

Ustad Amir Khan



BIOGRAPHY OF USTAD AMIR KHAN



Amir Khan

(1912-74)

Birth name:- Amir Khan

Also known as :- Sur Rang

He is known for his work in the field of Indian Classical Music. He used to play khayal and Tarana.

Early Life and Background

Amir Khan was born in a family of musicians in Indore India. His father, Shamir Khan, a sarangi and veena player of the Bhendibazar gharana. His grandfather, Chhagan Khan, was a singer in the court of Bahadur Shah Zafar. Amir Khan's mother died when he was nine years old.

He was initially trained in the sarangi by his father. However, his father gradually devoted more time to vocal training, focusing on the Merukhand Technique.

❑ Amir khan moved to bombay in 1934, and there he gave a few concerts and cut about half a dozen 78-rpm records.

❑ Following his father's advice in 1936 he joined the services of Maharaj Chakrodhar Singh of raigadh sansthan in Madhya Pardesh.

❑ Later khan sahib lived for some time in Delhi and Calcutta ,but after the partition of india he moved back to Bombay.

SINGING CAREER

Amir Khan had a rich baritone open-throated voice with a three-octave range, and could move equally effortlessly in any octave. He developed his own gayaki influenced by the styles of Abdul Wahed Khan, Rajab Ali Khan and Aman Ali Khan. This unique style, known as the Indore Gharana, blends the spiritual flavour and grandeur of dhrupad with the ornate vividness of Khayal. Unlike other artists

never made any concession to popular tastes ,but always stuck to his pure,almost puritanical highbrow style.He helped popularize the tarana,as well as Khyaluma Compositions in the Dari Variant of Persian.

He believed in competition between the genres of classical music and film and other popular music, and he felt that classical renderings needed to be made more beautiful while remaining faithful to the spirit and grammar of the raga. He used to say, Music is that which originates from the heart and touches the soul.

Awards and Recognition

Besides singing in concerts ,Amir khan also sang film songs in ragas,in a purely classical style, most notably for the films Baiju Bawra ,Shabaab and Jhanak Jhank Payal Baje .He also sang a Ghazal ...Rahiye Ab Aisi Jagah for a documentary on Ghalib. His style has also influenced many other .Singers and instrumentalists including Bhimsen Joshi ,Gokulotsavji Maharaj, Mahendra Toke, Prabha Atre, Rashid khan ,Ajoy chakrabarty ,Rasiklal Andharia ,sanhita Nandi ,shanti sharma, Nikhil

Banerjee, the indadkhani gharana and sultan khan.
Amir khan was awarded the Sangeet Natak
Akademi Award in 1967 and the Padma Bhushan in
1971.

