



Photo credit: Samraggi Debroy

Rudraveena Recital

by

Ustad Mohi Baha'ud-din Dagar

Friday, 20th December 2024

Tea | 5:30 pm

Concert | 6 – 8 pm

Auditorium | NGMA

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Rudraveena, one of the oldest Indian string instruments, is fascinating in many aspects. From its first appearance up until today, this instrument has continued its evolvement untouched by influences from Persia and Asia. It was first mentioned towards the end of the Buddhist Gupta dynasty, the Rudraveena soon became an influential and respected symbol of instrumental music. It is an instrument considered to be there for centuries to embody the practice and the aesthetics of the raga (particularly the alap). It's exactness in rendition is what gave it the position of a *Yantra* (an instrument of measurement). Starting as an accompanying instrument, it later gained the position of a solo instrument. Most veena players were ascetic in nature. There were never many veena players at any given point in a century. But a veena player was considered a person of knowledgeable disposition. Their contributions were very important in shaping the ethics of music. The been or the rudraveena is believed to be an invention of Sage Matang from Varah Puran adhyay / chapter 153 and 48 from the Satyug. This was primarily called the Mahati Veena / Needu Veena in Tamil. It had seven frets in number.

Mohi Baha'ud-din Dagar has had his initial training on the sitar under the tutelage of his mother Smt Pramila Mohiuddin Dagar. At age 16 he began his training under his father, the Rudraveena maestro Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar and also learnt vocals from his uncle Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar a Dhrupad vocalist. He now continues to get able guidance under Pandit Pushpraj Koshti. He is a top grade A.I.R artist and also the recipient of The Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. He presently resides at Dhrupad, a residential training space in Palaspe village on the outskirts of Mumbai, where he teaches students for voice, veena and other instruments in the Guru Shishya Parampara.

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