



## Dr. Subhadra Desai

Dr. Subhadra Desai's music is characterised by a graceful voice and meditative timbre. Initiated into music at an early age by Pt. Vinay Chandra Maudgalya and Smt. Padma Devi at Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, New Delhi, Subhadra has been a senior disciple of Padmashri Pt. Madhup Mudgal and continues to receive his guidance to achieve greater rigour and artistic insight in her music.

Subhadra has been performing for the past decade and a half in various national music festivals and other fora in Delhi and other cities, notable of which are Pt. Vishnu Digambar Jayanti, HCL Concert Series, Teen Murti House, Jaideva Utsav, Maharaja Swati Tirunal Music and Dance Festival, Swaralaya Music Festival, Kala Vihar Golden Jubilee Celebrations, and Bhakti Pravah at Chinmaya Mission in New Delhi; Uttaradhikar at Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal; MS University, Baroda; Sangeet Sankalp Saptah, Ahmedabad; Bharatiya Sanskriti Samsad and Music

Conference, Kolkata; Nalanda Mahotsav, Nalanda etc. She has also performed in Korea and Germany.

Subhadra is the first recipient of the coveted Mani Mann Fellowship for young artists in Hindustani Classical Vocal Music, instituted under the aegis of Sanskriti Pratishthan, New Delhi. As part of the fellowship Subhadra had the privilege of undertaking residency programs under maestros such as Vidushi Malini Rajurkar and Pandit Dinkar Kaikini.

Subhadra received the Sahitya Kala Parishad Scholarship for young artists in 1990. She received a Gold Medal for outstanding achievement at the Korea Spring Festival in 1999.

Subhadra is an empanelled artist with Indian Council for Cultural Relations. She is an accredited 'A' grade artist in the devotional music category at All India Radio and Doordarshan. She has conducted several lecture-demonstrations and workshops at the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training and other educational institutions in the past decade and a half.

Subhadra's repertoire includes Khayal, Sagun and Nirgun bhajans and Tappa. She is much sought after for her mellifluous voice and for the deep spiritual content in

her music. She is much lauded for her commitment and passion with which she renders all that she sings.

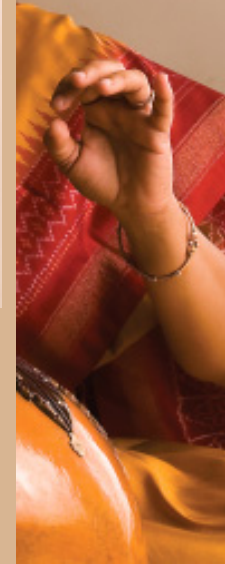
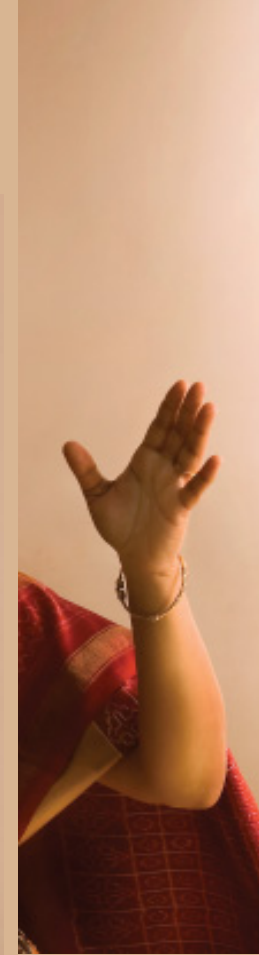
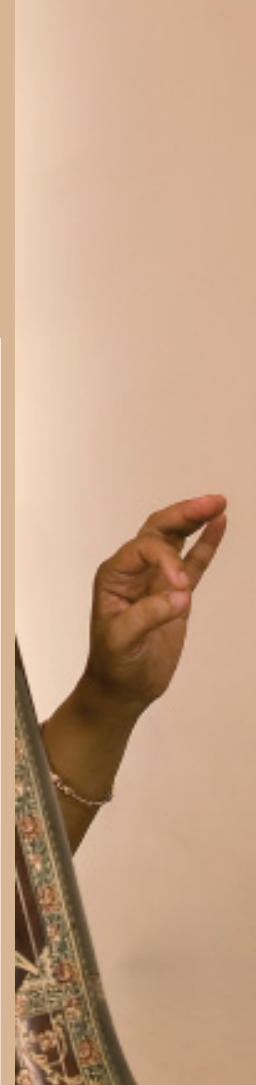
In addition to being an accomplished classical vocalist of the new generation, Subhadra has a doctoral thesis in Sanskrit from Delhi University, on *Music in Valmiki's Ramayana*, which was published in 2008.

Subhadra's scholarly background has enabled her to study ancient Sanskrit texts, composing them to classical ragas. She has an audio CD named *Advaita*, based on the theme of non-dualism or oneness of God and Creation, which was released by Smt Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of Delhi, in 2007.

Subhadra has also composed and presented Ashtapadis from *Geeta Govindam* in classical ragas for Jayadeva Utsav, and

Buddhist texts in Sanskrit and Pali on several occasions and for different organisations, notably the Tibet House, New Delhi (in the presence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama), International Buddhist Conclave (New Delhi and Bodh Gaya, organised by Central Govt., Department of Tourism and Culture), Nalanda Utsav, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara University, Bihar. Subhadra has composed and presented the 'Sanatana Vivaha mantras' from *Rigveda* and *Yajurveda* in classical ragas.

Subhadra presented a performance on the theme 'Women Seers and Sages of India'. This production included mantras by women seers of the *Rigveda*, and bhajans written and sung by women saints, devotees and poetesses of medieval India, researched, composed and sung by her as part of the HCL Concert Series at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.



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