



Classical Ragas

Classical Music of North India

David Trasoff – sarode

DAVID TRASOFF has studied sarode performance and North Indian classical music under maestro Ali Akbar Khan, India's 'Living National Treasure,' since 1973. Acclaimed for his performance in both the United States and India, David has appeared in concert in arts centers, universities, conservatories and festivals in the United States, Europe, and Asia and has made numerous performing tours in India. David holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an M.F.A. in music from California Institute of the Arts. He served as Director of the Indian Music Ensemble at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and has taught at the California Institute of the Arts, University of California, Riverside, California State University, San Marcos, Pomona College and the Rotterdam Conservatory CODARTS program. David has composed and performed music for film, theater and dance projects, including an award-winning Los Angeles production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the acclaimed Indian art film *Leela*. His recordings include a CD of North Indian classical music recorded with Ustad Zakir Hussain.

PRESS QUOTES FROM INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES

“The evening’s performance left no doubt about his prowess...There was tremendous depth, feeling and soul in Trasoff’s performance.” – Ajanta Krishnamurty, *The Telegraph*, Calcutta

“This is the first time I have seen a foreign artist play an Indian instrument with such command...pure Indian artistry” – Mukesh Garg, *Navbharat Times*, New Delhi

“ a distinguished performer on the sarod...a force to be reckoned with” – Subha Mazumdar, *Newslead*, Allahabad

“...an almost mystical sound. Trasoff’s technique was impressive...now and then there would be an outburst - half gasping moan, half transfiguring spirit - that hung in the air like an instant of pure truth. Those are the moments you live for in music...” – Daniel Buckley, *Tucson Citizen*

“...the artist gave a delightful rendition in vibrant and luminous swaras (notes).” – Batuk Dewanji, *Times of India*, Bombay

“The raga...was played with utmost perfection.” – Bonnya Banerjee, *The Statesman*, Calcutta

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EDUCATION

| | | | |
|---|--------|---|------|
| University of California, Santa Barbara | Ph.D. | Program in Ethnomusicology, Department of Music | 1999 |
| California Institute of the Arts | M.F.A. | Performance/World Music | 1988 |

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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| 1997 | Excellence in Ethnomusicology, Department of Music, UC Santa Barbara |
| 1993 | American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Research Fellowship |
| 1992 | Regents Fellowship, University of California |
| 1991 | Regents Fellowship, University of California |
| 1990 | Moses Asch Scholarship, University of Maryland |

NORTH INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE

TRAINING

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| Ali Akbar College of Music, San Rafael, California | Vadya Bid ¹ | North Indian Classical Music | 1981 |
| 1973-1982 | Full-time study, four 9-week sessions per year. Studies with Maestro Ali Akbar Khan included instrumental music on <i>sarod</i> and violin, vocal music, including both <i>dhrupad</i> and <i>khyal</i> styles, and <i>tala</i> . | | |
| 1982-2009 | Private instruction with Maestro Ali Akbar Khan and class attendance on a periodic basis. | | |
| 1989-2006 | Private instruction with Pandit Rajeev Taranath | | |
| 1974-1978, 1995, 2009 | Tabla instruction from Ustad Zakir Hussain | | |

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

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| 1993 | American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Research Fellowship for Sarod Performance |
| 1983-1989 | Performance funding from Boulder Arts Council, Boulder CO; University of Colorado Student Arts Council, Colorado State University Arts and Events and Lincoln Center for the Arts, Fort Collins, CO. |

TEACHING – HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL MUSIC

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| 2007-2008 | Pomona College, Claremont, CA (adjunct/part-time) |
| 2003-2004 | Department of Music Director – Hindustani Music Ensemble |
| 1999-2001 | California Institute of the Arts School of Music Adjunct Faculty Indian Music, World Music Program Indian Instrumental Techniques and Improvisation for Western Instruments Co-Director: Indian Music Ensemble Theory and composition in North Indian classical music for instrumental and vocal students. |

¹The "Vadya Bid" degree (literally "instrument knowledge") is a five-year equivalent degree requiring at least 20 terms of study, a written exam, and a public performance as well as approval by the directors of the Ali Akbar College. It is the approximate equivalent of an M.M. degree.

