus. Her homes in Kolkata and Banaras are open to all, and she is a generous and warm-hearted, loving guru and guide.

# Lifework of 25 Years

*Preserving an ancient teaching tradition*

*---- Sharmila "Pinki" Ghoshal*

*25 years ago I started Manjari School of Performing Arts, a small music school, on thousands of years old traditional values known as Guru Shishya Parampara - a practice of passing down knowledge of numerous generations acquired through the centuries, to the next generation. With me it was walking them through a beautiful lyrical and musical world, to our cultural roots, to the mythology of Radha-Krishna, to the bhakti of Meerabai, to Sufiyana devotion and myriad Folk traditions, wafting from our ancient land.*

*My Guruji and my students' Par-Guruji is none other than Pandita Girija Devi, Padma Vibhushan. I feel so blessed that she had accepted me as a shishya, thereby all my students naturally came under the*

*colorful umbrella of Benaras Gharana. Our gharana the prestigious Benaras Gharana is a Khayal and Semi-Classical ghrana, which was revived by Siddheswari Devi ji, Mahdev Mishra ji, and the larger than life influence of our Guruji Pandita Girija Devi ji.*

*Hindustani Classical music is an alive tradition, based on ragas. Each raga is an array of melodic structures with musical motifs, considered in the Indian tradition to have the ability to "color the mind" and affect the emotions of the audience. While the raga is a remarkable and central feature of classical Indian music tradition, it has no direct translation to concepts in the classical Western music tradition.*

*Right from the beginning, my students are encouraged to learn Hindustani Classical music. I have tried to keep it simple and doable for them. They are*



Manjari School of Performing Arts



**“A silver jubilee is a significant milestone by any measure”  
-Hon Steve Maharey**



As a longtime family of  
*Manjari School of  
Performing Arts,*

we want to congratulate everyone  
involved for a beautiful *25 years*  
of **music, education, and  
culture!**



**The Amanullah Family**  
**Mohammad Amanullah**  
**Rezina Amanullah**  
**Amanda Amanullah**  
**Nadeem Amanullah**

*taught to read and write notation, play the Harmonium and comprehend Taal/Laya - beat cycle and rhythm. When Shivalik, my son teaches them Benarasi Laggi (fast laya) in the end of a Thumri or Dadra, I feel proud that I have succeeded in my mission to provide the generation next, living in New Jersey an opportunity to learn these difficult Layakari, from an excellent Tabla exponent like Shivalik Ghoshal – an experience which I craved for but never had, as a student of music in India.*

*I have to stop here and explain the Gharana culture of Hindustani Classical music – the Hindi word "Ghar" derived from Sanskrit "Griha" means home. It typically refers to the place where the musical ideology originated and also indicates a comprehensive musicological ideology. It is a system linking artists by special lineage or apprenticeship, and by adherence to a particular musical style. There also could be a regional musical influence where a particular sociological affect will be visible. Members of a gharana are entrusted with the maintenance of a certain standard of musicianship in accordance with the ideals of the lineage.*

*The prestigious Benaras Gharana evolved as a result of great lilting style of Khayal singing known by Thumri singers of Benaras and Gaya. This ghrana is a mixture of difficult folk nuances, classical raga usage and difficult improvisation invoking difficult Talas and famous Benarasi Laggi. An excellent trait of Benaras Gharana is that it supports many genres of semi classical vocal styles like Rasiya, Tappa, Tap-Kirtan and Dadra. There is the series of season songs, traditionally sung in the villages and towns around Banaras like, Hori – colors of spring, Chaiti - holy month of Sri Rama Navami in praise of Lord Rama, Kajri, Sawani and Jhhula – dark clouds and rains of monsoon. Traditionally composed, sung and popularized by women; they depict the eternal devotional love of Radha-Krishna, and viraha - heart break of separation. They portray various moods of a woman in her journey of relationship.*

