

## **MUSIC MASALA - A Journey Through The Classical Music Of Northern India**

### **production data:**

**Music documentary:** India | Germany 2006 · colour · 68 minutes

**Script · Camera · Sound · Editing · Production:** Carsten Wicke

**Musicians:** Pandit Anindo Chatterjee (Tabla) · Purbayan Chatterjee (Sitar) · Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, Ustad Fahimuddin Dagar, Ustad Sayeeduddin Dagar (Dhrupad vocal) · Ustad Asad Ali Khan (Rudra Vina) · Pandit Dalchand Sharma (Pakhawaj) · Sougata Roy Chowdhuri (Sarod) · Debopriyo Sarkar (Tabla) · and others

### **DVD Data:**

PAL · region code free · picture format: 4:3 · Dolby Digital Stereo (AC3) · original english soundtrack · optional german subtitles

### **the production:**

Flower Power, Ravi Shankar and the Beatles - more than 40 years ago Indian classical music started its approach into the sphere of western popular music. Today it has attained a worldwide audience. It's time for a more comprehensive view into the world of Raga and Tala. Meditative melodic improvisations and virtuosic rhythmical dialogues, a spicy mixture of North Indian classical music; this is MUSIC MASALA.

As an expert on Indian music, Wicke accompanies the concerts of Indian musicians in India und Europe. The music documentary MUSIC MASALA originated over a period of 5 years of production time while meeting classical musicians like Tabla virtuoso Pandit Anindo Chatterjee, rising Sitar star Purbayan Chatterjee and the legendary Rudra Vina master Ustad Asad Ali Khan. In concerts and interviews they provide a unique insight into the variety and vitality of Indian musical traditions, which will surely inspire all lovers of world music.

MUSIC MASALA is an insider tip for music enthusiasts who can open their ears beyond familiar sounds and it provides a direct access into the sound universe of classical North Indian music.

### **the film:**

Calcutta, winter season: musicians and music lovers meet each other in whole night concert festivals. Young Sitar virtuoso Purbayan Chatterjee demonstrates the musical interpretation of Ragas (indian melodic structures) while under the hands of Tabla maestro Pandit Anindo Chatterjee the world of Tala (indian rhythmic cycles) comes alive.

Travelling with bus, train or in an auto rickshaw – amidst the pulsating everyday life of India, the musical journey leads from Calcutta to New Delhi. Here, musicians of the Dagar family have maintained the tradition of old-classical Dhrupad music and passed it down over 20 generations. Dhrupad singer Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar tells about the origins of this oldest North Indian musical form, which goes back to the chants of the Vedas (the holy books of Hinduism). A leap into music history is made in visiting Ustad Asad Ali Khan, one of the last great interpreters of the Rudra Vina; 'queen and mother of Indian stringed instruments', and the most important solo instrument of the old classical instrumental music. The meditative character of Dhrupad finds its rhythmical complement in the majestic tone of the Pakhawaj, which is presented by percussion maestro Pandit Dalchand Sharma and his 9 year old son and pupil.

MUSIC MASALA is a journey into the magical world of North Indian classical music, spanning the modern age and tradition. While musicians and music lovers tell of the uniqueness and beauty of the music, shots of concert highlights combined with pictures full of vibrant indian life, create an unforgettable film experience which enchants the uninitiated as well as experts on India.

**the director & producer:**

Carsten Wicke, born 1970 in Germany, has studied North Indian classical music with different master musicians since the beginning of the 90's. In Calcutta he learned the most popular Indian percussion instrument, the Tabla, with the international renowned Tabla virtuoso Pandit Anindo Chatterjee. Fascinated by the old classical Dhrupad style Wicke met 1996 India's legendary Rudra Vina master Ustad Asad Ali Khan. The Ustad accepted him as a Vina disciple and taught him in his musical family tradition.

Carsten Wicke was engaged as a program editor in co-founding of the AG Kommunales Kino Leipzig e.V. in 1991. In 2003 he completed his degree at University Hildesheim with focuses on media and music as a graduate cultural scientist. Apart from his musical activities, he dedicates himself as film-maker, author and media producer to the documentation of Indian music traditions.

**international distribution & more information:**

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