



UNMESH BANERJEE

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ROOTS

Training and origin

One of the most promising tabla players his generation, Unmesh Banerjee hails from a family stepped deep into North Indian Classical Music. His father and guru, Pt.Sunil Banerjee, one of the most prominent tabla players of his generation is one of the senior most disciples of Acharya Pt.Shankar Ghosh. His mother Smt Bharati Nanavati Banerjee is a stunning versatile vocalist and a disciple of Ustd.Munawwar Ali Khan of the mighty Patiala Gharana. The innocence of a one year old child fondling the Tabla, marked the beginning of Unmesh's musical journey. Tabla occurred very naturally to Unmesh so much so that he made his first public performance at the age of 6 accompanying his mother on stage. He received intense taalim from his father Pt.Sunil Banerjee learning the nuances of Farukkabad baaj. Unmesh was initiated into the world of Carnatic rhythm under the mridangam stalwart Vidwan S.Sekhar. Unmesh was fortunate to receive guidance from the legend Acharya Pt.Shankar Ghosh. He is also a BTECH in Computer Science Engineering. Unmesh endeavors to infuse interest and respect of the traditional art form in the hearts and minds of younger generation.



JOURNEY

Career

With his crisp hand, sharp brain and a flair for rhythm he has been performing tabla solos and accompanying various artists across India right from the tender age of 6. He has been an artist of AIR and recipient of the CCRT Scholarship. He has been part of a cultural exchange program in Dublin, Ireland representing his alma mater, St.Xavier's Collegiate School, Kolkata. Unmesh also shows keen interest in experimental music, rich in its content. His initiative, The Ki Ta Dha Project, is a collaborative project to portray the magic of Indian rhythm. Unmesh is organic with almost all percussion instruments including the Kanjira, Cajon, Bongo.

Major performances

Unmesh has performed with veterans like Ustad Rashid Khan, Talat Aziz, Pt.Atul Upadhye, Pt.Purbayan Chatterjee, Vidushi Rita Ganguly and young masters like Shakir Khan, Sahana Banerjee, Tejas Upadhye, Josh Feinber, Abhishek Borkar etc. He has been a part of festivals like Sangeet Research Academy, Kalashree Music Circle, NCPA, CCRT unity in diversity meet, Legends of India, Aradhana Sangeet Academy, Lokmanya Samajik, Sanskriti Kendra, Yuva Pratibhotsav, Hampi Utsav, Mahindra Kabira Festival, Facebook Promo, Genexx Annual Conference, Dumru Emerging Talents etc. Unmesh was featured as a guest artist for Zee-Bangla Saregamapa, a popular reality show.



PRESS PLAUDITS

Unmesh Banerjee's tabla solo performance left the audience spell bound.

(Abbreviated, Translated) Gujarat Samachar Plus 20.12.2016

Young Unmesh Banerjee, son/disciple of Pandit Sunil Banerjee, rose to the occasion with superb dexterity, despite the fact that he was suffering from dengue! The inspired rhythmic variants, served by both, enthralled all. The concluding drut teental gatkari in raga Desh changed the mood and scaled euphoric heights.

08.09.2015 The Statesman

The father son duo was engaged in a thrilling tabla duet in the final segment of the evening. They began with the chaar taal ki sawari a rarely heard tala of 11 beats.....result that emerged was the experience of the veteran and the exhilaration of the youth in well measured quantities.

(Abbreviated) 16.04.2016 The Statesman

The tabla sure presented by Pt.Sunil Banerjee and his son-disciple Unmesh Banerjee was offered as the thrilling finale. The duo presented Jhap Taal with alap like elaboration, crisp kaidas with rhythmic variations, complex parans, gat, rela, laggi, tihais- almost all the different idioms of tabla playing with tricky numerical permutations and combinations. Young Unmesh displayed different shades of "ghe-re-na-ga" with superb clarity.

25.7.2008 The Hindu

Unmesh presented his solo with his dexterous hands displaying supreme musicality thereby giving a powerful performance.

(Translated)21.08.2018 Lokmat, Hello Pune

Unmesh's sensitive accompaniment aided Josh in presenting an impactful duet.

(Translated)20.01.2019 Maharashtra Times, Nashik

The hall was jam-packed with musicians when Unmesh Banerjee, son-disciple of well-known tabla exponent Sunil Banerjee and vocalist Bharati Nanavati Banerjee began his solo tabla recital. The Young Turk played teental displaying well-placed confidence, gharanedar tehzeeb (etiquette), winning communicative skills and moreover amazing taiyari through superb clarity of varied mnemonics of complex compositions and tihais with resultant aural effects on both tabla and baayan.

19.09.2015 The Statesman

Unmesh Banerjee and his innovative tabla has carved a niche as a percussionist already. In the final segment the brilliant youngster went solo. He commenced with jhaaptaal which Unmesh handled with confident deftness. His elaborations during peshkar had sparkling addends. The sparkling nikas remained the hallmark of his total presentation.

(Abbreviated)09.06.2018 The Statesman

Pt.Sunil Banerjee and young Unmesh Banerjee presented an impactful tabla duet. They played Jhaaptaal and right from the Peshkar it was clear that the vastly experienced Sunil had great mastery over the instrument and young Unmesh had a bright future. There was a great display of experience and exuberant youth going hand in hand. Unmesh's colorful 'Dhere dhere' showed how he has mastered the instrument with love.

(Translated)25.7.2008 Prabhat Khabar