*Yes, Indian classical music is difficult to learn but, if you are interested and drawn towards it, don't hesitate to embark on that journey. I have tried to acquaint our children with the artistry and cultural traditions of Indian classical music and provide opportunities for them to come together to promote and express their cultural heritage. Many of you have come to our school's annual shows and supported my students over the years. Shukriya and my heartfelt gratitude to all my friends, patrons and the parents of my students for your continued encouragements, support and cooperation.*



# Guru Shishya Parampara

गुशब्दस्त्वन्धकारः स्यात् रुशब्दस्तन्निरोधकः।  
अन्धकारनिरोधित्वात् गुरुरित्यभिधीयते॥ १६॥

The syllable *gu* means darkness, the syllable *ru*, he who dispels them  
Because of the power to dispel darkness, the guru is thus named.

— Advayataraka Upanishad, Verse 16

**Guru Shishya Parampara** or the teacher - pupil relationship is an important part of India's teaching tradition. In ancient India most of the knowledge was passed on from the teacher to his pupil through oral tradition, this oral tradition of passing knowledge is known as the *Guru Shishya Parampara*. Indian classical music is still largely dependent on this tradition. In the *Guru Shishya Parampara* the *shishya* or pupil lives with his *guru* or teacher. The student learns different aspects of the music mostly through observing his *guru* and by following his oral instructions.

This method helps to maintain the traditional aspect of Indian classical music. A *guru* who belongs to a particular *gharana* (or school of music) will pass on the traits of this *gharana* to his *shishya* and over a period of time the *shishya* absorbs all the necessary traits and style of this *gharana* and in this way the cycle continues. Another striking feature of this tradition is its ability to teach spontaneous improvisation techniques. This is possible due to the fact that this tradition does not lay down a fixed format for teaching so; it varies from person to person, from teacher to teacher. So, improvisation is inherent in this tradition.

*Guru Shishya Parampara* is still essential for Indian classical music. It has not lost its credibility due to the emergence of new technology or institutionalized training system. What is needed today is a fusion of *Guru Shishya Parampara* with institutional training. New technology and equipment can further increase the effectiveness of this tradition. We must not forget that this is a time tested method. With spontaneity and improvisation as its key ingredients, it is destined to play even a bigger role in shaping the future of Indian classical music.

Being part of Manjari has been a rewarding experience. Learning under Pinki Auntie has given me a unique tie to my culture that is invaluable. I am so honored to have learned under someone who not only has accomplished so much, but who has also been an excellent teacher and mentor.

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”

-Albert Einstein

गुरु सक्षात्, परम ब्रह्म, तस्मै श्रीगुरुवे नमः

With best compliments to Manjari,  
Ananya, Ashish, and Anjali



BEST WISHES TO  
MANJARI  
ON THEIR SILVER JUBILEE  
CELEBRATION.

WE WISH THEM THE VERY  
BEST AND CONTINUED  
SUCCESS IN FUTURE.

FROM  
DIPAN RAY AND ANURADHA RAY



***We are grateful for the support of our sponsors,  
supporters & friends....***

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*Subir Ghoshal, Chhanda & Kamal Aditya  
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Falguni & Gautam Datta*

***Thanks to our supporters and friends....***

*Amanda Amanullah, Ananya Joshi,  
Anindita Mukhopadhaya, Anjali Joshi,  
Deepali Pandey, Foyez Siddiqui, Jay Gandhi,  
Madhu Mishra, Meenakshi Advani,  
Naren Kishnani, Namrata Amatullah,  
Nidhi Kulkarni, Partha Sarathi Mukhopadhaya,  
Reena Amanullah, Rupa Ahmad, Rushil Bose,  
Sharik Hasan, Sharmila Asad,  
Sheehan Chaudhuri, Sunita Gandhi,  
Dr. Swapan Nag Chaudhuri, Swathi Gayen,  
Nasreen Showkat, Ujjal Mukherjee, Zafar Billah*

***Special thanks to...***

*Alo Nandy, Barkha Kishnani, Nazaf Showkat,  
Sangita Bose, Shaira Chaudhuri,  
Shivalik Ghoshal, Showkat Akbar*