- 1994-1997 **University of California, Santa Barbara**
 Department of Music
 Director: Indian Music Ensemble
 Instruction in instrumental music (sitar and sarod), vocal music, *tala*, and tabla. Ensemble and individual lessons. Public performances by ensemble groups.
- 1994 **Ali Akbar College of Music, Basel, Switzerland**
 Teaching assistant to Maestro Ali Akbar Khan
 North Indian classical instrumental and vocal music
- 1994 (summer) **Center for World Music, Payangan, Bali, Indonesia**
 Faculty
 Seminar: Music of India

WORKSHOPS

- 2008 CODARTS Rotterdam Conservatory of Music, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- Ongoing Lecture-Demonstrations at schools and universities throughout Southern California, including Pomona College, Occidental College, California State Universities at Long Beach, San Marcos, San Diego, San Luis Obispo. Pasadena City College.
- 2000 Indian Theory and Improvisation for Jazz Musicians
 Prague Jazz Society Summer Institute, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2000, 1998, Introduction to North Indian classical music for college music teachers
 1996 College Music Society
 San Diego State University

RECORDINGS

- 2006 *New World*, Svava World Music Ensemble
 Original compositions and improvisations.
 David Trasoff – sarod, Robert Jacobson – guitar,
 John Graves – bass, Randy Gloss – tabla and percussion
- 2001 *Ragas for a Winter Moon*, Rag Hemant, Rag Gaurek Kalyan
 Recorded live in concert at The Music Circle, Los Angeles.
 David Trasoff – sarod, Abhiman Kaushal - tabla
- 1998 *Music for “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”*
 original theater music for Shakespeare’s comedy
 Compact Disc, published by Lila Vihun Music.
- 1998 “Fly High, Run Far” music for the recording *Asura* by the Korean recording artist, Won Il.
- 1991 *When Words Disappear*, Ragas Puria Kalyan, Jajjaiwanti, and Kirwani
 Compact Disc/Cassette, published by Lila Vihun Music
 David Trasoff - sarod, Zakir Hussain - tabla

PERFORMANCES – North Indian classical music (partial list)

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|---|---------------------------|
| Ravi Shankar Music Circle | Los Angeles, California |
| Bodemuseum | Berlin, Germany |
| Bharat Bhavan | Bhopal, India |
| Sangeet Research Academy | Kolkata, India |
| Rabindra Bharati University | Kolkata India |
| Mandapa Centre | Paris, France |
| National University of Music (UNAM) | Mexico City, Mexico |
| Consulate of the United States | Kolkata, India |
| Maritime Hall | San Francisco, California |
| House of Blues | Los Angeles, California |
| The Zee Network (Asia-wide satellite TV) | Mumbai, India |
| International Conference on Indian Music & The West | Mumbai, India |

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| International Symposium on Musical Acoustics | Tokyo, Japan |
| Indian Academy of Fine Arts | Singapore |
| Muzikademie Basel | Basel, Switzerland |
| San Diego State University | San Diego, California |
| University of California | San Diego |
| University of California | Santa Barbara, California |
| World Music Institute | New York |
| Lotus Fine Arts Society | New York |
| World Music Festival | California Institute of the Arts |
| Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture | Kolkata, India |
| Nehru Centre | Mumbai, India |
| National Center for the Performing Arts | Mumbai, India |
| India International Centre | New Delhi, India |
| Birla Academy of Fine Arts | Kolkata, India |
| Sangit Mahabharati | Mumbai, India |
| Muziekschool Amsterdam | Amsterdam, The Netherlands |
| Westport Town Hall | Westport, Connecticut |
| University of Maryland | Baltimore, Maryland |
| World Affairs Conference | University of Colorado, Boulder |
| University of Arizona | Tucson, Arizona |
| University of Texas | Austin, Texas |
| Colorado College | Colorado Springs, Colorado |
| University of Nebraska | Lincoln, Nebraska |

OTHER PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE (partial list)

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| 2002 | SVARA A poly-musical ensemble combining influences of Indian music, jazz, blues, Eastern European and creative music. Named LA Weekly Jazz Pick of the Week for February 2002. |
| 1997 | <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , by William Shakespeare Stella Adler Theater, Los Angeles, California Music Director and composer for new production directed by Michael Michetti, produced by Farthest Step Productions. "Critic's Choice," Los Angeles Times. Winner of 4 Ovation Awards by Los Angeles theater critics, including Best Director and Best Play of 1997. |

FILM

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| 2006 | <i>Outsourced</i> , Directed by John Jeffcoat, Music Director B.C. Smith. International release, winner of numerous independent film festival awards. |
| 2002 | <i>Leela</i> , Directed by Somnath Sen, produced by Lemon Tree Films. All sarod performance by on-screen actors, incidental music. This film was widely distributed in India and worldwide, and received numerous awards. |
| 2000 | <i>Man-Eating Tigers of North India</i> . National Geographic Special. |
| 1997 | <i>The Perfumed Garden</i> . Jag Mundhra, director, |