***Special appreciation to all the students and  
parents of Manjari.***

## SHOW SUMMARY

- **Vande Maataram** - Opening Song
- **Gurur Brahma, Gurur Vishnu** - Guru Vandana chorus
- **Manjari, School of Performing Arts - 25 years** by Amanda Amanullah
- **Introduction to the show** by Guru Srimati Pinki Ghoshal
- All songs by students accompanied by Jay Gandhi (Flute), Sharik Hasan (Keyboards), and Shivalik Ghoshal (Tabla)

### ○ **CHORUS - Raagas & Rabindra Sangeet**

- Beeti Jata Barakha – Raag Desh, bandish from Patiala Gharana
- Taar Haate Chilo – Raag Desh, composition by Rabindranath Tagore
- Daara Laagi Mohe Damini Ko – Raag Megh Malhar
- Hridoye Mondrilo Domuru Guru Guru – Raag Megh, Rabindra Sangeet

### ○ **SOLO & DUET**

- Daruno Ogni Bane - Rabindra Sangeet      Aleezah Showkat
- Sakhi Janena Deta - Raag Yaman      Ishita Gandhi
- Pyare Pyare Aakhiya - Raag Behag      Bhavini Pandey
- Sakhi Jhulana Jhulaaye - Raag Shankara      Nidhi Advani & Ishani Kulkarni

### ○ **SUFI & BHAIAN**

- Tamasee Mama Jeevanam - Raag Desh Stotram      Acapella/Chorus
- Hoh Laal Meri – Raag Yaman      Chorus
- Ganga Jamuna – Raag Khamaaj, Meera bhajan      Chorus
- Majhe Maher Pandhari – Raag Mishra Bhupali      Nidhi Kulkarni
- Krishnakali Ami Tarei Boli – Rabindra Sangeet      Pinki Ghoshal & Rupa Ahmad

### ○ **SEMI-CLASSICAL SOLOS**

- Aaj Shyam Moh Leeno – Raag Mishra Khamaaj      Farees Siddiqui
- Mere Mehboob Tujhe - Ghazal      Nidhi Advani
- Rang Darungi Re - Raag Pahadi-Khamaaj      Ishani Kulkarni
- Jhir Jhir Barse Sawan Ras Bundia – Banaras Kajri      Nidhi Kulkarni



Manjari has been a part of our family for fourteen years. Although Pinky Mashi is our Guru for music, she has become a Guru for us in life- teaching us valuable lessons on how to respect one another and our culture. It has been a blessing for us to meet Pinky Mashi and her family, and a privilege to be taught in the presence of excellence. Pinky Mashi has taught us to push ourselves beyond our imagination, while stimulating a passion for music and our culture.

“A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.”

- Brad Henry

**A Silver Jubilee is a great achievement.**

**Congratulations to Manjari**

**From**

**Joyeeta, Namrata, Sharmila and Asad**

# Congratulations to Manjari on their 25th Anniversary

From,  
Swapan, Munmun, Shoubhik and  
Antara Nag-Chaudhuri



# MANJARI

## My Journey at Manjari School of Performing Arts ---Nazaf Showkat

My journey at Manjari started out as weekly classes to go see Pinki Mashi and learn music, and then maybe a couple of rehearsals here and there for various stage programs. After 10 years of going to these "weekly classes" and "stage performances", music has taken more of a crucial role in my life. These "weekly classes" and "stage performances" have turned me into a completely different person, one that is cultured, mannerly, and has a passion for music.

Without music in my life, I would know absolutely nothing about my country, my culture, and who I am. My singing lessons with Maashi have not only taught me music but on a deeper level, they have taught me things about a rich culture I had no knowledge of beforehand. Concepts such as "Guru Shishya Parampara" that were once foreign to me, have become so familiar. Guru Shishya Parampara is the passing of knowledge from a Guru to his/her students, it is the means of how musical knowledge is passed throughout generations. Being a student of Manjari, the importance of my heritage and culture has really dawned on me. From such a young age, I feel so lucky to be a part of such a cultural enhancing experience like Manjari. This opportunity that Pinki Maashi has given to me, not everyone is as lucky as me to be blessed with it. Thank you Pinki Maashi for letting me be a part of a community that has defined me as a person.

It is always said, "A person without culture is like a tree without roots."

### ○ **DANCE - Bharatiya Kala Kendro**

Anindita Mukhopadhyaya

### INTERMISSION – 30 minutes

### ○ **BENGALI SONGS - Onuronan**

Zafar Billah (Dir)

### ○ **FOLK SONGS**

- Moyna Cholat Cholat Cholle – Dadra taal Ryan Showkat
- Kon Mestori Nnao Banaiche – Mian Abdul Karim Nazaf Showkat
- Maaje Maaje Tobo Dekhapai - Tagore Kirtan Sreshtha Mukherjee

### ○ **OLD BENGALI/HINDI SONGS**

- Kuhu Kuhu Bole Koyelia – Basant Bahar Swati Gayen
- Piya Baawari – Ardha taal Recording
- Bengali Song Joyeeta Amatullah
- Poem Recitation Reena Amanullah
- Akash Pradeep Jole - Kherwa taal Babhrabi Chakraborty
- O Palash O Shimul Nazaf Showkat
- Rhim Jhim Dhvani - Mishra Jog Antara Nag Chaudhuri
- Albeli Naar - based on Raag Bhairavi Subir Ghoshal
- Gaare Pakhi Gaa – Kherwa taal Amanda Amanullah
- Dakshin Samiran Sathe - Brindavani Sarang Shaira Chaudhuri

### ○ **SEMI CLASSICAL SONGS - Bharatiya Kala Kendro**

- Partha Sarathi Mukhopadhyaya – Vocal
- Shivalik Ghoshal - Tabla

### ○ **Vote of Thanks** - Acknowledging Patrons and Friends

### ○ **CLASSICAL MUSIC RECITAL**

- Jay Gandhi - Flute
- Shivalik Ghoshal – Tabla

## INTRODUCING YOUNG TALENT



### **Aleezah Showkat**

*Some of my hobbies are to play Violin, cook and bake, and play with my friends. I have been in music class for 6 years. I joined music class because, I wanted to experience the joy of singing and playing the harmonium. Pinki Mashi has taught me how to control my voice and much more. The 6 years I have been in Manjari's music class, have definitely been very enjoyable. So, thanks to Pinki Mashi for making music such an important part of my life.*



### **Amanda Amanullah**

*I am an English Language Arts Teacher in Newark, NJ. I studied English and Economics at Rutgers University and Education at the University of Pennsylvania. I started my career in the publishing industry, as writing and editing is my passion. Though I have moved around in my career and residence, I remain connected to Manjari as an alumna. I learned about music from Pinki Mashi. I am thankful to have been part of such a dedicated*

*school of music that taught me memorable aspects of my culture. Music can uplift our mood and connect various people and aspects of life. I prefer to sing Semi-Classical songs and Malkosh is my favorite Raaga.*



### **Ananya Joshi**

*I started learning music with Pinkie Auntie when I was 8. Many of my interests changed but my love for music has grown and is still with me today. Learning from Pinkie Auntie has taught me the power of music, detail, and storytelling. My other interests include Robotics and Speech & Debate, where I competed at a national level. Now as a junior at Princeton University studying computer science*

*engineering, I have a keen interest in humanitarian design and was granted a provisional patent. I look forward to staying involved with the Manjari community now and in the future.*



*Showkat Akbar has been acting as secretary of Manjari School since 2005. A father of 3, a patron of classical and semi-classical music - all three of his children are students of Manjari. Showkat works at Bayer Pharmaceutical, supporting innovative solutions specifically in Cardiovascular area. He is a part time Graduate student of Biomedical Informatics at Rutgers University, and will be graduated in October, 2017. In his leisure time, Showkat teaches middle and high school students*

*SAT level math to help them prepare for SAT/ACT or other standardized tests. Showkat is also a certified Class 1 Master Mariner (UK) worked in merchant navy from 1987 to 2001 before moving permanently in the USA.*



*Sabina Ahmad, also known as Roopa, is a dedicated member of 'Manjari School of Performing Arts' since 2010. She occasionally performs and helps with concerts and annual functions. She is also involved with several theatrical programs such as South Asian Theater Festival. Roopa wishes Manjari all the best in the coming years and considers the school as apart of her family.*



*Reena Amanullah is a longtime member of Manjari School of Performing Arts. She holds a Master of Arts degree in History from Dhaka University and worked in teaching, banking, and now health care office management. She has a passion for poetry and loves to sing Bengali songs. Reena is also a board member of Bangladesh Association of New Jersey and a performer / member of Aastha Theatre Group.*





**Alo Nandy** is a very well known face in NJ/NY area. She is a true dedicated community worker. She has been actively involved with two non-profit organizations and successfully conducted two fundraising events in NJ for Education of street children in Kolkata. Besides that she has been involved in Bengali theater for over a decade.



**Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyaya** is a renowned singer in the Tri-State area. With his melodious voice and strong hold on different aspects of music his domain of performance includes almost every-style; starting from North-Indian Classical, Light Classical to Ghazal, Bhajan and Modern Songs. Being Technologist from IIT-Kharagpur, India, he is heavily engaged in his professional life, but still, he pursued his

musical carrier with equal passion. He has performed in number of musical concerts in India and abroad. On the creative side, he is a well-known music composer and playwright. He has composed music for number of great events of India and abroad. "Shudhu Kobitar Jonnyo" is his critically-acclaimed creative music album composed on poems of "Sunil Gangopadhyay". He is playwright and music composer for several stage-drama and musicals. He is the founder and Director of "Bharatiya Kala Kendro".



**Anindita Mukhopadhyay**, dance instructor, choreographer and principal of Bharatiya Kala Kendro, started her dance training at the age of 6 and received several awards in district level and state level but at the age of 13 forced to stop dancing for some health issues. She restarted her Manipuri and contemporary dance again in 2004 under the tutelage of Sri Sukalyan Bhattacharjee. Anindita is a regular performer of Sukalyan & Entourage, and performed in across USA

Her Odissi mentor is Aparupa Chatterjee. She practices Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra gharana of Odissi. Besides her profession as Credit Analyst, she has choreographed many dance shows and musicals and guided the dance team of Bharatiya Kala Kendro in many performances all over USA.



### **Antara Nag-Chaudhuri**

I am 17 years old and a rising Senior at Marlboro High School. I have been trained by my Guru, Pinki Mashi, since I was four years old. Singing has been engrained into me since I was born. In fact, my name "Antara" is actually the second part of the raaga. Additionally, I am surrounded by classical music advocates such as my parents who push me to sing and play the harmonium.



### **Bhavini Pandey**

I'm 11 years old and I have been learning Indian Classical vocal music and playing the harmonium for almost 5 years now. I am blessed to have a guru like Pinki Mashi and I want to thank her for her kind guidance and support. Through the years, I've become extremely passionate about music at the level where it's become part of who I am.

Outside of school music, my other hobbies include playing tennis and playing the piano.



### **Farees Siddiqui**

I have been a student of Manjari School for 3 years. Ever since I started Hindustani classical music training, music has influenced my life greatly. I have a passion for every type of music, and truly love to sing songs of all genre, oftentimes picking up songs after hearing them only a few times. In school I'm a trombone player as well as a member of the school choir. Music surely will be part of my life, always.

Manjari has given me not just new friends but a new family, and I hope to continue being part of the Manjari family.



**Fariyah (Joyeeta) Amatullah**

*I am currently a pharmacist with Walmart Pharmacy. I graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in May 2016 and completed a community pharmacy residency at Walmart Home Office in Bentonville, AR. I graduated from Manjari in the year 2010. Besides my interests in singing, music and art, I also enjoy spending time with my sister and friends. I love traveling to new places to try different foods and learn about other cultures.*



**Ishani Kulkarni**

*I am 11 years old and I started with Manjari in 2013. I consider myself very lucky and blessed to be learning Benaras gharana style of music under the guidance of Pinky Mashi. I am happy to be part of the silver jubilee celebration of Manjari school of music and performing arts. My other interests are dance, trekking, bowling and travelling. I am excited to*

*graduate from elementary school and start middle school this fall.*



**Ishita Gandhi**

*I have been learning Indian Classical singing since I was 4 years old. I love being a member of the Manjari family. The skills I have learned in Manjari Music School, have helped to improve my performances in my school's Talent Shows. I'm learning Bharatanatyam and also greatly enjoy doing Bollywood dance. I also love swimming and drawing.*



**Sharik Hasan** is one of the leading pianists and composers of his generation to emerge from India. He spent several years studying jazz and classical music in France and the USA while also working in Indian classical musical traditions. He started his tryst with the piano at the age of five and by sixteen, had completed the curriculum of the Royal School of Music, London. He then went to the United States to attend Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music. He was awarded scholarship to Berklee College of Music where he was selected to be part of

a special honors program, the Berklee Global Jazz Institute, under the tutelage of Danilo Pérez. He holds a master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music in 2014 and is working in NYC as a pianist, compose and educator.



**Subir Ghoshal** is the founder and member of Manjari School of Performing Arts. He is an engineer from IIT Kharagpur, India. He is also a great lover of music.



**Zafar Billah** is a well-known Rabindra Sangeet artist and teacher living in New Jersey for the last 30 years does not need an introduction. A Mechanical Engineer by profession, he is currently working as a Bureau Chief at NJDEP. Alongside engineering education, he attained formal training in vocal music at the notable musical institution of "Chhayanaut" in Dhaka, Bangladesh from several musical élites like Dr. Sanjida Khatun, Wahidul Hoq, Abdul Ahad, and Zahidur Rahim. Zafar, an intense

Tagore lover, continues to spread the enchantment of Tagore through his melodious voice and heartfelt renderings. Spiritual calm of Tagore songs provides Zafar the energy to mingle engineering with art in USA – the new home halfway around the world. He also established his own music school "Onuranan" his students get the benefit of his knowledge and deep understanding of Rabindra Sangeet.



## WHO'S WHO



**Sharmila (Pinki) Ghoshal** is the Founder and Director of Manjari School of Performing Arts. She is a disciple of Padma Vibhusan Pandita Girija Devi. She is a recipient of many accolades as a musician and actress. She is a librarian by profession.



**Shivalik Ghoshal** is a Founder and member of Manjari School of Performing Arts, and recipient of many accolades, Shivalik is one of the foremost tabla players in his generation. Disciple of Pdt. Swapan Chaudhuri of Lucknow gharana. Earlier trained by Sri Kiner Kumar Seen (Punjab Gharana). He has had the honor of accompanying renowned artists like Girija Devi ji,

Padma Vibhusan, Pdt. Manilal Nag, Ustd. Ali Ahmed Khan etc. Performed in 2005 Oscar Winning docu-drama "Born into Brothels".



**Jay Gandhi** is truly blessed to have been studying under the living legend of the bansuri, Padma Vibhushan Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, at Brindavan Gurukul in Mumbai since 2006. His musical pursuits are not limited to that of the Indian sub-continent; he has great love for the music of the African diaspora and America's classical music – Jazz, as well. In 2004, he completed an Individual Major in Jazz Performance at Oberlin College/Conservatory of Music (Ohio), studying privately under such Jazz luminaries as the saxophonist Gary Bartz and trumpeter Marcus Belgrave. A recipient of the prestigious American

Institute of Indian Studies Senior Performing Arts Fellowship, Jay has already been invited to perform across the globe, enthraling audiences in India, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and North America. He is currently based out of NYC and is very active as a teacher and performer and also as a founding member of Brooklyn Raga Massive, Indian Classical artists collective.



**Khushi Gandhi**

I have been a member of the Manjari family for about 6 years. I am currently a Junior at Middlesex County Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Technologies. I am a passionate girls' rights advocate and have been involved in Girl Up an organization under United Nations foundation. This summer, I will be going to Malawi, Africa as a part of the Women in Science STEAM Camp, where I will work alongside other girls to create an app that combats gender based violence. I greatly appreciate the arts and enjoy singing Indian Classical music. Currently I'm learning Bharatanatyam dance form.



**Mahashweta Gayen**

I am a sophomore at Johns Hopkins University and is studying Economics, International Studies, and Applied Math & Statistics. I am a peer counselor at school and am also part of a group that tutors inmates at the Baltimore City Detention Center. I have trained Bharata Natyam for the past 10 years, and have been learning music with Pinki Mashi for the past 8 years. I hope you will enjoy the show!



**Nazaf Showkat**

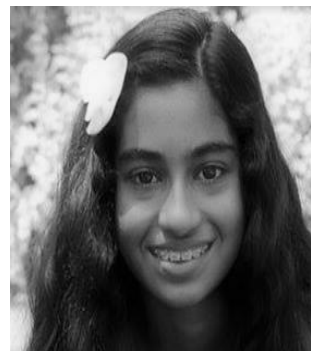
I'm 18 years old and will be attending the freshman year of college at Drexel University on the Pre-Medical track in the fall of 2017. Besides singing, I have many hobbies including musical theatre, drama, and dance. My love for music and the performing arts was nurtured when I began singing classes with Pinki Mashi, when I was merely 7 years old. Without music in my life, I would know absolutely nothing about my country, my culture, and who I am.



**Nidhi Advani**

*I'm 13 years old and a student of middle school in Edison, NJ. I have great passion for music, dance and the arts. I hold a third degree black belt in the martial art of Tae Kwon Do. My strength lies in the belief of never giving up. I have been learning to play the piano for 8 yrs. I have earned outstanding grades with Honors in many recognized piano festivals and examinations. I also play the violin in my school orchestra. My appreciation and love for*

*Hindustani Classical Music has blossomed under the instruction of our dearest guru, Mrs. Sharmila Ghoshal ji. I also enjoy dancing and have been performing for many years.*



**Shaira Chaudhuri**

*I began singing at the age of five at Manjari School of Performing Arts. I like to express my devotion for Hindustani classical music and all other different genres of music. I am willing to challenge myself to learn different raagas. Learning Kathak and Bollywood Dance at Indianica Dance Academy for five years, have helped me*

*expand my interest in music. I also sing in the Chorus and play the Oboe at school. Besides music and dance, I enjoy participating in sports such as Track and Field.*



**Nidhi Kulkarni**

*I'm 18 years old and I started with Manjari in 2013. Pinky mashi has been teaching me Benaras Gharana style of Hindustani classical music, as well as traditions of our culture and life lessons along the way. It's an honor to be a student of the Manjari School of Music and Performing Arts and to be a part of the Silver Jubilee Celebration. Besides music, I'm also interested in reading, dancing, spending time with loved ones and traveling,*



**Srestha Mukherjee**

*When you get to share your birthday with James Joyce or Shakira you are lucky. Born in 2005, I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Woodrow Wilson Middle School, can lay claim to share something common with such august company. I have been learning music from Pinki Mashi since 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and also take choir at school. Pinki Mashi has introduced me to Indian classical music and the Indian tradition of "Guru-*

*Shishya Parampara". I am also passionate about roller skating. I aspire for a career in the STEM field and hope someday that I will be able to make a difference in the lives of the people.*



**Ryan Showkat**

*I have been part of the Manjari family for several years now. My association with Manjari has introduced me to my cultural heritage. Classical music has always interested me. My other interest is sports. I play American football, basketball, volleyball etc. I also enjoy going on fishing trips with my family. Lastly, food that simply make me drool are lasagna and pizza.*